



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2226		DATE: 2/5/2026
COMMITTEE: Government Efficiency		
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
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: 2/5/2026 11:45 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I am in Support of this Bill. This is transparency.



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TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: SARAH BERRY		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/4/2026 9:39 AM
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HB 2226 should be rejected.

Fiscal notes exist to inform legislators and the public of the true cost of legislation, not to shield inaccurate or incomplete analysis behind internal procedure.

This bill entrenches a closed system that limits challenge, delays correction, and routinely allows “no fiscal impact” claims that later explode into real costs absorbed by agencies, local governments, or taxpayers.

By insulating fiscal notes from meaningful review and narrowing opportunities for correction, HB 2226 undermines informed consent in lawmaking, weakens legislative accountability, and erodes public trust.

Laws passed on incomplete or misleading fiscal information violate the legislature’s constitutional duty to act transparently and responsibly with public funds.

Missouri should strengthen fiscal disclosure, not codify opacity.

Vote NO on HB 2226.

FOOTNOTES:

Mo. Const. art. III, § 36 — Requires bills to be considered and passed in a manner that allows legislators to understand their contents and effects; legislation advanced on incomplete or misleading fiscal information undermines meaningful consideration.

Mo. Const. art. III, § 34 — Prohibits laws containing matters not clearly expressed in the bill’s title; fiscal impacts concealed or insulated from correction frustrate this transparency requirement by obscuring real effects of legislation.

Mo. Const. art. III, § 37 — Mandates that laws operate uniformly and not arbitrarily; fiscal notes that systematically understate or delay recognition of costs create unequal downstream burdens on agencies, political subdivisions, and taxpayers.

Mo. Const. art. X, § 16 (Hancock Amendment) — Protects taxpayers from unfunded mandates;

inaccurate or unchallengeable fiscal notes facilitate the passage of legislation that shifts undisclosed costs onto local governments in violation of voter-approved limits.

Mo. Const. art. X, § 3 — Requires taxes and expenditures to serve a public purpose with accountability; shielding fiscal assumptions from timely correction erodes the legislature's duty to responsibly steward public funds.

State ex rel. Missouri Press Ass'n v. Erickson, 749 S.W.2d 389 (Mo. banc 1988) — Recognizes transparency and public access as essential to informed governance; fiscal processes that discourage correction or scrutiny conflict with this principle.

State ex rel. Nixon v. American Tobacco Co., 34 S.W.3d 122 (Mo. banc 2000) — Confirms that legislative procedures must not be structured to evade accountability or obscure material consequences of governmental action.