

SB 729 - Creates the "Political Subdivision Construction Bidding Act".

Sen. Ryan McKenna (D-Barnhart) filed this legislation when he became aware that cities, and other small political subdivisions are not statutorily required to bid projects/services, etc. McKenna stated that states and counties are statutorily required and some municipalities, etc. have local ordinance/laws, but many do not. He brought the city of Dardenne Praire in St. Charles County to my attention. Robert Short was on the city's payroll as the city architect, was having an affair with the mayor, and his architectural firm was hired by the city to build their city hall. See the information below.

The city hired Short's Studio One Architecture in August 2007 as its "town architect." He would review new construction for a percentage of fees. Kolbe (city alderman) said Short was recommended to the city by new-urbanism planners.

In October 2008, the city hired Short's firm for up to \$235,000 to design and manage the construction of a new, two-story city hall on Hanley Road. The building is nearly complete.

Tim Short, 46, fell from the city hall roof on Oct. 24. Kolbe said the architect was tossing plywood boards to the ground about 30 feet below when a gust of wind caught one board, throwing him off the building. Short suffered multiple injuries. He has since regained consciousness, although his motor skills and speech are limited, Kolbe said.

HB 1526 filed by Rep. Schaaf authorizes the executive branch and departments to enter into contracts of \$10 million or less without a bid. This bill is in Chapter 34 - State Purchasing Law. Schaaf feels like we elect the governor and statewide office holders to do the state's work and should give them the authority. I politely suggested that part of the accountability process should be a bidding process since they are spending taxpayer dollars. He told me not to worry because this bill will never move.

HB 1710 has been filed by Rep. Chris Molendorp (R-Belton) to authorize school districts to enter into design-build contracts for construction projects.

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