

HB 1594 -- PREVAILING WAGE

SPONSOR: Davis

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Economic Development by a vote of 6 to 2.

This bill allows any municipality to opt out of the provisions regarding prevailing wages for the construction of public works.

This bill is similar to HCS HB 309 (2017).

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that prevailing wage creates an undue burden for rural communities, and impedes the construction of public works. Smaller populated areas should have the option of declining to pay prevailing wages.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Davis and the City of Moberly.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that prevailing wage is complicated and needs to be addressed methodically, not in a wholesale repeal fashion. Prevailing wage is critical for funding apprenticeship programs, and ensures higher quality construction work. Prevailing wage may need to be reformed, but a compromise should be pursued instead of a full repeal or opt out provision.

Testifying against the bill were Construction Employers Coalition; Sheet Metal Air Conditioning Contractors National Association St. Louis Chapter; Missouri Association of Plumbing, Heating, Contractors; Plumbing Industry Council; Missouri AFL-CIO; United Steelworkers Dist 11; Plumbers Pipefitters 562; Michael Louis, Missouri AFL-CIO; Jeff Aboussie, International Union of Operating Engineers; Builders Association of Missouri; St Louis Chapter NECA; Associated General Contractors of Missouri; Walter Bazan, Bazan Painting Co.; Tim Weis, Tj Wies Contracting, Inc; Daniel Wienstroer, Painting and Decorating Foundation; Mechanical Contractors Association of Kansas City; and Plumbing Industry Council.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say prevailing wage should be fully repealed, but this bill is a good start.

Testifying on the bill were Missouri Association of Counties and Missouri School Board Association.