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Prevailing Wage Opponents Worry About Dems Taking Legislature

Having won the repeal of the state's prevailing wage law earlier this year, an official with one of the leading groups that sought the law's end acknowledged they worried about an attempt to restore the law if Democrats win control of the Legislature on November 6.

Speaking at a forum on prevailing wage hosted by the Institute for Public Policy and Social Research at Michigan State University, Jeff Wiggins with the Associated Builders and Contractors, said it is too early to say what would happen in the election.

And the ABC is supporting pro-"merit shop" candidates in the election, he said.

But **Sen. Curtis Hertel Jr.** (D-East Lansing) has suggested the first Senate bills to be introduced if Democrats win the chamber will be repeal of the repeal, and Mr. Wiggins, said work to restore the repeal could begin again.

The decades-old law was repealed earlier this year after sufficient signatures for a ballot initiative were obtained – over objections of supporters of the prevailing wage law – and the Legislature enacted the measure in June rather than submit it to the ballot.

That proposal is still being fought in court, said Neil Parish with the National Electrical Contractors Association which had opposed ending prevailing wage.

Discussion on prevailing wage will continue for some time, Mr. Parish said.

And if Democrats do not take control of both the House and Senate, it was possible there could be another ballot proposal to restore prevailing wage, Mr. Parrish said.

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