

HB 1933 -- LOCAL GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE DATABASE

SPONSOR: Wiemann

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Local Government by a vote of 11 to 1. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Legislative Oversight by a vote of 7 to 3.

This bill establishes the "Missouri Local Government Expenditure Database", to be maintained by the Office of Administration. For each fiscal year beginning on or after December 31, 2022, the database must include extensive information about a given municipality's or county's expenditures and the vendors to whom payments were made. The data base must be accessible by the public without charge and have multiple ways to search and filter the information.

A municipality or county may voluntarily participate in the database, or may be required to participate if a petition process used by its residents is used to require participation as specified in the bill. A link to the database on a municipal or county website is required.

The Office of Administration may stipulate a format for information and will provide a template for municipalities and counties to use in sending information. Other duties and responsibilities of the Office of Administration regarding the database are detailed in the bill. Financial reimbursement to municipalities and counties for costs associated with the database is authorized.

This bill is similar to HB 762 (2019).

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill will provide public access to local government expenditure data, thereby increasing transparency. The Office of Administration will provide a template so political subdivisions can easily send information. It will save time and money currently expended on open record requests. Cities should be able to use data to save money on projects.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Wiemann; and Missouri Century Foundation.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say the fiscal note is accurate and the collection of fine language has been carefully vetted.

Testifying on the bill were Missouri State Treasurers Office; and Office of Administration.