

HCS HB 1367 -- BIDDING PREFERENCE FOR SHELTERED WORKSHOPS

SPONSOR: Ervin (Hobbs)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Committee on Small Business by a vote of 10 to 0.

This substitute changes the bidding preference requirement for sheltered workshops from a 5-point to a 25-point bonus when the work provided by the workshop generates over \$5,000 annually. The amount of compensation paid by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to the sheltered workshop for each handicapped worker is clarified.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2007, FY 2008, and FY 2009.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill allows workshops to bid on more jobs, be flexible with work schedules, and partner with the state on contracts. It also encourages businesses to look at workshops for certain jobs like printing. There are currently 7,321 handicapped individuals employed in 92 sheltered workshops throughout Missouri. The last one was opened a couple of years ago, and a new one will soon be opening in St. Louis. The \$5,000 threshold is the point where a job is lucrative for the workshop. Sheltered workshops have a very positive impact on the lives of handicap workers.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Hobbs; Department of Elementary and Secondary Education; Missouri Association of Sheltered Workshop Managers; and Mentally Retarded Citizens of Missouri.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Karla Strobels, Legislative Analyst