HB 1770 -- LABOR ORGANIZATIONS

SPONSOR: Burlison

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Committee on Workforce
Development and Workplace Safety by a vote of 7 to 3.

This bill specifies that, except in instances when these provisions
conflict with or are preempted by federal law, no person as a
condition or continuation of employment can be required to:

(1) Become or refrain from becoming a member of a labor
organization as defined in the bill;

(2) Pay dues, fees, assessments, or other charges to a labor
organization; or

(3) Pay to any charity or third party any equivalent amount in
lieu of dues, fees, assessments, or other charges required of a
member of a labor organization.

Any agreement, understanding, or practice between a labor
organization and an employer that violates the rights of employees
as guaranteed under these provisions will be unlawful, null and
void, and of no legal effect.

The bill contains a referendum clause and will be submitted to
qualified voters in August 2014.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that right-to-work laws encourage job
growth because businesses take this into consideration, and
businesses will locate and relocate to Missouri with these laws in
place.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Burlison; Missouri
Chamber of Commerce and Industry; and Philip Todd.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that non-union members
share the benefits negotiated by unions, and it is fair to make the
non-union members pay a fee for the benefits. Right-to-work laws
weaken unions and takes away the best job security that a worker
has with a union contract. Businesses are against right-to-work
laws because they know that unions train their members, resulting
in a highly skilled and qualified labor force.

Testifying against the bill were Missouri AFL-CIO; Plumbers and
Pipefitters Local #562; United Steelworkers Local 11; Plumbing
Industry Council; Robert Soutier, Greater St. Louis Labor Council;
and Joe Eccardt, International Association of Machinists and

Aerospace Workers District 9.