

HB 430 with HCA 1 -- TAXPAYER TRANSPARENCY ACT OF 2015

SPONSOR: Curtman

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with Amendments" by the Standing Committee on Government Oversight and Accountability by a vote of 8 to 0.

This bill establishes the Taxpayer Transparency Act of 2015 regarding materials produced and disseminated at taxpayer expense. Each communication funded by a state department for advertising or educational purposes must clearly state specified information. If the communication is printed, it must include a statement that it is printed and published at taxpayer expense in sufficient type size and reasonable color contrast to be clearly readable by the recipient and within a box set apart from the other contents of the communication. If the communication is transmitted through radio, television, Internet, or other means, the communication must include a statement which is conveyed in a clearly spoken manner that it is produced and disseminated at taxpayer expense. Any email communication must be of sufficient type size and reasonable color contrast to be clearly readable by the recipient and be set apart from the other contents of the communication.

Advertisements regarding information or a solicitation for a state contract, bid, grant, or state funding and an employment opportunity are exempt from these provisions.

HCA 1: Changes the term "state department" to "public governmental body"; specifies that the phrase "Paid for with taxpayer funds" must be included where applicable; and specifies that the provisions of the bill must not be retroactive

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that when an advertisement is paid for with department funds, the advertisement must disclose that taxpayer money was used to pay for the ad. The bill is virtually identical to the federal legislation filed by Senator Blunt.

Testifying for the bill was Representative Curtman.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say that the provisions of the bill could lead to abuse.

Testifying on the bill was Aaron Malin, Show-Me Cannabis.