

W.Va. governor signs proposal to scale back prevailing wage

By The Associated Press

CHARLESTON, W.Va. – Democratic Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin has signed a bill scaling back the state’s prevailing wage for public construction projects.

Thursday’s action ends months of pushback by construction workers over possible repeal or adjustment to the wage. The Legislature passed the bill largely along party lines, with Republicans in favor and Democrats opposing.

It will remove the wage’s calculation from the state Division of Labor. Workforce West Virginia and West Virginia University and Marshall University economists will calculate it.

Lawmakers can approve the methodology. There won’t be a prevailing wage if it’s not calculated by July, or Sept. 30, if the deadline is extended.

Projects less than \$500,000 wouldn’t be subject to the wage.

Tomblin called the bill a compromise and a “common sense approach to continued investments in our infrastructure.”