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## W.Va. Senate panel sends prevailing wage to floor vote

February 4, 2015  
Associated Press

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CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) — West Virginia Republican senators are setting up a full vote on a bill to repeal the state's prevailing wage for public construction projects.

A Senate panel voted 8-5 along party lines Tuesday to clear the proposal.

Government Organization Chairman Sen. Craig Blair, however, named a few areas of middle ground to discuss, instead of a complete repeal.

Some are excluding smaller projects, changing who calculates the wage and how it's established — and only applying it to the percentage of a project that's state-funded.

The state sets the wage for various public projects, from schools to roads.

Republicans and some business groups say repeal could save taxpayer dollars, possibly for more construction projects.

Democrats and labor groups say the repeal would unfairly hurt workers and potentially not even save money.

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