

HB 133 -- SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION ACT

SPONSOR: Lant

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Economic Development by a vote of 9 to 3.

This bill establishes the School Construction Act which exempts construction and maintenance work done for certain school districts from the prevailing wage requirement upon majority vote of the district's school board. The school district must notify the Division of Labor Standards within the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations of the exemption. This provision does not apply to school districts in Jackson, St. Charles, St. Louis, or Jefferson counties.

This bill is the same as HB 1699 (2016) and is similar to HB 257 (2015).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that prevailing wage requirements on school construction projects discriminate against out-of-state workers and unreasonably drive up construction costs. This bill would enable struggling school districts to save money and ensure that public funds are spent in the most efficient manner.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Lant; Marlon Collins, Cedar County; City of Nevada; Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry; and Missouri School Board Association.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that this bill would advantage out-of-state contract bidders over those in Missouri, that the prevailing wage for rural and struggling school districts would lower if local contractors would only report their wages, and that prevailing wage does not necessarily increase construction costs.

Testifying against the bill were Alise Martiny, Kansas City Building Trades Council; St. Louis NECA; Edward Twehouse, Associated General Contractors of Missouri; Kevin King, Roofers Local #20; Plumbing Industry Council; Sheet Metal, Air Conditioning Contractors National Association St. Louis; Missouri Association of Plumbing, Heating, and Cooling Contractors; Site Improvement Association; Walter Bazan, American Subcontractors Association; Louie W. Brinkoetter, Jr; David C. Hudson, Plumbers And Gas Fitters; Bob Looman, Mechanical Contractors Association; Dennis Corrigan, Corrigan Company Mechanical; and Dennis Palmer, Coastal Electric.