

HB 1951 -- COSTS OF ADMINISTERING THE DEATH PENALTY

SPONSOR: McGaugh

This bill requires the State Auditor to make a one-time report on the costs, both direct and indirect, born by county and state governments in the prosecution and defense of at least 10 cases filed on or after January 1, 1990, in which a death sentence was sought and was imposed and compare the costs to the costs of an equal number of first degree murder cases filed on or after January 1, 1990, in which a death sentence was not sought and the defendant was sentenced to life without the possibility for parole and an equal number of first degree murder cases filed on or after January 1, 1990, in which a death sentence was sought, but the defendant was sentenced to life without the possibility for parole at the conclusion of a sentencing phase. The State Auditor may make additional comparisons including other sentences imposed for homicide offenses.

The State Auditor must use a scientific method of random sampling that includes all cases filed on or after January 1, 1990, in selecting the cases in which a death sentence was not imposed. The comparison must include the specified costs estimated by the State Auditor to be related to the cases examined and compared. The State Auditor must present the report to the Governor, members of the General Assembly, and the Missouri Supreme Court by June 30, 2016.