



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

| | | |
|--|-------------------------------|--|
| BILL NUMBER: HB 3066 | | DATE: 2/24/2026 |
| COMMITTEE: Crime and Public Safety | | |
| 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: BYRON KEELIN | | PHONE NUMBER: 314-402-0655 |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: FREEDOM PRINCIPLE | | TITLE: PRESIDENT |
| ADDRESS: PO BOX 2 | | |
| CITY: BALLWIN | | STATE: MO |
| | | ZIP: 63022 |
| EMAIL: freedomprinciplemo@protonmail.com | ATTENDANCE: Written | SUBMIT DATE: 2/24/2026 1:41 PM |

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

The Freedom Principle supports House Bill 3066 and urges its swift passage. This legislation offers a much-needed solution to the ongoing challenges facing the management and funding of municipal police departments in our state's largest cities. By transferring authority to a dedicated board of police commissioners, HB 3066 promises to bring a new level of professionalism, stability, and consistency to law enforcement operations. The clear, fair transition process outlined in the bill—one that protects the rights, jobs, and benefits of current police officers and staff—will ensure that the brave men and women serving our communities experience no disruption in their important work.

Furthermore, HB 3066 addresses the persistent problem of unpredictable police funding by mandating minimum city budget allocations for public safety. This represents a critical step toward ensuring our police departments are never left under-resourced due to shifting political winds. By placing oversight in the hands of an independent board and setting out transparent financial guidelines, the bill not only improves accountability but also strengthens public trust in our law enforcement system. For these reasons, we believe House Bill 3066 is a vital measure for safer, stronger, and more effective policing in our communities.



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| WITNESS NAME | | | |
| INDIVIDUAL: | | | |
| WITNESS NAME: CHRIS GRAVILLE | | PHONE NUMBER: | |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: | | TITLE: | |
| ADDRESS: | | | |
| CITY: | | STATE: | ZIP: |
| EMAIL: | ATTENDANCE: | | SUBMIT DATE: 2/24/2026 12:00 AM |
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| WITNESS NAME | | |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION: | | |
| WITNESS NAME: JOE STEIGER | | PHONE NUMBER: 314-703-2275 |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: ST. LOUIS POLICE OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION | | TITLE: BUSINESS MANAGER |
| ADDRESS: 3710 HAMPTON AVE. | | |
| CITY: ST. LOUIS | | STATE: MO |
| | | ZIP: 63109 |
| EMAIL: | ATTENDANCE: | SUBMIT DATE: 2/24/2026 12:00 AM |
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| WITNESS NAME | | | |
| INDIVIDUAL: | | | |
| WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C. "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCAT | | PHONE NUMBER: | |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: | | TITLE: | |
| ADDRESS: | | | |
| CITY: | | STATE: | ZIP: |
| EMAIL: | ATTENDANCE: In-Person | SUBMIT DATE: 2/24/2026 11:37 PM | |
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I am Opposed to this Bill and Transferring Liability and Costs of at least \$5.6-Million Dollars Annually to the State Budget and Appropriations. These Costs should be born by the City of Saint Louis and shall not be deducted from contribution of the State to Operate the City Police Department. this Bill have many Legal issues and Ramifications.



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| WITNESS NAME | | |
| REGISTERED LOBBYIST: | | |
| WITNESS NAME: JACQUELINE BARDGETT | | PHONE NUMBER: 573-634-8760 |
| REPRESENTING: CITY OF ST. LOUIS | | TITLE: |
| ADDRESS: 205 E. CAPITOL AVE | | |
| CITY: JEFFERSON CITY | | STATE: MO |
| | | ZIP: 65101 |
| EMAIL: jacque@bardgett.net | ATTENDANCE: In-Person | SUBMIT DATE: 2/24/2026 5:13 PM |
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| WITNESS NAME | | |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION: | | |
| WITNESS NAME: KEITH ROSE | | PHONE NUMBER: |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: THE CENTER FOR GROWING JUSTICE | | TITLE: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR |
| ADDRESS: 438 N. SKINKER BLVD. | | |
| CITY: ST. LOUIS | | STATE: MO |
| | | ZIP: 63130 |
| EMAIL: | ATTENDANCE: | SUBMIT DATE: 2/24/2026 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: 2/24/2026 9:16 AM |
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This bill materially restructures the financial and liability relationship between a city not within a county and the state-controlled Board of Police Commissioners.

Core Issues:

1. Salary-setting authority without legislative approval.

HB 3066 grants the Board unilateral authority to compute and establish annual salaries without prior General Assembly authorization. That is a direct shift of fiscal control away from the legislative body traditionally responsible for appropriations oversight.

2. Mandated minimum city funding percentages.

The bill compels the municipal assembly to appropriate escalating percentages of general revenue (22%, 23%, 24%, 25%) for police funding. Mandated percentage-based appropriations of general revenue restrict local fiscal discretion and raise constitutional concerns under Article X regarding local government budget authority.

3. Liability asymmetry.

The bill transfers operational control to the Board while leaving liability for claims, lawsuits, settlements, and litigation costs with the city — without reimbursement from the State Legal Expense Fund, except under limited caps.

Control and liability are being separated. That is structurally unsound.

4. State Legal Expense Fund limitation.

The bill explicitly limits state legal expense coverage for Board-related claims, while preserving only capped reimbursement. This creates predictable conflict over indemnification and exposes local taxpayers to liability for actions taken by a state-controlled board.

5. Budget autonomy expansion.

Once the Board adopts and certifies its budget, it becomes the authorization of expenditures, with limited external transfer oversight. That materially reduces municipal control over expenditures funded

by municipal revenue.

HB 3066 centralizes authority while externalizing fiscal exposure.

If the state assumes control of a police force, the state should also assume corresponding financial risk and liability.

For these reasons, I respectfully oppose the bill.

Legislative Notice:

The General Assembly is on notice that HB 3066 separates operational control from financial liability, mandates fixed-percentage appropriations of municipal general revenue, and limits access to the State Legal Expense Fund. These structural changes foreseeably create constitutional challenges under Article X of the Missouri Constitution, indemnification disputes, and increased litigation exposure for affected municipalities.



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| WITNESS NAME | | | |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION: | | | |
| WITNESS NAME: JEREMIAH MORGAN | | PHONE NUMBER: | |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MO ATTORNEY GENERAL | | TITLE: DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL | |
| ADDRESS: 207 W HIGH ST | | | |
| CITY: JEFFERSON CITY | | STATE: MO | ZIP: 65101 |
| EMAIL: | ATTENDANCE: | SUBMIT DATE: 2/24/2026 12:00 AM | |
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