

HB 2210 -- Open Meetings and Records Law

Sponsor: Jones (89)

This bill changes the laws regarding the Open Meetings and Records Law, commonly known as the Sunshine Law. In its main provisions, the bill:

- (1) Requires all records of the Missouri Ethics Commission to be open records except for any investigative reports prepared by commission employees regarding complaints that the commission dismisses;
- (2) Requires all meetings of the commission to be open except those in which the commission discusses a pending complaint;
- (3) Revises the definition of "public governmental body" to include any organization, corporation, or other body receiving at least 51% of its annual budget directly from public tax revenue of governmental bodies or from the United States or any agency or department that is a unit of a governmental body;
- (4) Revises the definition of "public record" to include any lease, sublease, or rental agreement entered into by any public governmental body or any sublease or agreement for the rental, construction, or renovation of a public-owned facility;
- (5) Specifies that only members of a public governmental body, their attorneys and staff assistants, and any necessary witnesses will be permitted in any closed meeting of the governmental body; and
- (6) Requires a court to order the reimbursement of reasonable costs and attorneys fees to the party successfully seeking disclosure of information contained in an investigative report compiled by a law enforcement agency that would otherwise be closed to inspection.