

HB 126 with HCA 1 -- FAIRNESS IN PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION

SPONSOR: Vescovo

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with Amendments" by the Standing Committee on Economic Development by a vote of 9 to 4. Voted "Do Pass" by the Committee on Rules- Legislative Oversight by a vote of 8 to 1.

This bill prohibits any political subdivision of the state from encouraging or giving preferential treatment to bidders, offerers, contractors, or subcontractors for entering or refusing to enter into agreements with labor organizations on the same or related construction, repair, remodeling, or demolition projects.

This bill also prohibits political subdivisions of the state from awarding grants, tax abatements, or tax credits for cooperative agreements for improvement, maintenance, or renovation projects, which have the condition of meeting elements set out in the section.

This bill is similar to HB 2148 (2016).

HCA #1: This amendment corrects internal citations.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that project labor agreements are wasteful, discriminatory, a form of extortion, and this bill would outlaw them.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Vescovo; Associated Builders And Contractors Heart of America; Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry; and Paul Munsch.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that the bill's penalty provisions for political subdivisions are wholly disproportionate to the offense, and potentially threatens political subdivisions with local representatives who make offhand remarks about unions.

Testifying against the bill were Missouri AFL-CIO and St Louis Building And Construction Trades.