



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 1728</b>		DATE: <b>3/4/2026</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Local Government</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>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>TOM DEMPSEY</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>636-288-7461</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>ST. CHARLES COUNTY</b>		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: <b>3103 BUCKSKIN PATH</b>			
CITY: <b>ST. CHARLES</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>63301</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/4/2026 12:00 AM</b>	
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>ARNIE C. "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCAT</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>In-Person</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/4/2026 11:47 PM</b>	
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

I am Opposed to this Bill for the Following reasons:

1. This Bill is Unconstitutional and is Special Legislation.
2. This Bill needs to be Appointed by the Mayor with the Confirmation of the Majority of the Governing Body Elected Members.
3. There NEEDS to be staggered Terms-Of-Office and will be Appointed when the current Trustee of the Board Term Expires.

City of O'Fallon & City of Saint Peters-2028  
 City of Wentzville-2029  
 Saint Charles City-2030

and that five (5) Members will be Appointed in staggered Terms, by the County Executive with the Confirmation of the County Council.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>ARNIE C. "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCAT</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>In-Person</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/4/2026 11:48 PM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>SARAH BERRY</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/4/2026 6:41 AM</b>	

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

HB 1728 restructures the appointment authority for city-county library boards through a series of population brackets that appear designed to affect only a narrow set of jurisdictions. State statutes should establish general policy for the people of Missouri, not function as indirect mechanisms for reorganizing the governance of specific local boards.

Public libraries are funded through voter-approved taxation and entrusted with public educational resources. Governance of those institutions should therefore remain transparent, stable, and directly accountable to the taxpayers who fund them. HB 1728 instead introduces a complicated appointment structure that fragments authority among multiple municipal executives based on population formulas that serve no clear statewide purpose.

When legislation is drafted in this manner—using narrow population bands to alter the composition of local governing boards—it raises the legitimate concern that the General Assembly is being asked to pass what is effectively a local governance adjustment disguised as statewide policy.

Missouri statutes should not be used as tools for quiet political restructuring of individual public boards. If a local jurisdiction wishes to change how its library system is governed, existing local processes are available to pursue that objective without altering statewide law.

HB 1728 therefore represents unnecessary statutory interference in local institutional governance without demonstrated statewide need, and it should not advance.

**Legislative Notice:**

The General Assembly is placed on notice that HB 1728 modifies governance authority for public library districts funded by voter-approved taxation while relying on narrowly tailored population classifications. Such legislative design raises potential concerns under Article III, Section 40 of the Missouri Constitution, which prohibits the enactment of special laws where a general law could be made applicable.

When statewide statutes are structured to affect only limited jurisdictions through population thresholds, the legislature should carefully evaluate whether it is establishing general policy or creating targeted statutory exceptions for specific local political arrangements.