

SS SB 182 -- PROJECT LABOR AGREEMENTS

SPONSOR: Onder (Vescovo)

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

Currently, the state, or any agency or instrumentality of the state is prohibited, from requiring, or prohibiting, bidders from entering into agreements with labor organizations when entering into contracts for the construction of public projects funded by more than 50% by the state. This bill removes the 50% funding threshold and further prohibits the state, any agency, or political subdivision, or instrumentality of the state from requiring, or prohibiting, bidders from entering into agreements with labor organizations when entering into contracts for the construction, repair, remodeling, or demolition of a facility. Discrimination against such bidders is also prohibited. Moreover, the state, any agency, political subdivision, or instrumentality of the state, shall not encourage or give preferential treatment to bidders who enter or refuse to enter into agreements with a labor organization. Any entity which violates the provisions of this act is liable to the person affected for equitable damages as well as reasonable attorney's fees. Furthermore, such entities shall not be eligible for state funding, including tax credits for two years. The bill gives investigatory authority to prosecuting attorneys, circuit attorneys, and the Attorney General for complaints of violations of this bill. Furthermore, such entities shall use all means at their command to ensure the effective enforcement of this bill.

The bill repeals provisions of law permitting the state or any political subdivision to enter into a union-only project labor agreement.

This bill is similar to HB 126 (2017), SB 889, and HB 1444 (2016).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that project labor agreements are discriminatory and de facto prevent private, non-union firms from bidding on public projects. Project labor agreements also raise the cost of public projects.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Onder and the Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that project labor agreements are a worthwhile tool for political subdivisions to receive higher quality and efficient work for the public dollars spent, and that project labor agreements should not be banned

outright.

Testifying against the bill were United Steelworkers District 11 and Missouri AFL-CIO.