

HCS HBs 1961 & 2197 -- ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

SPONSOR: Riley

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Economic Development by a vote of 9 to 4. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Regulatory Oversight by a vote of 6 to 2.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HB 1961.

This bill prohibits a rule proposed by a department, agency, commission, or board from taking effect unless the entity proposing the rule also repeals at least two existing rules.

This bill is the same as HB 269 (2023) and HB 1714 (2022).

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PROPOSERS: Supporters say that there are outdated rules that exist in many different agencies and departments of Missouri government, and these outdated rules need to be removed. Individuals and businesses are significantly burdened by all of the regulations that Missouri imposes, a number that stands at just over 113,000. Businesses have to spend a great deal of time and money in order to successfully navigate these regulations. This places the heaviest burden on smaller businesses, because such entities do not have the same resources or funds as a larger business.

Testifying in person for the bill were Representative Riley; the National Federation of Independent Business; and the Opportunity Solutions Project.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that such a bill would create a one-size-fits-all approach that would be imposed on agencies and departments, and would effectively remove their ability to operate effectively. As a result, this bill will create more of a burden on the government. Opponents further say that regulatory rules might be a burden to follow, but they are in place to protect Missouri citizens. If agencies and departments are required to get rid of existing rules, they will be hamstrung in their ability to create new, necessary rules when they confront issues in the future.

Testifying in person against the bill were Sierra Club Missouri Chapter; and Missouri Realtors.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say agencies and departments are already required to review all existing rules to determine if they are still necessary, but there is no requirement that the department do anything about it.

Testifying in person on the bill was Sarah Schappe, Joint Committee on Administrative Rules.

This bill is the same as HB 269 (2023).

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