

HB 1413 -- LABOR ORGANIZATIONS

SPONSOR: Taylor

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Economic Development by a vote of 7 to 3. Voted "Do Pass" by the Rules- Legislative Oversight Committee by a vote of 9 to 2 with 1 present.

This bill prohibits any sum from being withheld from the earnings of a public employee for the payment of any portion of dues, agency shop fees, or other fees paid by public employee members of a public labor organization or a public employee who is a nonmember except upon the annual written or electronic authorization of the employee.

A public labor organization is prohibited from using or obtaining any portion of dues, agency shop fees, or any other fees paid by member and nonmember public employees to make political campaign contributions or expenditures unless it obtains a written or electronic authorization from the member or nonmember within the previous 12 months.

Failure to provide any written or electronic authorization shall not be a condition of employment.

This bill further requires public labor organizations to maintain financial records, identical to those required by federal law (29 U.S.C. 431(b)), for no less than five years. Each report required under this section must be made available to employees in a searchable electronic format. If a public labor organization fails to make the reports available to an employee, that employee will have a cause of action against the organization.

This bill is the same as HB 251 (2017).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill increases transparency within public sector unions by holding them to private union disclosure standards. This bill also protects the political viewpoints of public sector union members who may disagree with union leadership, and may accordingly wish to not have their dues or membership pay for the union's political activities.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Taylor; Missouri Rising; and the Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry .

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that existing law already addresses public sector union governance and automatic payroll deduction authorizations. No one is forced to join a public sector

union, nor is anyone compelled to authorized an automatic payroll deduction. By targeting specific payroll deductions, but not others, this bill imperishably impedes the union's constitutional right to collectively bargain. The bill's definition of "public labor organization" may also be so vague that it encompasses private sector unions as well.

Testifying against the bill were Missouri State Council of Fire Fighters; Missouri Fraternal of Police; Missouri AFLfl-CIO and United Steelworkers; Missouri AFL-CIO; Michael Louis, Missouri AFL-CIO; St Louis County Police Officer Association; Missouri State Teacher's Association; AFT Missouri; Communication Workers of America Local 6355; SEIU Missouri State Council Service Employees International Union; Tim Kratz; and Missouri NEA.