

HB 1872 -- Protect Missouri Employee Paychecks from Politics Act

Sponsor: Hunter

This bill establishes the Protect Missouri Employee Paychecks from Politics Act. In its main provisions, the bill:

(1) Prohibits any public or private employer from deducting or facilitating the deduction of payments from any employee's paycheck for political purposes without the express annual written permission of the employee;

(2) Specifies that the term "political purposes" will include funds used as a direct or independent expenditure in support or opposition of a candidate, slate of candidates, political party, or referendum or voter initiative or for a contribution to a political action committee or other group for the making of the expenditure;

(3) Requires an employer deducting from an employee's paycheck for multiple purposes to obtain from the entity to which the funds were directed a statement assuring that no funds or the percentage of funds that are to be used for political purposes;

(4) Specifies that the bill does not apply to deductions for employee benefits, pensions, savings, health plans, or charitable contributions;

(5) Specifies that the bill is not intended to preempt any requirement of federal law and is to be construed broadly to achieve its purposes; and

(6) Authorizes the Attorney General to issue reasonable regulations regarding the form of necessary permission from employees and statements by funded entities.

Anyone violating the provisions of the bill or making inaccurate statements regarding the use of employer-collected funds for political purposes will be subject to a fine of up to \$10,000 per occurrence.