

HB 2630 -- LOW INCOME JOB TRAINING PROGRAMS

SPONSOR: Curtis

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Workforce Standards and Development by a vote of 9 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Select Committee on Labor and Industrial Relations by a vote of 7 to 0.

This bill requires the Department of Economic Development to establish and market a job training program for individuals of low and moderate income. The program must provide necessary training that allows the participant to find gainful employment on a state-funded project in Missouri.

The bill requires the department to prepare and submit an annual report to the General Assembly which includes the recruitment process, the success of the program, and the number of participants that have completed the program. These provisions will become effective on January 1, 2018.

This bill is similar to HB 2171 (2016) and HB 901 (2015).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this bill is necessary because it assists people in their time of need and helps them get off social services by guaranteeing that there will be a certain amount of positions on publicly funded projects available to individuals who complete this training program. Millions of people have already benefited from job training programs, and having more of them would be beneficial to the improvement of the state of Missouri.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Curtis and Empower Missouri.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say the jobs out there are good paying, good quality jobs that require skills but do not require degrees. If we want to get people off welfare and into the workforce, we have to make sure we are providing them with the skills necessary to achieve this.

Testifying on the bill was William E Shoehigh, Microsoft Corporation.