

HB 217 -- ACCOUNTABILITY OF PUBLIC FUNDS

SPONSOR: Cox

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Committee on Downsizing State Government by a vote of 10 to 0.

This bill requires every department and division of the state receiving any grant of federal funds of at least \$1 million to document and make the following information easily available to the public on the Missouri Accountability Portal within 30 days of the receipt or transferal of funds:

- (1) Any amount of funds received from the federal government;
- (2) The name of the federal agency disbursing the funds;
- (3) The purpose for which the funds are being received;
- (4) The name of any state agency to which any portion of the funds are transferred by the initial receiving department or division, the amount transferred, and the purpose for which those funds are transferred; and
- (5) For any grant of federal funds received from a transfer from another department or division, the department or division receiving the transferred funds must report to the department or division transferring the funds an accounting of how the funds were used and any statistical impact that can be discerned as a result of the usage of the funds.

The bill removes the State Auditor from the Board of Fund Commissioners.

The Missouri Accountability Portal must include:

- (1) An easy-to-search database of all bonds issued by any public institution of higher education or political subdivision or its designated authority;
- (2) All obligations issued or incurred by any political subdivision of this state or its designated authority pursuant to the municipalities' housing authority, and the revenue stream pledged to repay the bonds or obligations; and
- (3) All debt incurred by any public charter school.

Political subdivisions and institutions of higher education must supply the information to the Office of Administration within seven

days of issuing or incurring a corresponding bond or obligation. Information regarding any obligations incurred prior to the effective date of the bill must be supplied within 90 days.

School districts and public charter schools must supply the information to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education within seven days of issuing a bond or incurring a debt. The department must deliver the information to the Office of Administration within 48 hours of receiving the information. Information regarding any bonds issued or debts incurred prior to the effective date of the bill must be supplied to the department within 90 days.

The Governor must submit a report stating all amounts withheld from the state's operating budget for the current fiscal year. The report must be conspicuously posted on the accountability portal website, searchable by the amounts withheld or released from each individual fund, and searchable by the total amount withheld or released from the operating budget.

The bill contains an emergency clause.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this bill will make information readily available to the public and it will account for the funds being transferred between agencies.

Testifying for the bill was Representative Cox.