***This Week in the Missouri Senate* Script: Labor Committee**

This week in the Missouri Senate, we review the first meeting of the [Missouri Senate Interim Committee on Labor Reform](http://www.senate.mo.gov/silr/)…

**Nat Snd 1 / Runs :04 / OC: Interim Committee on.**

*“(SFX in) Good afternoon, this is the Interim Committee on….”*

The panel met last week.

Committee chair, Sen. Dave Schatz of Sullivan, says the group prepared a study on Missouri’s prevailing wage as a guideline…

**Schatz 1 / Runs :28 / OC: prevailing wage requirements.**

*“With the data provided by the* [*Missouri Department of Labor [and Industrial Relations]*](https://labor.mo.gov/)*, we have determined the number, the dollar value, the project donor type of Missouri’s $2 billion in public works projects. Our findings suggest that substantial savings can be generated for Missouri’s political subdivisions, as a vast majority of these projects are under $500,000 prevailing wage threshold that I had proposed during the regular session. I also believe we can increase competition for these projects by eliminating reporting requirements and moving to a simpler model for meeting prevailing wage requirements”*

Senator Ed Emery of Lamar adds he supports revisiting prevailing wage…

**Emery 2 / Runs :27 / OC: for their dollar.**

*“Build our schools for a third of the bonding that is currently happening in areas that need new schools. So, I’m hoping that that happens. You hear push back a lot from folks who believe that their livelihood is based on prevailing wage. I don’t think that’s the case. We’re trying to look at other states and look at the history that Missouri has to see whether there’s any substantiation of those fears or not. But, I believe the taxpayers in Missouri really deserve to get more for their dollar.”*

Senator Jill Schupp of Creve Coeur says another of the governor’s priorities this year was [Senate Bill 182](http://www.senate.mo.gov/17info/bts_web/Bill.aspx?SessionType=R&BillID=57095469), which affects certain project-labor agreements…

**Schupp 3 / Runs :30 / OC: and free marketplace.**

*“Come in and sort of join together as a team, guaranteeing there won’t be work stoppages, guaranteeing that the work is done well and professionally, and that things are done — you know — on-time and within budget. And, by putting a stop to these — especially at the local governmental level — my belief is that we’re limiting options for school districts, municipalities and even state contracts to be let to organizations that should be able to apply for those contracts in a fair and free marketplace.”*

She believes the real goal is to undermine the impact and effectiveness of unions in Missouri…

**Schupp 4 / Runs :28 / OC: good day’s work.**

*“We have 6 million residents in the state of Missouri. About 8 percent have some kind of union affiliation, whether it is through a teachers’ union or a firefighters’ union or some kind of construction trade. So, 480,00 total people that have union affiliation, not all of those in the construction trades. We’re attacking a small group of people who are trying to join together to participate in a project to earn a fair day’s living for a good day’s work.”*

The Missouri Senate Interim Committee on Labor Reform may visit other topics before the end of the year. No future hearings are yet scheduled.

And, remember, you can follow these and other issues facing the Missouri Senate by visiting our website: [senate.mo.gov](http://www.senate.mo.gov).

Reporting from the State Capitol, I’m Dean Morgan.