

SENATE SUBSTITUTE  
FOR  
SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE  
FOR  
SENATE BILL NO. 15

AN ACT

To amend chapter 136, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to a commission to study state tax policy.

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BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI,  
AS FOLLOWS:

1           Section A. Chapter 136, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto  
2 one new section, to be known as section 136.450, to read as  
3 follows:

4           136.450. 1. There is hereby established the "Study  
5 Commission on State Tax Policy" which shall be composed of the  
6 following members:

7           (1) The members of the joint committee on tax policy  
8 established in section 21.810;

9           (2) The state treasurer;

10           (3) The state budget director;

11           (4) The director of the department of revenue, but only if  
12 such person has been appointed by the governor with the advice  
13 and consent of the senate in accordance with article IV, section  
14 51 of the Constitution of Missouri;

15           (5) Three individuals representing the needs and concerns  
16 of individual taxpayers in this state, one of whom shall be

1 appointed by the lieutenant governor, one of whom shall be  
2 appointed by the minority floor leader of the house of  
3 representatives, and one of whom shall be appointed by the  
4 minority floor leader of the senate;

5 (6) A certified public accountant, who shall be appointed  
6 by the lieutenant governor in consultation with the Missouri  
7 Society of Certified Public Accountants;

8 (7) An independent tax practitioner, who shall be appointed  
9 by the lieutenant governor in consultation with the Missouri  
10 Society of Accountants;

11 (8) An individual with experience operating a business with  
12 a headquarters in this state and fewer than fifty employees, who  
13 shall be appointed by the speaker of the house of  
14 representatives;

15 (9) An individual with experience operating a business with  
16 a headquarters in this state and at least fifty employees, who  
17 shall be appointed by the president pro tempore of the senate;

18 (10) Two individuals with significant experience in state  
19 and local taxation, public or private budgeting and finance, or  
20 public services delivery, one of whom shall be appointed by the  
21 speaker of the house of representatives in consultation with the  
22 Missouri Association of Counties and the other appointed by the  
23 president pro tempore of the senate in consultation with Missouri  
24 Municipal League; and

25 (11) A member of the Missouri Bar with knowledge of the tax  
26 laws of this state, including tax administration and compliance,  
27 who shall be appointed by the board of governors of the Missouri  
28 Bar.

1           2. Any vacancy on the commission shall be filled in the  
2 same manner as the original appointment. Any appointed member of  
3 the commission shall serve at the pleasure of the appointing  
4 authority. Commission members shall serve without compensation  
5 but shall be entitled to reimbursement for actual and necessary  
6 expenses incurred in the performance of their official duties.

7           3. The commission shall meet in the capitol building within  
8 ten days after its creation and organize by selecting a chair and  
9 vice chair from its members. After its organization, the  
10 commission shall adopt an agenda establishing at least five  
11 hearing dates. The hearings shall be held in different  
12 geographic regions of the state and open to the public.  
13 Additional meetings may be scheduled and held as often as the  
14 chair deems advisable. A majority of the members shall  
15 constitute a quorum.

16           4. It shall be the duty of the commission:

17           (1) To make a complete, detailed review and study of the  
18 tax structure of the state and its political subdivisions,  
19 including tax sources, the impact of taxes, collection  
20 procedures, administrative regulations, and all other factors  
21 pertinent to the fiscal operation of the state;

22           (2) To identify the strengths and weaknesses of state tax  
23 laws, and develop a broad range of improvements that could be  
24 made to modernize the tax system, maximize economic development  
25 and growth, and maintain necessary government services at an  
26 appropriate level;

27           (3) To investigate measures and methods to simplify state  
28 tax law, improve tax compliance, and reduce administrative costs;

1 and

2 (4) To examine and study any other aspects of state and  
3 local government which may be related to the tax structure of the  
4 state.

5 5. In order to carry out its duties and responsibilities  
6 under this section, the commission shall have the authority to:

7 (1) Consult with public and private universities and  
8 academies, public and private organizations, and private citizens  
9 in the performance of its duties;

10 (2) Within the limits of appropriations made for such  
11 purpose, employ consultants or others to assist the commission in  
12 its work, or contract with public and private entities for  
13 analysis and study of current or proposed changes to state and  
14 local tax policy; and

15 (3) Make reasonable requests for staff assistance from the  
16 research and appropriations staffs of the house of  
17 representatives and senate and the committee on legislative  
18 research, as well as the office of administration and the  
19 department of revenue.

20 6. All state agencies and political subdivisions of the  
21 state responsible for the administration of tax policies shall  
22 cooperate with and assist the commission in the performance of  
23 its duties and shall make available all books, records, and  
24 information requested, except such books, records, and  
25 information as are by law declared confidential in nature,  
26 including individually identifiable information regarding a  
27 specific taxpayer.

28 7. The commission may issue interim reports as it deems

1 fit, but it shall provide the governor and the general assembly  
2 with reports of its findings and recommendations for legal and  
3 administrative changes, along with any proposed legislation the  
4 commission recommends for adoption by the general assembly. A  
5 preliminary report shall be due by December 31, 2016. A final  
6 report shall be due December 31, 2017.

7 8. The commission shall cease all activities by January 1,  
8 2018. This section shall expire August 28, 2018.

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