

HCS HB 512 -- ETHICS (Lovasco)

COMMITTEE OF ORIGIN: Standing Committee on Downsizing State Government

This bill requires the Missouri Ethics Commission to investigate violations of election statutes relating to the use of public funds for political advertising purposes on printed materials. Any person may file a complaint against a state department or its director for violations. If the Missouri Ethics Commission or a court determines that there has been a violation of section 115.646, it shall impose penalties such as subjecting the department, director of state department, political subdivision, or principal officer of the subdivision or special district, to civil penalties in an amount equal to 10 times the expenditure that violated the section or \$10,000, whichever is greater. The defendant will also be ordered to pay the plaintiff's attorney's fees and court costs.

Publications in compliance with federal election laws and the full text of proposed ballot measures may be printed as specified in the bill.