



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1992		DATE: 3/12/2024	
COMMITTEE: General Laws			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C. AC "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF- STATE PUBLIC ADV		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/12/2024 12:00 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



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WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: CARA HOOVER		PHONE NUMBER: 573-356-9698
REPRESENTING: CASS COUNTY		TITLE:
ADDRESS: PO BOX 2322		
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65102
EMAIL: cara@heartlandpolicyadvisors.com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 3/12/2024 8:57 AM
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Cass County supports the bill.		



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: MELISSA VATTEROTT		PHONE NUMBER: 314-727-0600	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI COALITION FOR THE ENVIRONMENT		TITLE: POLICY DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: 725 KINGSLAND AVENUE, SUITE 100			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63130
EMAIL: mvatterott@moenvironment.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/12/2024 5:29 PM	

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March 11, 2024 Chairman Alex Riley House General Laws MO House of Representatives 201 W Capitol Ave., Rm. 201-E Jefferson City, MO 65101 Dear Chairman Riley and Members of the Committee, Missouri Coalition for the Environment is a statewide, advocacy nonprofit organization that works to empower Missourians to protect their environment and health. House Bill No. 1992 increases access to information regarding the work of county planning boards of first classification counties by requiring notices to be posted on the county website in addition to local newspapers. We respectfully ask you to support HB 1992. MCE believes in the importance of citizen engagement in all levels of government and HB 1992 will increase awareness of opportunities for engagement. The changes proposed of §64.231 by HB 1992 will greatly improve access to notices for multiple government activities because this section is referenced as the standard of notice in subsequent sections(1). We would like this committee to consider going further than the currently drafted bill in order to improve access to public notices across all levels of government by requiring publication on government websites in addition to notices published in local newspapers. We have conducted some research of provisions in statute where public notice is required but no requirement exists to post on the county website; Chapter 64 governs county planning and Chapter 65 governs townships. We urge this committee to consider at a minimum, standardizing notice formats across these chapters and § 50.540.5, which addresses notices of public hearings for county budgets. Below are the provisions where notices are outlined in various ways and the public would benefit from an expectation that all notices for various hearings are the same in their county or township: §64.150 addresses notices for public hearings before county planning commissions or county zoning commissions. §64.271.2 relates to changes in regulations and districts and only requires notice in one newspaper circulated in the county. §64.281 governs county boards of zoning adjustment and only requires notice in one newspaper circulated in the county. §64.401.3 governs notice for public hearings regarding municipal park systems and only requires notice “by publication on three separate days in one more more newspapers [circulated in the proposed territory] and if there is no such newspaper, then notice shall be posted in ten of the most public places in the territory . . .” §64.550 governs notice of public hearings for master plans of second and third class counties; notice is only required in one newspaper circulated in the county and “in one or more public areas of the courthouse of the county.” This section is referenced as the standard of notice in subsequent sections(2); therefore, modifying this section would greatly improve access to notices for multiple government activities. §64.725 governs notice of public hearings for rules from temporary planning commissions; notice is required only in one newspaper circulated in the county or township and “in one or more public areas of the courthouse of the country.” §64.815 governs notices regarding county master plans and includes similar language for notice as 64.725. Subsequent provisions reference this section as the standard of notice.(3) §65.662 governs notices for township

master plans; notice is only required in one newspaper circulated in the township and “in one or more public area (sic) in the township.” Subsequent provisions reference this section as the standard of notice.(4)§65.667 governs notices for subdividing land as part of township master plans and states “public notice of which shall be given in the manner as provided for the hearing in sections 65.650 to 65.700.” §65.675 governs notice of public hearings for regulations from a township board of adjustment and references the public notice process “as provided for the hearing in section 65.665.” 65.665 does not include public notice language. Please address this. There are over one thousand provisions in state statute that address notice for public hearings and we will not outline them all here. We mention this to point out that our government has numerous methods for notice and it can be a burden on citizens to know when and how they can learn of hearings. As such, HB 1992 is an excellent bill to increase access to notices and we would encourage this committee to include at least additional provisions listed above to standardize notice procedures in counties and townships. In conclusion, Missouri Coalition for the Environment respectfully urges you to vote “yes” on HB 1992 with amendments in order to facilitate greater transparency and citizen engagement in many of Missouri’s counties. Thank you for your time.Sincerely, Melissa Vatterott, JD Policy Director Missouri Coalition for the Environmentmvatterott@moenvironment.org(314) 727-0600, ext. 111(1) §64.241, §64.251, §64.265, §64.271.(2) §64.580, §64.610, §64.640, §64.670.(3) §64.825, §4.840, §64.860, §64.875.(4) §65.682, §65.692.