



# Pennsylvania Conference of Teamsters

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## LEGISLATIVE ACTION ALERT

### ATTACK ON PREVAILING WAGE IN PA



#### PA HOUSE BILLS 319 and 323

**House of Representatives**  
**Session of 2019 - 2020 Regular Session**  
**MEMORANDUM**

**Posted:** January 22, 2019 12:48 PM  
**From:** [Representative Francis X. Ryan](#)  
**To:** All House members  
**Subject:** SUBJECT: Prevailing Wage – County Referendum (Former HB 172)

In the near future I plan to reintroduce Rep. Marsico's legislation from last session (HB 172) which would empower county electorates to decide for themselves whether school construction projects should be subject to the state Prevailing Wage Act.

The bill would first amend the law's definition of "public body", effectively exempting school districts from the requirements of the Prevailing Wage Act. County election officials would then be charged with placing a referendum question on the ballot in the 2020 general election, asking county voters the following:

***Do you favor any and all public works projects undertaken in (insert county name) County by any school district and any authority, agency or instrumentality established by one or more school districts be constructed in accordance with the prevailing minimum wage rates for workmen employed on those projects as set forth in Pennsylvania's Prevailing Wage Act?***

If the referendum question were approved by a majority of the county electorate, school district projects would be subject to the Prevailing Wage Act in that county. In essence, this legislation creates an "opt in" process that allows the voters of every county to decide whether they want their schools built in accordance with the Prevailing Wage Act. The legislation permits a re-vote once every ten years, although no sooner than the November 2030 general election.

Because school construction and renovation projects are so costly, school districts are hit particularly hard by the State Prevailing Wage mandate. I believe that this referendum process offers a fair means of determining whether taxpayers want their schools to be subject to the Prevailing Wage Act.

Please join me in cosponsoring this important piece of legislation

Introduced as [HB319](#)

**House of Representatives**  
**Session of 2019 - 2020 Regular Session**  
**MEMORANDUM**

**Posted:** January 15, 2019 09:12 AM  
**From:** [Representative Francis X. Ryan](#) and [Rep. Greg Rothman](#)  
**To:** All House members  
**Subject:** LEGISLATION: Prevailing Wage – Political Subdivision Exemption

In the near future Representative Rothman & myself plan to reintroduce Rep. Marsico's legislation from last session (**HB 532**) which would amend the state Prevailing Wage Act to exempt political subdivisions and their authorities, agencies, or instrumentalities from the Act's coverage.

Though the legislation would initially repeal the prevailing wage mandate, it also contains a provision whereby local government organizations could elect, by ordinance or resolution, to subject themselves once again to the requirements of the Act.

The Prevailing Wage Act currently requires that all public bodies (defined as the Commonwealth, any of its political subdivisions, any authority created by the General Assembly, and any instrumentality or agency of the Commonwealth) require in any contract for "public work" that the prevailing minimum wage, as determined by the Secretary of Labor and Industry, be paid to workmen on the project.

Numerous credible studies have shown that the use of prevailing wage rates generally raises the cost of public construction projects anywhere from 5% - 20%. As a result, many municipalities are struggling to keep costs down, keep property taxes under control, and balance their budgets.

This commonsense legislation was supported last session by numerous statewide interest groups, including the PA School Boards Association, the Commonwealth Foundation, the Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC), the PA State Association of Township Supervisors, the Boroughs' Association, the County Commissioners' Association, and the Municipal Authorities' Association.

Please join us in cosponsoring this important piece of legislation.

Introduced as [HB323](#)

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