HCS SB 1470 -- DUTIES OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH

SPONSOR: Bernskoetter

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Budget by a vote of 25 to 1. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules-Legislative by a vote of 10 to 0.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for SB 1470.

This bill modifies the duties and functions of the Joint Committee on Legislative Research.

The Joint Committee on Legislative Research is currently required to provide copies of all laws in paper format; this bill provides that the Joint Committee must provide copies in a web-based electronic format, or both paper and electronic.

Currently, printed copies of laws, resolutions, constitutional amendments and measures are made available at no cost to members of the General Assembly, certain judicial entities, and certain law enforcement entities. This bill repeals this provision and provides that such copies shall be available for sale by the Joint Committee. When the Joint Committee sells copies of the revised statutes, this bill provides that the money received will be deposited in the Statutory Revision Fund, rather than the General Revenue Fund.

Currently, the revised statutes of Missouri are printed only upon the adoption of a concurrent resolution by the General Assembly. This bill repeals the requirement of adopting a concurrent resolution. Instead, if an appropriation is made for the republication of the revised statutes, the General Assembly must adopt a concurrent resolution for such republication. If there is no appropriation for the printing of supplements, the cost will be paid by the Statutory Revision Fund. The printing and publication of the revised statutes may, rather than shall, be obtained through the Director of the Division of Purchasing. This bill provides that the moneys in the Statutory Revision Fund will be used for costs associated with the general republication of the revised statutes and its annual supplements if no specific appropriation is provided by the General Assembly.

The bill changes the makeup of the Committee to include the President Pro Tem of the Senate, two members of the majority

party of the Senate, the Senate minority floor leader, and one member from the minority party of the Senate, as well as the Speaker of the House, two members of the majority party of the House, the minority floor leader of the House, and one member from the minority party of the House. The House Budget chair and the Senate Appropriations chair remain on the Committee.

Upon request, rather than written request, of the Joint Committee, the Committee will draft revision bills and any resolutions or amendments directly related to any revision bill or the duties and functions of the Committee.

The Committee shall, rather than may, obtain information upon the needs, organization, functioning, efficiency, and financial status of any department of state government or any institution or agency supporting in whole or in part by State revenue. Current law requires the compilation of a report detailing the Committee's activities and expenditures, which must be mailed to the post office address of each member of the present and forthcoming General Assembly; this bill instead provides that the report be delivered to each member, rather than mailed.

The Joint Committee has 30, rather than 10, days after the convening of a General Assembly to elect a chairperson and vice chairperson. The Committee will regularly meet at least twice a year, instead of at least every three months.

The bill requires the staff of the Oversight Division to prepare a post-implementation fiscal note for any legislation that has been enacted and fully implemented for two years, the purpose of which is to compare the estimate of a fiscal note relating to the final enacted version of the legislation to the actual experience after the legislation was implemented.

Currently, the Committee is required to organize an Oversight Division, the purpose of which is to prepare fiscal notes and conduct program evaluations of state agencies, including evaluations involving budget transparency and accountability. The bill removes the reference to state agencies.

The bill authorizes the Director of the Oversight Division or his or her duly authorized employees who have taken an oath of confidentiality to inspect any report or return filed with the Department of Revenue for the purpose of preparing fiscal notes, including post-implementation fiscal notes, except that the Director or his or her duly authorized employees have no greater right of access to, use of, and publication of information,

audit, and related activities with respect to income tax information obtained by the Department than exists under Federal or State law.

The bill repeals provisions relating to the definition of "program evaluation", procedures to require or request evaluations, and a requirement that public hearings be conducted by the Committee for sunsetting programs.

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

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this bill is needed because in 2015 the Joint Committee was reduced from 20 to seven people in an effort to downsize some inefficiencies in government. Since that time, additional effort has been made to try and resolve some of the issues so that the Joint Committee functions correctly.

Testifying in person for the bill was Representative Cupps on behalf of Senator Bernskoetter.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say there are two different publications: the revised statutes and then the session laws. The statute allowing free copies of the revised statutes was changed years ago, and some statutes still reference giving the statutes away for free, but that is no longer the case. Aside from the constitution requiring republication, the session laws that are no longer for sale are still printed for historical reasons. When statutes governing meetings were put into place, all bill drafting was done by the office, and that has also changed, with the House splitting off to have its own Research and Drafting divisions. The quarterly meetings often don't have business that needs to be conducted to conduct for them.

Testifying in person on the bill were Sandy Lueckenhoff; and Matthew Morris, Joint Committee On Legislative Research.

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.