



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 27</b>		DATE: <b>3/8/2021</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Special Committee on Government Accountability</b>			
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>ARNIE C. AC "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVO</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>arniedienoff@yahoo.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/8/2021 2:13 PM</b>	
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

I am in Support of this Bill. However, in addition to posting on the Governmental Agency's Website, the Entity must also post the Notice and Agenda on the Window or Door of the Government Offices to give the Public proper and ample notice. This Bill is a great avenue to Amend and over-haul Chapter 610.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>JEAN MANEKE</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>816-753-9000</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>MISSOURI PRESS ASSOCIATION</b>		TITLE: <b>COUNSEL FOR MISSOURI PRESS ASSOCIATION</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>802 LOCUST</b>			
CITY: <b>COLUMBIA</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65201</b>
EMAIL: <b>jmaneke@manekelaw.com</b>		ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/7/2021 10:25 PM</b>

**THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.**

**March 7, 2021**To: Missouri House of Representatives Special Committee on Government Accountability  
**Re:** House Bill 27 2021  
**Date:** March 8, 2021  
**Dear Members of the Special Committee on Government Accountability:**        On behalf of the Missouri Press Association, Jean Maneke, Esq., from The Maneke Law Group, L.C., Kansas City, Mo., wishes to speak to provide additional information in regard to House Bill 27: 1. The bill, lines 8-15 states        ... Reasonable notice shall include making available copies of the notice to any representative of the news media who requests notice of meetings of a particular public governmental body concurrent with the notice being made available to the members of the particular governmental body [and], posting the notice on the governmental body's website and social media pages, and posting the notice on a bulletin board or other prominent place which is easily accessible to the public and clearly designated for that purpose at the principal office of the body holding the meeting, or if no such office exists, at the building in which the meeting is to be held.        And lines 48-49 add:        ...All minutes of open meetings shall be posted on the public governmental body's website and social media pages. It is important that the provision above continues to say "and" instead of it being amended to the word "or" at some point of the passage of this amendment. Many communities in the state do not have broadband or widespread web access among their citizens – this has become painfully apparent during the past year as schools moved to online learning and students struggled to have computer access and internet access in both rural and urban communities. There is not widespread easy access to governmental websites. Many are not updated on a regular basis, especially among rural communities. Many do not even have a "governmental body website." In some cases, Facebook serves that role, but a public body cannot depend on Facebook to provide information to its residents. There is no ability to archive material on Facebook other than depend on a third party over which nobody has control to archive material. Most public bodies are not doing daily electronic recording of social media pages – if it can't update its website regularly, it is naive to believe it will be doing this regular electronic recording. Also, many residents do not have their personal Facebook pages and without a personal Facebook page, a person cannot read all the content of a community's Facebook page, so there will be a significant lapse of access to information if a public body chooses to solely rely on Facebook for posting of meeting notices or agendas        2. The bill, page 2, lines 1 to the end of page 3 adds a new section:  
**610.040. 1. A public governmental body shall post any proposed rules, ordinances, laws, or regulations to the public governmental body's website and social media pages within twenty-four hours after the meeting at which they are proposed, exclusive of weekends and holidays when the office of the public governmental body is closed. 2. If the rules, ordinances, laws, or regulations are adopted by the public governmental body, notice of the adoption and the final text of the rule,**

ordinance, law, or regulation shall be posted to the public governmental body's website and social media pages within twenty-four hours of adoption, exclusive of weekends and holidays when the office of the public governmental body is closed. A number of public bodies, particularly in smaller, more rural communities, adopt bills by doing two consecutive readings at the same meeting and then passing the bill with no significant intervening time after the first reading. It seems unclear to me how this statute would apply in such situations, if the intent is to provide notice to the public prior to final approval of the rule. The provisions of paragraph 1 and 2 would not allow for such notice to the public under such circumstances.