

HCS HB 2146 -- MISSOURI ETHICS COMMISSION

SPONSOR: McGaugh

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Elections and Elected Officials by a vote of 13 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Legislative Oversight by a vote of 8 to 0.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HB 2146.

Currently, governing bodies of political subdivisions with general operating budgets in excess of \$1 million are required to file financial interest statements with the Missouri Ethics Commission.

This bill requires the governing body of each political subdivision, before July 16 of each calendar year, to submit an attestation to the Commission of whether the body's annual operating budget exceeds \$1 million.

The bill requires certain entities, before December 16 of each calendar year, to send the Commission a list of the names of all individuals required to file a financial interest statement.

Currently, each official, officer, employee, or candidate of certain political subdivisions are required to file a financial interest statement unless the political subdivision adopts an ordinance, order, or resolution biennially in which it establishes its own method for disclosing potential conflicts of interest for such officials.

This bill removes the requirement that this be done biennially, allowing the above mentioned ordinance, order, or resolution to remain in effect until amended or rescinded by the governing body of the political subdivision.

This bill requires political subdivisions, within two business days after the close of candidate filing, to provide the Commission a list of all candidates required to file a financial interest statement.

The bill adds these provisions to the information that the Commission is allowed to request and receive.

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

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this bill makes a number of simple changes that could help streamline the process for the Missouri Ethics Commission. These changes would help filing officials and candidates by making certain requirements easier to understand and follow.

Testifying in person for the bill were Representative Mcgaugh; Arnie C. Dienoff; Elizabeth Ziegler, Missouri Ethics Commission; and Stacey Heislen, Missouri Ethics Commission.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

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.