

HCS HB 1606 -- COUNTY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

SPONSOR: McGaugh

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS by Consent" by the Standing Committee on Local Government by a vote of 11 to 0. Voted "Do Pass- Consent" by the Standing Committee on House Consent and Procedure by a vote of 8 to 0.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HB 1606.

This bill requires all non-charter counties, by June 30th of each year, to prepare and publish in a qualified newspaper a financial statement for the previous year.

The financial statement shall include the name, office, and current gross annual salary of each elected or appointed county official.

The county clerk or other officer responsible for the preparation of the financial statement must 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.

This bill is similar to HB 381 (2021).

The following is a summary of the public testimony from the committee hearing. The testimony was based on the introduced version of the bill.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill will allow small counties to publish notice in the same manner as large counties, using the condensed format of financial statements, and should result in savings for small counties. The salary of officials is a common question asked by citizens and its publication will increase transparency.

Testifying for the bill were Representative McGaugh; Missouri Association of Counties; Missouri Association of County Clerks and Election Authorities; and the Missouri Press Association.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that such financial statements should be emailed free-of-charge to any citizen that wants one. More transparency in county government is needed.

Testifying against the bill was Arnie C. "AC" Dienoff.

Written testimony has been submitted for this bill. The full written testimony can be found under Testimony on the bill page on the House website.