

MEMORANDUM

February 2, 2011

TO: All Members of the House of Representatives

FROM: Rep. Babette Josephs

SUBJECT: Co-sponsorship of Legislation Increasing Penalties for Violations of the Sunshine Act

I will be reintroducing legislation, in the near future, that would increase the penalties for violations of the Sunshine Act.

In particular, it would increase the penalties for intentional violations of the Sunshine Act to \$1000 plus cost of prosecution for a first offense, and up to \$2000 plus cost of prosecution for a second or any subsequent offenses. Agencies would be prohibited from paying on behalf of or reimbursing a member of an agency for a fine or cost resulting from the member's violation of the Sunshine Act.

The bill would also authorize an agency to hold an executive session to discuss or plan matters related to safety and security which if disclosed would jeopardize the agency's security operations or reveal vulnerability assessments, risks specific targets or specific emergency or security procedures or codes.

This was House Bill 1324 from last session which was co-sponsored by Representatives Brennan, Creighton, Daley, Harkins, M. O'Brien, Roae, Siptroth and Youngblood. It passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 172 to 24.

If you would be interested in cosponsoring this bill, please contact Jenn at 787-8529 or at Jbelz@pahouse.net.