



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: SB 103		DATE: 4/3/2023	
COMMITTEE: Judiciary			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: ANDREA VANDELOECHT		PHONE NUMBER: 660-288-3602	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI COURT AUTOMATION COMMITTEE		TITLE: ASSOCIATE CIRCUIT JUDGE	
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CITY: KEYTESVILLE		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65261
EMAIL: Andrea.Vandeloecht@courts.mo.gov	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 4/3/2023 1:20 PM	
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Good afternoon. I am Andrea Vandeloecht and I serve as the Associate Circuit Judge in Chariton County. I also serve as the Chair of the Missouri Court Automation Committee. I will be testifying on behalf of the Judicial Conference in favor of Senate Bill 103 to modify the expiration dates for the court automation fee. The court automation fee is not a new fee. The current fee was set in 1994 and has remained at the original rate since its inception. If you recall that time, the internet was in its infancy and email was very high-tech. There was no way to imagine how far we would travel, but the original drafters of the legislation for court automation are to be commended for what they created. We are one of a few states with a state-wide case management system that manages cases from municipal level to the Supreme Court and covers everything from small claims to the most complex criminal and civil cases. Attorneys, judges, and court staff rely in this system to their jobs and the public relies on the system to access justice daily. I dare say it would be difficult to find a Missouri resident who does not know about case.net, which is one of many functionalities we maintain. The numbers show us all how reliant we have become on court technology. Case.net averages 1.185 billion hits annually. Pay by Web was used to pay over \$9.6 million dollars in fines and costs in 2022. Plead and Pay transactions in 2022 were more than \$13.8 million dollars. The eFiling system was used to make over 5.6 million filings in 2022. This is all included in the 2022 Fourth Quarter Legislative Report, along with so much more. Court automation is a vital part of our legal system and of our entire government. The spring of 2020 changed life forever, and it required immediate changes in how we all interacted with the courts. Missouri courts were uniquely positioned to be able to utilize existing systems and functionality to accept and manage filings and conduct court operations despite the chaos. The courts did not shut down. We began working virtual hearings into our existing systems to enable access to remote proceedings for attorneys and litigants. Automation allowed us to continue to provide access to justice. We are proud of what our amazing staff at OSCA and in courthouses across the state accomplished then and continue to do to serve our citizens. This outstanding service requires funding. One-third is covered by general revenue, one-third is covered by the court automation fee, and one-third is covered by non-sustainable funding, such as grants. Without the court automation fee, we would return to this building to request GR funds to cover the shortfall. If we are unable to secure GR funds, we would then have to start shutting off services and new development would cease. The new development is especially concerning as we are in the middle of development of a new case management system as our current system is obsolete and could quit at any time. We are preparing to implement remote public access to documents on July 1, and I know there are bills to address what is open and what is closed, as well as what constitutes confidential information. We can automate this legislation only if we have funding to continue operations.



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INDIVIDUAL:			
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REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
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REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: ERIC D. JENNINGS		PHONE NUMBER: 573-659-2280	
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The Missouri Bar supports the amendment of section 476.055, RSMo, to extend the expiration date for section 488.027, RSMo, to September 1, 2029.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: MATT MORROW		PHONE NUMBER: 417-862-5567	
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April 3, 2023The Honorable David Evans and members of the House Committee on JudiciaryMissouri House of Representatives201 W Capitol Ave., Room 302-1Jefferson City, MO 65101Dear Chairman Evans and members of the House Committee on Judiciary:On behalf of the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce and our 1500-member businesses, please accept this letter of support for the language related to reducing the cost of expungement within Senate Bill 103, sponsored by Senator Sandy Crawford.Attracting, recruiting and retaining a skilled workforce remains one of the top barriers to business growth and success in the state. As employers seek qualified workers, a large untapped pool of workers includes justice-involved individuals. The Springfield Chamber supports addressing workforce barriers, including streamlining the expungement process, including addressing the impact of cost, to ensure the process is accessible to eligible applicants.In Missouri, there are 1.8 million adults who have a record with law enforcement. The state currently has a petition-based expungement process for non-violent offenses, but less than 1 percent of individuals who are eligible for expungement pursue it because the system is complex to navigate. In Southwest Missouri, there are many thousands of individuals that are eligible for expungement, but only 50 people per year on average in this area have had their records expunged since updates to Missouri law went into effect in 2018.From a business perspective, increasing the accessibility of expungement would help create pathways to employment and help address the current worker shortage, impacting employers and the state's economy. We encourage your support of SB 103 and are grateful for the continued innovative approaches to growing the workforce. Thank you for your consideration. Sincerely, Matt Morrow President and CEO Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce 202 S John Q Hammons Parkway