



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2600		DATE: 1/28/2026	
COMMITTEE: Local Government			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: BRENT HEMPHILL		PHONE NUMBER:	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: POB 156			
CITY: JEFF CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/28/2026 12:00 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JOHN BARCLAY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/28/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: TRENT FORD		PHONE NUMBER: 314-409-6812	
REPRESENTING: AMBULANCE DISTRICT ASSOCIATION OF MISSOURI		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 384			
CITY: COLUMBIA		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63205
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/28/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C. AC "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVO		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 1/28/2026 11:12 PM	

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I am Opposed to this Bill. This Bill will not survive a State Constitutional Challenge. There is calling for Election Procedure and creating a Consolidated Ambulance District. This is a very sneaky way to keep this secret from Citizens. The entire Chapter 190 NEEDS to be rewritten and hold Ambulance Districts Responsible and Accountable. In Saint Charles County, Board Members are paying themselves \$100 for an Open-Meeting twice a Month and at the same Meeting are holding a Closed Meeting and paying themselves another \$100, in addition to every Board Member Being an Officer of the a Board and receiving \$100 to \$150 per Board Meeting. Therefore Violating Chapter 190 of the Revised State Statues of Missouri and ripping OFF the Citizens of the District. This is Illegal and Fraud!



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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: 1/26/2026 11:45 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

OPPOSITION TO HOUSE BILL NO. 2600

(Submitted after yet another morning of reading what should have been vetted before filing)

HB 2600 is not a refinement of ambulance district law.

It is a procedural power grab disguised as administrative efficiency—one that requires citizens to spend unpaid hours deciphering governance changes that should have been plainly disclosed, narrowly drafted, and democratically safeguarded before introduction.

If this bill feels exhausting to read, that is not accidental. Complexity is doing the work here.

1. Elections Reduced to a Technicality

HB 2600 repeatedly authorizes directors to assume office without an election whenever candidate numbers align with available seats. In low-visibility districts, this effectively converts elected offices into appointed ones—without voter consent, without meaningful notice, and without any showing of necessity.

That is not streamlining. That is erosion.

2. Representation Becomes Optional; Control Becomes Concentrated

The bill systematically shifts districts toward at-large governance, optional subdistricts, and board-controlled restructuring. This predictably dilutes geographic representation and favors incumbency and insider continuity.

When representation is inconvenient, this bill treats it as expendable.

3. Annexation and Consolidation Without Meaningful Consent

HB 2600 moves annexation and consolidation authority away from county commissions and voters and into the hands of ambulance district boards—triggering elections only after plans are drafted, assets assigned, governance determined, and tax authority outlined.

Missourians should not be required to mount formal objections simply to preserve their right to vote.

That is not participation. That is procedural ambush.

4. Tax Authority Expands Quietly, Predictably, and Permanently

Through consolidation mechanics, newly formed districts may adopt the highest existing tax levy and lock it in via ballot language structured by the consolidating entities themselves.

This is a classic ratchet: easy to increase, structurally difficult to reduce.

It directly conflicts with the spirit—and arguably the letter—of Missouri’s Hancock Amendment protections (Mo. Const. Art. X).

5. Efficiency Is Being Used as a Pretext

Emergency services matter. That is precisely why their governance should not be weakened.

HB 2600 repeatedly chooses administrative convenience over constitutional discipline, shifting decisions away from voters and toward boards, resolutions, and default outcomes that benefit those already in control.

If these changes are sound, they should survive:

clear elections,
direct votes,
and transparent consent.

This bill avoids all three.

Final Observation

If citizens must read, decode, and explain this bill line-by-line to understand who gains power, who loses a vote, and when taxes can increase—then the bill has already failed a basic test of public legitimacy.

Missourians deserve emergency services without surrendering democratic control in the process.

Vote NO on HB 2600.

It is not the public’s job to reverse-engineer legislation to determine whether elections still matter, representation still exists, or tax authority has quietly shifted. When a bill requires unpaid citizens to spend hours identifying where democratic safeguards were removed, that is not civic engagement—it is legislative cost-shifting. The Constitution does not permit the General Assembly to outsource its duty of clarity to the people it governs.

Missourians expect emergency services to be fast, accountable, and lifesaving—not governed by laws so convoluted that citizens must do the legislature’s homework just to protect their right to vote.

— Rev. Sarah M. Berry