



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 2553</b>		DATE: <b>4/3/2024</b>
COMMITTEE: <b>Special Committee on Property Tax Reform</b>		
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>ARNIE C. "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:                  ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>arniedienoff@yahoo.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/27/2024 1:13 PM</b>

**THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.**

I am in Support of this Bill and the Reporting/Disclosure of additional information, facts and figures. Our six (6)-Million Missourians deserve the right to be informed and know additional Statics, especially of Exempted Property and Taxes. This is a great Bill. Let' get this Bill over to the State Senate and onto the Desk of the Governor!



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WITNESS NAME: <b>ARNIE C. "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>arniedienoff@mail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>In-Person</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>4/3/2024 11:59 PM</b>

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**I am in Support of this Bill. This is a good Transparency Bill with Disclosure by the State Tax Commission.**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>DAN PATE</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>dan@danielpate.com</b>		ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/29/2024 12:20 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

I support this bill. I think making reporting on complex financial components of the budget like abatements is a good thing. It would seem like being able to simplify reporting and have a net fiscal impact of zero dollars is even better. Increasing transparency when it comes to tax abatement is a major plus for members of the public. We appreciate it. Increasing transparency without increasing costs is so good I can hardly stand it. Thank you!



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>DAVID STOKES</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-276-6305</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>SHOW-ME INSTITUTE</b>		TITLE: <b>DIRECTOR OF MUNICIPAL POLICY</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>7220 GREENWAY AVE.</b>			
CITY: <b>ST. LOUIS</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>63108</b>
EMAIL: <b>david.stokes@showmeinstitute.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>In-Person</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>4/2/2024 3:02 PM</b>	

**THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.**

**TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THIS COMMITTEE:** Thank you for the opportunity to testify. My name is David Stokes, and I am director of municipal policy at the Show-Me Institute, a nonprofit, nonpartisan, Missouri-based think tank that advances sensible, well-researched, free-market solutions to state and local policy issues. The ideas presented here are my own and are offered in consideration of proposals that will increase the accessibility of information on tax abated property in Missouri. The very simple goal of this bill is to collect more information on tax subsidies and abatement and to make it easier to find and compile the information by county by having it all included in the annual Missouri State Tax Commission (STC) annual report. According to Missouri law (RSMO 137.237), every county assessor is required to identify and publish the county totals for the various tax subsidy and abatement programs contained in Chapters 99, 135, and 353 of the Revised Missouri Statutes. That information is then published as part of the reassessment notice sent every other year to property owners within each county. This law simply adds the abatement and subsidy program authorized by chapter 100 to that list. Furthermore, this bill requires that the above totals for each county be included in the STC's annual report. Currently, not every county submits its abatement totals to the STC, and the information that is submitted is not included in the annual report. It would be simple and helpful for that information to be published every other year. While this abatement information is currently public, it is not readily available to Missouri citizens. Putting it in the annual STC report would make it much more accessible. These small and simple improvements will improve the transparency and accessibility of tax information for Missouri citizens.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>MARTHA DUCHILD</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>mduchild@hotmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>4/1/2024 12:54 PM</b>
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I'm writing to ask the members of the Special Committee on Property Tax Reform to approve HB2553 introduced by Representative Oehlerking. The changes proposed in HB2553 would bring a long overdue window of transparency to the full value of properties in the state that are totally or partially exempt from ad valorem taxes. The State Tax Commission is the proper authority to include in its annual report the summary information for tax exempt properties, which will make it easier to capture the full scope and impact that tax exemptions have on budgets, especially at the state level. Because the exemption information would be aggregated in one report, those studying the impact of tax exemptions on various municipal and state budgets, legislators interested in making informed decisions about economic planning, and individual taxpayers simply seeking greater transparency at the state level would all benefit from the approval of HB2553. Greater transparency leads to more accountable governance.