

HB 2796 -- PROTECTING MISSOURI'S ECONOMY DURING A SHUTDOWN ORDER

SPONSOR: Murphy

This bill establishes the "Protecting Missouri's Small Businesses Act".

The bill requires the State and its political subdivisions to give careful consideration and appropriate concern for the lasting effects of actions taken during a "shutdown order" as defined in the bill.

The bill specifies that beginning January 1, 2025, if any political subdivision with jurisdiction over a business implements a shutdown order and the business closes due only to the shutdown order for at least 21 consecutive days or at least 45 cumulative days, the following requirements apply:

- (1) Waiving any fee for a business license during the period of the shutdown order or six months, whichever is longer; and
- (2) Reducing the real and personal property tax liability of the business based on the number of days the business was shut down in a given year, as specified in the bill.

If a taxpayer rents or leases all or a portion of the taxpayer's affected real property to one or more renters or lessors, the taxpayer must distribute a pro rata amount of the reduced liability to renters or lessors who are current on all lease or rental payments. This bill is not to be construed to affect professional licensure and does not require the State to provide restitution or to replace lost revenues to a political subdivision.

This bill is the same as HCS HB 1263 (2023).