

SS#2 SB 19 -- LABOR ORGANIZATIONS

SPONSOR: Brown

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Economic Development by a vote of 7 to 2, 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 current agreement between an employer and labor organization contrary to this provision is exempted from these restrictions, but such restrictions shall apply to any current agreement that is later renewed, extended, amended, or modified.

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, circuit attorney, or Attorney General of this state shall investigate and prosecute complaints of violations or threatened violations.

This bill is similar to HCS HB 91, HB 42, HB 131, HB 265, HB 314, HB 1462, SB 667 (2016); SCS HCS HB's 116 & 569 and SCS SB 127 (2015); SB 76 (2013); SB 547, SB 614, and SB 438 (2012); SB 109 and SB 1 (2011); and SB 888 (2010).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that "right to work" legislation is necessary to keep Missouri economically competitive, and that the bill will increase wages and union membership.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Brown; Paul Munsch; Associated Builders And Contractors Heart Of America Chapter; Missouri Rising; National Federation of Independent Business; Missouri Americans for Prosperity; and Associated Industries of Missouri.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that the bill represents governmental overreach into private contracts between unions and employers, and is a targeted attack against unions and their members.

Testifying against the bill were St Louis And Kansas City Carpenters Regional Council; Citizens For Policy Reform, LLC; Jessica Podhola, International Union of Painters and Allied Trades District Council 58; Plumbers And Pipefitters 562; United Steelworkers District 11; Missouri Association of Plumbing, Heating, And Cooling Contractors; Plumbing Industry Council; and SMACNA St. Louis.