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

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 can 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 will be available for sale by the Joint Committee. When the Joint Committee sells copies of the revised statutes, the bill provides that the money received will be deposited in the Statutory Revision Fund but no longer paid to the Director of Revenue.

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.

Currently, upon written request, the Committee is authorized to draft bills, resolutions, and amendments. The bill removes the

requirement that a request be in writing, and limits the drafting to revision bills and the amendments to those directly related to a revision bill or the duties and functions of the Committee. The bill removes a further reference to assisting with drafting legislation and a prohibition on employees of the Committee opposing or urging legislation.

The Committee must, 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 permits the State Auditor to cooperate and provide assistance in the preparation of fiscal notes upon request from the Director. Additionally, 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.

The bill repeals provisions requiring the Oversight Division to conduct program evaluations of agencies under certain circumstances and a requirement that the Oversight Division conduct public hearings for sunsetting programs.