

SCS SB 82 -- JOINT COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH

SPONSOR: Dixon

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Government Efficiency by a vote of 9 to 1. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Legislative Oversight by a vote of 11 to 0.

This bill modifies provisions of law relating to the duties and functions of the Joint Committee on Legislative Research. Currently, certain public officials receive free copies of the revised laws. This bill removes that provision and states that the committee shall distribute copies at a price determined by the committee. Currently, the revised statutes are reprinted and published only upon the adoption of a concurrent resolution by the General Assembly. This bill requires the publication of the revised statutes every 10 years in accordance with the Missouri Constitution.

The cost of publication may, rather than shall, be paid from General Revenue Fund and when the committee sells copies of the revised statutes the money received from such sale shall be deposited in the Statutory Revision Fund, rather than the General Revenue Fund. The bill removes provisions providing that any unexpended balance exceeding twice the cost of providing the annual supplement to the revised statutes shall be transferred to general revenue every two years.

Currently, the committee is required to create one chapter of law that recodifies existing provisions of law, including specified chapters and sections, concerning court costs, fees, and surcharges. This bill removes references to specified chapters and sections of law.

Upon written request, the committee is required to aid in the drafting of revision bills, including any amendments directly related to such bills or the duties and functions of the committee. The committee shall also establish and maintain an electronic database of all reports required to be submitted to the General Assembly, which shall be publicly accessible. Beginning January 1, 2018, all statutorily required reports shall be electronically submitted to the committee for inclusion on the database.

Currently, the committee is required to annually compile a report of its activities and expenditures for submission to the General Assembly. The report must include any recommendations for legislative action or the efficient and economical operation of state government. This bill repeals these reporting requirements.

This bill has an emergency clause for Section 3.142, RSMo.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this is a good transparency bill.

Testifying for the bill was Senator Dixon.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say they are trying to become self-funding through sales of the books.

Testifying on the bill was Sandy Lueckenhoff.