

HB 1953 -- SUNSHINE LAW

SPONSOR: Trent

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Utilities by a vote of 11 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Legislative Oversight by a vote of 10 to 0.

This bill adds individually identifiable customer usage and billing records for customers of municipally owned utilities to the list of records that are exempt from disclosure under the Sunshine Law, except that a municipally owned utility must make available the customer's name, billing address, location of service and dates of service for a commercial service account.

This bill is the same as HB 1098(2019).

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that in situations a competing business can use utility information to help reverse engineer the production process. Investor-owned utilities already protect this type of customer information and this bill would extend the protections to customers of a municipally-owned utility.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Trent; City Utilities of Springfield; Missouri Press Association; and Missouri Association of Municipal Utilities.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.