

HB 1814 -- COUNTY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

SPONSOR: McGaugh

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Local Government by a vote of 12 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Legislative Oversight by a vote of 9 to 0.

This bill requires all non-charter counties, by the first Monday in March, to prepare and publish in a qualified newspaper a financial statement for the previous year.

The financial statement shall include the name and current gross annual salary of each elected or appointed county official whose salary is set by the county salary commission.

The county clerk or other officer responsible for the preparation of the financial statement shall preserve the documents relied upon in the making of the financial statements and shall provide an electronic copy free of charge to any newspaper requesting a copy of the data.

Currently, these requirements only apply to counties of the first classification.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that counties of the second, third, and fourth classification always have had the more expensive publishing requirement and this bill will save them money.

Testifying for the bill were Representative McGaugh; Batina Dodge; Gary Jungermann, Callaway County Commissioners Association; Missouri Press Association; and Rick Watson, Henry County.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.