



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2732		DATE: 4/1/2026	
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			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: WILLIAM J MALACH		PHONE NUMBER: 636-477-6600	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: CITY OF ST. PETERS		TITLE: CITY ADMINSTRATOR	
ADDRESS: ONE ST. PETERS CENTRE BLVD			
CITY: ST. PETERS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63376
EMAIL: bmalach@stpetersmo.net	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 3/30/2026 4:57 PM	

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

As City Administrator of the City of St. Peters I support HB 2732 to modify the ballot language allowing residents to self-assess themselves \$24/annually instead of the current rate of \$12/annually which was set by HB 142 in 2011.

This increase is due to significant increases in labor and material costs since 2011.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C. AC "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF		PHONE NUMBER: 314-440-9000	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: STATE PUBLIC ADVOCACY		TITLE: STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE	
ADDRESS: POST OFFICE BOX #1535			
CITY: O'FALLON		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63366
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 4/1/2026 12:00 AM	
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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: 3/31/2026 8:28 PM	
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HB 2732 quietly doubles a government-imposed fee on residential water service lines while expanding how that fee can be enforced and collected.

This is not just a \$1 increase — it is a structural expansion of how local governments shift infrastructure costs onto homeowners.

The bill allows jurisdictions to charge residents for repairs on water service lines that exist in a blurred zone of responsibility between public systems and private property. Instead of clarifying ownership or fixing underlying infrastructure funding gaps, this proposal simply raises the cap and passes more cost downstream.

More concerning, this “fee” continues to function as a tax in practice while avoiding the stricter standards applied to taxation. Increasing the cap reinforces a model where governments rely on fragmented, voter-approved fees rather than transparent, accountable budgeting.

The enforcement mechanism is where this bill becomes particularly problematic. By allowing these charges to be placed on property tax bills and collected like delinquent taxes, the legislation escalates a minor monthly fee into a lien-capable obligation. In effect, a small infrastructure charge can now trigger the same collection consequences as unpaid property taxes.

Additionally, the bill gives local governments broad authority to define what qualifies as a “repair,” what infrastructure is covered, and how funds are used. This creates inconsistency across jurisdictions and removes predictability for homeowners, who are left subject to locally defined rules with limited statewide guardrails.

While the bill claims to support infrastructure maintenance, it does so by expanding cost-shifting, weakening transparency, and attaching disproportionate enforcement mechanisms to relatively small fees.

Bottom line:

This is a quiet expansion of government collection authority disguised as a minor fee increase.

The General Assembly is hereby placed on notice that HB 2732 raises concerns regarding fee classification, disproportionate enforcement through tax mechanisms, and the continued transfer of

infrastructure responsibility onto residential property owners without clear limits or accountability.