



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1786		DATE: 2/9/2026
COMMITTEE: Corrections and Public Institutions		
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:		
WITNESS NAME: "ALEX" ALEXANDER VIVAS		PHONE NUMBER: 816-896-9931
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI STATE HIGHWAY PATROL		TITLE: CHIEF OF STAFF
ADDRESS: 1510 E. ELM ST.		
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 12:00 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 1:26 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I am Opposed to this Bill. I feel that all Vehicle Purchases of Department of Public Safety and Divisions within the Department shall get authorization and a full Public Bid Process for all Vehicle purchases with the authorization being set at \$10,000, not the \$500,000 in the proposed Bill.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KORTNIE HUDDLESTON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 9:50 PM	

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

I stand in strong opposition to House Bill No. 1786, which raises the threshold for legislative oversight on Missouri Highway Patrol purchases from \$100,000 to \$500,000. From a progressive perspective, this bill represents a dangerous shift away from transparency, fiscal accountability, and democratic control over public funds.

At its core, this legislation weakens the essential check that the General Assembly—the people’s representatives—has over major expenditures of taxpayer money. By allowing the Highway Patrol to spend up to half a million dollars on a single vehicle, aircraft, or watercraft without specific legislative approval, the bill concentrates discretionary power in an unelected administrative body. This erodes the principle that large, non-emergency public purchases should be subject to open debate and appropriation, ensuring they align with the state’s broader priorities.

In a time when Missouri faces urgent needs in public education, healthcare access, infrastructure repairs, and social services, it is irresponsible to streamline the process for militarizing or expanding law enforcement assets without scrutiny. Every dollar diverted into high-cost patrol equipment is a dollar not invested in community-based programs that address the root causes of crime: poverty, inequality, and lack of opportunity.

Furthermore, exempting the revolving fund’s unexpended balance from reverting to general revenue at the end of the fiscal year creates a troubling precedent. It allows law enforcement budgets to grow insulated from the normal budgetary pressures that other vital state agencies face. This special treatment perpetuates inequitable funding and reduces legislative ability to redirect resources toward preventative and supportive social services.

We should be moving toward greater oversight of police spending, not less. Transparency and accountability are pillars of public trust. This bill moves in the opposite direction, prioritizing agency convenience over democratic governance and community need.

I urge you to reject House Bill No. 1786 and uphold the necessity of legislative oversight and balanced budgetary justice for all Missourians.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MICHAEL DREYER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/9/2026 9:49 PM	

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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: SARAH BERRY		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/5/2026 11:25 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

HB 1786 creates a dedicated revolving fund for Highway Patrol vehicles, aircraft, and watercraft and then explicitly exempts unexpended balances from reversion to General Revenue.

This is not a technical cleanup. It is a structural carve-out that weakens legislative control, reduces fiscal transparency, and sets a precedent for agency-controlled spending outside normal budget discipline.

Core Objections

1. Revolving funds + non-reversion = reduced legislative oversight

By allowing the Highway Patrol to retain unexpended balances year over year, HB 1786 removes one of the Legislature’s most important oversight tools: annual re-appropriation and public review.

Funds that do not revert escape routine scrutiny and accumulate beyond meaningful legislative intent.

Appropriations are supposed to be specific, time-bound, and reviewable.

This bill moves Missouri in the opposite direction.

2. Aggregation of multiple revenue sources obscures accountability

The fund consolidates reimbursements, restitution, inter-agency payments, and “any other source” into a single account controlled by the Patrol superintendent.

Once pooled, the public—and legislators—lose visibility into:

Where the money originated

Whether the spending aligns with the original purpose

Whether costs are expanding without proportional justification

That is not transparency. That is administrative opacity by design.

3. Artificially high legislative approval threshold invites circumvention

Raising the approval trigger for individual purchases from \$100,000 to \$500,000 dramatically reduces how often the General

Assembly must explicitly approve major acquisitions. In practice, this encourages bundling, phased purchases, or component buying to avoid legislative review altogether.

If a purchase is significant enough to matter, it is significant enough to require oversight.

4. Pattern concern: agency-controlled funds are multiplying

HB 1786 fits a growing pattern this session:

Creation of special funds
Exemptions from reversion
Broad discretion delegated to agencies
Minimal public reporting requirements

Each bill alone may appear minor. Together, they represent a systematic erosion of the Legislature's power of the purse and the public's ability to follow the money.

Constitutional Concerns

The Missouri Constitution places appropriation authority squarely with the General Assembly, not agency heads. While HB 1786 gestures at "subject to appropriation," the non-reversion clause materially undermines that safeguard by allowing funds to persist and compound beyond the normal budget cycle.

This bill substitutes administrative convenience for constitutional accountability.

Bottom Line

Missouri does not need to weaken fiscal controls to equip the Highway Patrol.

If purchases are necessary, they should be:

Requested transparently
Debated publicly
Approved annually
Re-justified every budget cycle

HB 1786 fails that standard.

Legislators who genuinely intend to serve in future General Assemblies may wish to begin by voting "No" on bills that erode legislative authority, obscure accountability, and trade transparency for administrative convenience.

Governance is not measured by how much passes—but by how well the people can see what was done in their name.

I respectfully urge a NO vote.

Constitutional Footnotes (for the record)

Mo. Const. art. IV, § 28 — No money shall be withdrawn from the treasury except by appropriation made by law, and expenditures must match the stated purpose.

Mo. Const. art. III, § 36 — The General Assembly retains exclusive authority over appropriations.

Mo. Const. art. II, § 1 — Separation of powers; legislative authority may not be functionally delegated to

executive agencies through fiscal mechanisms.

§ 33.080, RSMo — Reversion of unexpended balances exists to preserve accountability and legislative review; exemptions should be narrowly justified, not routine.