



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 3347		DATE: 4/8/2026	
COMMITTEE: Commerce			
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: AMY BLUNT		PHONE NUMBER: 816-213-8282	
REPRESENTING: MOLSON COORS BREWERY		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 217 E CAPITOL			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65201
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 4/8/2026 12:00 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: ANDREW COOK		PHONE NUMBER: 608-219-4632	
REPRESENTING: AMERICAN TORT REFORM ASSOCIATION		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 2100 PENNSYLVANIA AVE NW			
CITY: WASHINGTON		STATE: DC	ZIP: 21005
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 4/8/2026 12:00 AM	
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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: P.O. BOX #1535			
CITY: O' FALLON		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63366
EMAIL: ArnieDienoff@Mail.Com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 4/8/2026 11:52 PM	
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: BRAD BATES		PHONE NUMBER: 573-619-1938	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI BEER WHOLESALERS ASSOC		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 2305 EXPRESSVIEW DR			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 4/8/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: HEATH CLARKSTON		PHONE NUMBER: 573-520-7240	
REPRESENTING: SOUTHERN GLAZERS WINE AND SPIRITS		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 235 E. HIGH STREET			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL: heath@cnmissouri.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 4/8/2026 7:29 AM	

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Fully support allowing Missouri's liquor retailers having the choice to sell alcoholic products in the packaging of their choice. Support the House Committee Substitute presented in committee.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: RON LEONE		PHONE NUMBER: 573-635-7117	
REPRESENTING: MPCA-MO PETROLEUM & CONVENIENCE ASSOC.		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 205 E CAPITOL AVE			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 4/8/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: PAT KELLY		PHONE NUMBER: 314-726-4747	
REPRESENTING: MUNICIPAL LEAGUE METRO STL		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 11911 DORSETT RD.			
CITY: MARYLAND HEIGHTS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63043
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 4/8/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: RICHARD SHEETS		PHONE NUMBER: 573-635-9134	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI MUNICIPAL LEAGUE		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 1727 SOUTHRIDGE DR.			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65109
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 4/8/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: SARA SCHUETT		PHONE NUMBER: 573-635-5215
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI ASSOCIATION OF TRIAL ATTORNEYS		TITLE: EXEC. DIRECTOR
ADDRESS: PO BOX 1792		
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65102
EMAIL: sara@matanet.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 4/7/2026 11:06 AM
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Oppose



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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: 4/8/2026 6:49 AM	
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This proposal is presented as a transparency and accountability measure for contingent fee legal contracts.

However, when evaluated structurally, it does something far more significant:

It centralizes control over local legal action into a single statewide office, and introduces a mechanism that can block, delay, or terminate litigation initiated by political subdivisions.

That shift requires serious scrutiny.

At baseline, this bill requires political subdivisions to justify legal action publicly, which is not inherently problematic. But it goes further—it conditions the ability to pursue certain legal claims on approval by the Attorney General, and grants that office authority to: deny contracts based on perceived overlap with state interests, block litigation that could create “inconsistent outcomes,” and intervene mid-case to seek dismissal if procedural compliance is questioned.

From an oversight standpoint, this creates a vertical control structure over decentralized legal authority.

Local governments—who are often closest to the harm—are no longer operating independently. Their ability to pursue claims becomes contingent on alignment with state-level priorities.

That introduces two critical risks.

First, selective gatekeeping of enforcement. If approval authority rests with a single office, then access to legal remedies may vary depending on whether a case aligns with that office’s interpretation of “state interest.” That is not just procedural—it is discretion over which harms are allowed to be pursued.

Second, litigation disruption authority. The bill allows the Attorney General to enter an ongoing case and request dismissal if the contract is deemed noncompliant. That creates a retroactive kill mechanism, where even properly initiated actions can be halted midstream based on procedural interpretation.

From a structural perspective, this combination—approval control + discretionary denial + mid-case intervention—creates a system where legal action can be influenced, filtered, or stopped through centralized authority rather than judicial determination alone.

For the record, I am placing the following pattern-based notice:

When authority over legal action is centralized, and multiple independent entities must seek approval from a single controlling office before pursuing claims—while that same office retains the power to deny, delay, or terminate those actions—this creates a coordination structure that, if misused, can resemble patterns of selective enforcement control across multiple actors.

Again, this does not assert unlawful conduct. It identifies that the structure enables: coordinated control over who can bring claims, suppression or consolidation of legal actions, and alignment of outcomes under a single decision-making authority.

That is a system-level risk, not a case-by-case one.

Additionally, the fiscal note confirms this is not a neutral administrative change.

**It requires:
3 new FTEs,
over \$300,000 annually in new costs, and
introduces delays and unknown costs at the local level due to approval bottlenecks.**

So the state is not just centralizing authority—it is expanding bureaucracy to control access to litigation, while shifting uncertainty and delay costs onto local governments.

There is also a constitutional dimension worth noting.

Local political subdivisions derive authority under Missouri law to govern and protect their residents. Conditioning their access to legal remedies on executive approval raises home rule and separation of powers concerns, particularly where executive discretion can override locally determined legal action.

**For the record, this statement places the following on notice:
The combination of centralized approval authority, discretionary denial criteria, and intervention-based dismissal mechanisms creates a structural risk of selective enforcement control, reduced local autonomy, and potential suppression of otherwise valid legal claims.**

**If the legislature intends to increase transparency in contingent fee contracts, that can be done without creating a system that:
filters who gets to pursue justice, and
concentrates that decision-making power in a single office.**

**Because once that structure exists, the question is no longer just what cases are brought—
It becomes who is allowed to bring them at all.**



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REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: STEVE HOBBS		PHONE NUMBER: 573-473-4601	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 1648 E ELM STREET			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65265
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 4/8/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: STEVEN M. BEREZNEY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 4/8/2026 12:00 AM
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