

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

# SENATE BILL NO. 537

92ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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INTRODUCED BY SENATOR JACOB.

Read 1st time February 19, 2003, and 1,000 copies ordered printed.

TERRY L. SPIELER, Secretary.

1798S.011

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## AN ACT

To repeal section 56.640, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof two new sections relating to the duties of a county counselor.

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*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:*

Section A. Section 56.640, RSMo, is repealed and two new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 49.272 and 56.640, to read as follows:

**49.272. The county commission of any county of the first classification without a charter form of government and with more than one hundred thirty-five thousand four hundred but less than one hundred thirty-five thousand five hundred inhabitants which has an appointed county counselor and which adopts or has adopted rules, regulations or ordinances under authority of a statute which prescribes or authorizes a violation of such rules, regulations or ordinances to be a misdemeanor punishable as provided by law, may by rule, regulation or ordinance impose a civil fine not to exceed one thousand dollars for each violation. Any fines imposed and collected under such rules, regulations or ordinances shall be payable to the county general fund to be used to pay for the cost of enforcement of such rules, regulations or ordinances.**

56.640. 1. If a county counselor is appointed, he and his assistants under his direction shall represent the county and all departments, officers, institutions and agencies thereof, except as otherwise provided by law and shall upon request of any county department, officer, institution or agency for which legal counsel is otherwise provided by law, and upon the approval of the county commission, represent such department, officer, institution or agency. He shall commence, prosecute or defend, as the case may require, and exercise exclusive authority in all civil suits or actions in which the county or any county officer, commission or agency is a party,

in his or its official capacity, he shall draw all contracts relating to the business of the county, he shall represent the county generally in all matters of civil law, and he shall upon request furnish written opinions to any county officer or department.

**2. In all cases in which a civil fine may be imposed pursuant to section 49.272, RSMo, it shall be the duty of the county counselor, rather than the county prosecuting attorney, to prosecute such violations in the associate division of the circuit court in the county where the violation occurred.**

**3. Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the county counselor in any county of the first classification and the prosecuting attorney of such county may by mutual cooperation agreement prosecute or defend any civil action which the prosecuting attorney or county counselor of the county is authorized or required by law to prosecute or defend.**

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