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MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**Donna Pfautsch**

State Representative
 Serving the People of the 33rd District

COMMITTEES**Chair:**

Select Standing Committee on Rules

Member:

State and Local Governments
 Economic Development
 Appropriations – Education

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REP. PFAUTSCH'S GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY BILLS SIGNED INTO LAW*LEGISLATION MAKES SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICTS MORE ACCOUNTABLE TO TAXPAYERS*

HARRISONVILLE, MO (June 29, 2016) – House Bill 1418 and Senate Bill 1002 were signed today by Governor Jay Nixon in a ceremony in Kansas City. Both pieces of legislation were carried by Rep. Donna Pfautsch, (R-Harrisonville), Sen. Will Kraus (R-Lee's Summit), and Sen. Dan Hegeman (R-Cosby) and deal with accountability for the use of taxpayer dollars.

HB 1418 deals with non-compliance on the part of Transportation Development Districts (TDDs), and imposes a fine on them should they refuse to comply with reporting standards called for by the Department of Revenue and the State Auditor's Office. SB 1002 focuses on audits of Community Improvement Districts (CIDs). Previously, many of these districts, were not open to audit because a request had to be made by a resident of the CID itself. However, several CIDs have no residents living inside their boundaries. HB 1002 allows for audits CIDs by the state auditor in the same manner as audits for any state agency.

Rep. Pfautsch said greater accountability and transparency was needed because taxpayers typically pay higher sales tax rates within these districts to fund infrastructure or transportation improvements. "I worked closely with the State Auditor's Office and the Missouri Department of Revenue to make sure this bill would be in its best form for all Missourians." Rep. Pfautsch explained, "Both bills were passed with overwhelming bipartisan support and with knowledge gained from years of working to resolve the issues."

HB 1418 passed the Missouri House with a vote of 149-3 in the House, and with a unanimous vote in the Senate. It was one of the first bills to pass both chambers this Session. SB 1002, filed by Senator David Hegeman (R-St. Joseph) and carried by Rep. Pfautsch in the House, passed with a unanimous vote in both chambers in the last week of session.

"I've been working on these issues for a while in cooperation with State Auditor Nicole Galloway and the Missouri Department of Revenue, along with my fellow legislators. Both of these bills are simple measures that will save taxpayers money and ensure that their funds are spent appropriately." Rep. Pfautsch said. "These are both economic development tools that will hopefully lead to greater accountability and wiser use of the funds at the disposal of these districts."

Rep. Pfautsch is a retired educator. She was elected to the Missouri House in 2012. She is president of the bipartisan Women Legislators of Missouri and serves as Chair of the House Select Committee on Rules. She is also a member of the House Appropriations Committee for Elementary and Secondary Education, the Committee on Economic Development and Business Attraction and Retention, and the Select Committee on Local Government.