



TESTIMONY

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HOUSE BILL 1752: SALE OF SURPLUS FIREFIGHTING EQUIPMENT

By David Stokes

Testimony before the Missouri House Special Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs

TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THIS COMMITTEE

My name is David Stokes, and I am director of municipal policy at the Show-Me Institute, a nonprofit, nonpartisan Missouri-based think tank that supports free-market solutions for state and local policy. The ideas presented are my own.

House Bill 1752 (HB 1752) establishes basic, good-governance rules for the distribution of surplus firefighting equipment and supplies by fire districts in Missouri. These new rules are necessary due to ethically questionable actions regarding surplus property taken by fire district officials in a small number of Missouri fire districts. This straightforward and beneficial bill codifies that fire districts may donate surplus equipment to other public safety entities using the normal rules for surplus equipment donations that the federal government uses. It also requires that surplus property offered to the general public must be sold by a sealed bidding system. Finally, it prohibits fire districts from selling or donating surplus equipment to fire district board members, employees, their relatives, or entities affiliated with them.

HB 1752 is a common-sense, good-governance bill that will protect taxpayers in Missouri fire districts from potential financial abuses.

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