

HB 2177 -- Open Meetings and Records Law

Sponsor: Harris (23)

This bill changes the laws regarding the Open Meetings and Records Law, commonly known as the Sunshine Law. In its main provisions, the bill:

- (1) Requires all fiscal notes accompanying any legislation introduced in either house of the General Assembly to state whether or not the proposed legislation impacts the open government provisions contained in Chapter 610, RSMo;
- (2) Requires any e-mail by a public employee concerning public business sent or received from a mobile communication device to be forwarded to the custodian of records for the public body of which the employee is a member;
- (3) Changes the standard for a governmental body violating the Sunshine Law from knowingly violating to purposely, negligently, or recklessly violating;
- (4) Increases the civil penalty for a violation of the Sunshine Law from \$1,000 to \$5,000; and
- (5) Creates a presumption that any document in a legal proceeding is open to the public.