Room 433 - State Capitol Bldg. - Jefferson City, MO 65101 - Phone: (573) 751-2306

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For additional information contact: Barbara Mustoe (573) 751-2306

SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMPETITION AND PRIVATIZATION SCHEDULED TO MEET ON MONDAY, DEC. 15

JEFFERSON CITY -- The Joint Committee on Legislative Research Subcommittee on Competition and Privatization will hear a report from a management consulting firm when it meets at 2 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 15, in the Senate Lounge in the State Capitol.

The Cornell Companies, based out of Houston, Tx., is a management-consulting firm that works for governments and commercial clients worldwide. The firm specializes in privatization.

"Missouri needs professional guidance on how to go about instituting privatization," said Sen. Gary Nodler, R-Joplin, chairman of the Subcommittee on Competition and Privatization. "We want to have as smooth a transition as possible."

The idea of privatization – the transfer of services or assets from the government to private firms – has been around since the 1960s.

A number of states including Texas, Virginia, Colorado, Pennsylvania and Michigan have begun privatizing some parts of state government.

"By looking at what other states are doing, one thing we have already learned is that the General Assembly must develop a system that's right for our state," Nodler said. "Privatization can take many forms, and we must find the one that work best in Missouri."

Others scheduled to offer testimony at Monday's meeting include:

- Mickey Wilson, director of Oversight Division
- Jackie White, commissioner, Office of Administration

Created under SCR 13, the joint committee has been charged with investigating ways to reduce costs in state government and increase quality of services to citizens through utilization of private resources with certain aspects of state government.

In addition to Nodler, committee members are: Sen. Michael Gibbons, R-Kirkwood; Sen. Joan Bray, D-St. Louis; Sen. Pat Dougherty, D-St. Louis; Rep. Mark Abel, D-Festus; Rep. Frank Barnitz; D-Lake Spring; Rep. Allen Icet, R-Wildwood; Rep. Brian Yates, R-Lee's Summit; Nicki Sells, owner of Express Personnel Services, Springfield; Robert Vitale, Westgate Equity Partners, L.P., St. Louis; Carmen Shulze, executive director of Missouri Coalition of Children's Agencies, Jefferson City; Greg Echele, executive director of Family Resources Center, St. Louis; Patty Boyer, Poplar Bluff; Terry Dunn, president of JD Dunn, Kansas City; Mark Levison, Lathrop and Gage, St. Louis; and Andre Williams, chief executive officer of St. Louis Fatburger, St. Louis.

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