

HB 111 -- COLLECTIVE BARGAINING UNITS BI-STATE

SPONSOR: Mathews

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on General Laws by a vote of 8 to 4. Voted "Do Pass" by the Committee on Rules- Legislative Oversight by a vote of 10-0.

This bill states it will allow a collective bargaining unit to independently represent different classes of workers within the bi-state development agency. This bill also states it will allow multiple collective bargaining units to exist within the bi-state development agency.

This bill requires labor disputes involving representation to be settled through arbitration. If any of these disputes arises in the operation of any public transportation service, such dispute must be submitted to an arbitration board, the composition of which is specified in the bill.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that currently drivers and mechanics working for the bi-state development agency are represented by the same bargaining union. Supporters say that mechanics, who represent a much smaller portion of that union, are underpaid and not adequately represented by their union. A lawsuit was filed in an attempt to allow mechanics to create their own bargaining union but the unique nature of the bi-state development agency has created some ambiguity. Supporters believe this bill will address that ambiguity.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Mathews; Tim Dempsey; and Michael Stenger.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that the mechanics are adequately represented by the union; the president of the union is a mechanic. While the mechanics are represented by the same union as the driver, their pay is in no way linked to that of the drivers. The last time raises were negotiated by the union the mechanics received a higher percentage raise than the drivers. Since the bi-state compact was created by a compact between two states, with the blessing of the United States Congress, changing the law in Missouri won't actually have any effect on this situation. This bill will not give the mechanics in the bi-state development agency the authority to create a separate bargaining union.

Testifying against the bill was Amalgamated Transit Union Local 788.

This bill is the same as HB 2587 (2016).