

HCS HB 2555 -- COST TRANSPARENCY (Deaton)

COMMITTEE OF ORIGIN: Standing Committee on Downsizing State Government

This bill creates the "Cost Openness and Spending Transparency (COST) Act" which requires that when persons or entities issue statements, press releases, or other documents, excluding communications with 280 characters or less, such as "tweets", describing a project or program funded in whole or in part with state moneys, the dollar amount of state funds used must be clearly indicated.

The bill also establishes the "Missouri Local Government CARES Act Expenditure Database", to be maintained by the Office of Administration. The database must include information about a given municipality's or county's expenditures made with funds appropriated as a result of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act of 2020, Pub.L. 116-136 and the vendors to whom payments were made. The data base must be accessible by the public without charge and have multiple ways to search and filter the information.

A link to the database on a municipal or county website is required.

The Office of Administration may stipulate a format for information and will provide a template for municipalities and counties to use in sending information. Other duties and responsibilities of the Office of Administration regarding the database are detailed in the bill. Financial reimbursement to municipalities and counties for costs associated with the database is authorized.