

HCS HBs 91, 42, 131, 265 & 314 -- LABOR ORGANIZATIONS

SPONSOR: Rehder

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Economic Development by a vote of 8 to 4 with 1 present. Voted "Do Pass" by the Rules - Legislative Oversight Committee by a vote of 11 to 3.

This bill prohibits employers from requiring employees to join or refrain from joining a labor organization, requiring employees to pay any money to a labor organization, or requiring employees to pay any charity or third party the equivalent of money required to be paid by members of a labor organization. Any agreement between an employer and labor organization contrary to this provision is void.

Anyone violating a provision of the bill will be guilty of a class C misdemeanor, and any person injured as a result of a violation or threatened violation of the provisions of the bill may recover all resulting damages, including costs and reasonable attorney fees, and will be entitled to injunctive relief against any violator or person threatening a violation.

The prosecuting attorney of each county and the Attorney General of this state shall investigate and prosecute complaints of violations or threatened violations.

This bill is similar to HB 1701, HB 1407, and HB 1462 (2016) and HB 116 (2015).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that "right to work" legislation is necessary to keep Missouri economically competitive against neighboring states, the bill will increase wages, and that compulsory union fee payments violate people's right of association.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Rehder; Greg Holbrock, HTH Companies, Inc.; National Right to Work Committee; Vincent Vernuccia, Mackinac Center; Mary Hill; Steve Hunter, Missouri Right to Work; Matthew Putnam; Missouri Chamber of Commerce; Patrick Ishmael, Show Me Institute; Jeremy Cady, American's for Prosperity - Missouri; Terry Bowman, Union Conservatives, Inc.; Missouri Century Foundation; Missouri Rising; Associated Industries Of Missouri; Andrea Plunkett, and Matt Morrow, Springfield Chamber of Commerce.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that the bill is an act of governmental overreach into private contracts between unions and

employers, and a targeted attack against union security.

Testifying against the bill were the Carpenters' District Council Of Greater St. Louis And Vicinity; Missouri Association of Plumbing Heating Cooling Contractors; IBEW1/ST. LOUIS NECA; Missouri National Education Association; Cynthia McDaniel, MO KC Committee to Protect Pensions; Edward Desoignie, Heavy Constructors Association; Builders Association Kansas City Chapter; Rod Sturgeon; Mike Louis, Missouri AFL-CIO; Plumbers & Pipefitters Local #562; Kathy Miller; Joel Womack; Missouri State Legislative Board Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen; and John Bowman, United Auto Workers.