



Missouri House of Representatives

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Missouri House Passes HB 2571 to Simplify Financial Reporting Requirements

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. – The Missouri House of Representatives has approved HB 2571, a bill designed to improve financial transparency and reporting standards for counties and political subdivisions across the state. The legislation, sponsored by State Representative Peggy McGaugh, passed with overwhelming support, paving the way for simplified accountability in local government finances.

Under HB 2571, non-charter counties will now have until June 30th each year to publish a concise financial statement for the previous year in a qualified newspaper. This statement will include crucial details such as the names, offices, and current gross annual salaries of elected or appointed county officials, ensuring greater transparency and accountability in local governance.

Representative McGaugh, R-Carrollton, highlighted the significance of this legislation, stating, "HB 2571 strengthens our commitment to transparent government by ensuring that financial information is readily accessible to the public. These measures promote accountability and trust in our local communities. With the passage of this bill, we can simplify the process to increase efficiency while also saving money."

In addition to extending publication deadlines, HB 2571 introduces provisions to safeguard against fraud or non-compliance. Political subdivisions with minimal revenues or no tax levies are exempt from fines, while instances of fraud or misconduct resulting in delayed submissions are addressed with understanding and fairness.

Moreover, the bill empowers the Director of the Department of Revenue to make necessary adjustments to fines, acknowledging practical challenges faced by political subdivisions, a change that was added to the bill by Rep. Mazzie Christensen.

“It's worth noting that the bill has been passed in the House and it's largely due to the hard work of Rep. McGaugh. This bill is designed to hold the city accountable for any non-compliance with regulations and ensure that they are submitting all the necessary statements to the relevant authorities,” Christensen, R-Bethany, said. “It's important to remember that even small towns can face challenges in maintaining compliance, such as losing a secretary who is responsible for submitting statements. This bill aims to address these issues and strengthen the regulatory framework that governs cities.”

The passage of HB 2571 underscores Missouri's dedication to efficient governance and fiscal responsibility. By modernizing reporting requirements and strengthening consequences for non-compliance, the state is taking proactive steps to uphold transparency and accountability at the local level.

Representative Peggy McGaugh, a Republican, represents Carroll, Linn, Livingston, and part of Ray counties, proudly serving the 7th District in the Missouri House of Representatives. For more information, please contact Rep. McGaugh's office at 573-751-2917 or via email at Peggy.McGaugh@House.Mo.Gov.

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