

HB 1119 -- EMPLOYEE LIABILITY

SPONSOR: Trent

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Special Committee on Litigation Reform by a vote of 6 to 2. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Administrative Oversight by a vote of 7 to 2.

This bill states that an employee is not to be released from liability if the employee engaged in a willful act with the intent to cause bodily injury or death.

Currently, employees are immune for damages involving bodily injury or death unless they commit an affirmative negligent act that causes or increases the risk of injury.

This bill is similar to HB 2607 (2020).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this bill clears up the ambiguity in current statute. Since the current law is confusing, it allows for opportunities to expand coverage to those that it was not intended for and exclude coverage from those for which it was intended.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Trent; National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB); Missouri Insurance Coalition; Associated Industries of Missouri; Arnie Dienoff; The Doe Run Company; John Bryan, Missouri Poultry Federation; Missouri Chamber of Commerce; and the Missouri Civil Justice Reform Coalition.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that the bill will raise insurance premiums. The bill will also make it more difficult for individuals to utilize their right to a jury trial.

Testifying against the bill Missouri Association of Trial Attorneys.

Written testimony has been submitted for this bill. The full written testimony can be found under Testimony on the bill page on the House website.