

HCS HB 414 -- PREVAILING WAGE

SPONSOR: Hunter

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Workforce Development and Workplace Safety by a vote of 7 to 6.

This substitute allows schools to opt out of the prevailing wage law by a majority vote of their governing boards.

FISCAL NOTE: Not available at time of printing.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill exempts just schools and will save them money on building projects; 70% of wages across the state are set with no hours being reported; wages are too high and should be what is generally paid in the area; schools should have the same tools as private entities; and unions do not need the protection.

Testifying for the bill were Representatives Bean and Wallace; Greg Hoberock; Mark Mayo; Larry Snyder; and Associated Builders and Contractors.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that school districts are the biggest violators of the prevailing wage law according to the State Auditor's office; the prevailing wage law stabilizes wages, prevents contractors from cutting wages to get a bid, helps promote a stable and highly trained workforce, and is good for the economy; limiting the competition will make prices go up; and the bill will destabilize the construction industry.

Testifying against the bill were St. Louis Area Contractors; Associated General Contractors of Missouri; Missouri State Building Trades; Missouri Laborers; Missouri AFL-CIO; Carpenters District Council of Kansas City and St. Louis; and Missouri Pipe Trades.

Other witnesses testifying on the bill was the Division of Labor Standards.

Mark Pioli, Legislative Analyst