

SS HCS HBs 1729, 1621 & 1436 -- PREVAILING WAGE

This bill amends Missouri's prevailing wage law.

Prevailing wage shall not be paid for public works where the estimated cost, or accepted bids, are \$75,000 or less. All public works projects estimated to cost, or with an accepted bid of \$10,000 or less for all occupational titles shall be exempt from competitive bidding requirements. Wage determination schedules are provided in the bill (Section 290.230, RSMo).

Employers may use entry-level workers and federally-registered apprentices for on-the-job training provided that the combined total of those workers and apprentices does not exceed a one to one ratio with the number of journeyman in any occupational title on a public works project. The wage rate for the on-the-job training workers shall be 50% of the wage rate for an appropriate journeyman (Section 290.235).

Complaints regarding a violation of certain prevailing wage laws shall be filed with the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations and may only be filed by certain individuals, as specified in the bill (Section 290.240).

Currently, contractors and subcontractors working on public works projects are required to pay employees the prevailing wage for the particular locality in which the project is being completed. This bill instead requires that either the prevailing wage or public works contracting minimum wage be paid for workers on public works. The prevailing wage shall be paid for occupations in localities where at least 1,000 reportable works hours occur, but otherwise workers shall be paid the public works contracting minimum wage (Section 290.257).

The prevailing wage shall be set using the weighted average of the wages for an occupational title, and the public works contracting minimum wage shall be 120% of the average hourly wage in a particular locality (Section 290.257).