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Committees:
Finance – General Government & Agency Review
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Transportation, Commerce & Workforce
Energy & Public Utilities
Local Government, Public Safety & Veterans Affairs

Michael A. Rulli
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SPONSOR TESTIMONY SENATE BILL 244
Senator Michael A. Rulli
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Chairman Manning and members of the committee, thank you for allowing me to provide sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 244. Senate Bill 244 will provide a much needed layer of transparency for incoming and outgoing officeholders.

The goal of this legislation is to create a Certificate of Transition to facilitate a smooth and efficient transition of power, which will benefit both incoming and outgoing officeholders, as well as the taxpayers. I worked closely with the Auditor of State to develop this legislation to fill a gap of transparency between transitions of fiscal officers throughout our state.

Starting a new job can be a daunting task, especially when the previous person doesn't leave the information to do that job effectively. Imagine adding a layer of spite and ill-will and you have a recipe for the incoming officeholder's failure. Senate Bill 244 will ensure that this transition occurs without the proper information being withheld.

County treasurers, county auditors, school treasurers and all other fiscal officers are included in this bill because of the many financial responsibilities that affect the overall fiscal health of their respective public entities. Because of this, it is necessary for all fiscal officers to be required to provide a testable, complete and accurate list of financial information, as well as other key job specific information, to their successor.

The Auditor of State will develop and provide draft letters, that they will be required to seek effected party input on, for county treasurers, auditors and all fiscal officers to use as a checklist to certify that critical information has been given to their successor.

Simply put, this is a bill that encourages good government. The purpose of this legislation is not to investigate every transition or to scrutinize outgoing officeholders, but to facilitate and encourage a smooth transition of power.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear today in support of this bill, I would be glad to answer any questions from the committee.