



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1630		DATE: 1/24/2024
COMMITTEE: Government Efficiency and Downsizing		
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ASHLEY SCHUESSLER		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: ashley.schuessler@courts.mo.gov	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/23/2024 12:46 PM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

I support HB1630 and my hope is that you will too. I have worked with the courts for over 10 years and grateful to be elected to Circuit Clerk of Cape Girardeau County in 2023. After having a full year under my belt in this position I absolutely see the need in a salary increase. Last year alone with the Amendment 3 Expungements, July 1 Public Access and Redaction Procedures burn out is happening quickly across the state. In 2022, 28 of the 46 Circuit Clerks did not seek reelection. And many more chose to retire mid-term last year. That speaks volumes alone. The primary reason for leaving office was cited as the lack of commensurate compensation for the rapidly increasing workload and required duties Compensation for Circuit Clerks is detailed in Chapter 483.083 RSMo and sadly this statute has not been revised since 1995. That is 29 years of the base salary being untouched while all those working around us have seen increases. The job description of a Circuit Clerk is defined as “keeper of the record”. And while that definition is a huge task in and of itself to keep an accurate record, it barely touches the surface of the actual duties of a Circuit Clerk. A few of the additional “hats” we wear are court managers, office managers, jury managers, accounts management, recorders of court proceedings, HR managers, project managers, IT coordinators and more. We are responsible for the accounting of all funds receipted and disbursed through the courts. This is an average of \$200.5 million dollars per year. I am asking for a legislative change that will help retain experienced and knowledgeable Circuit Clerks, and insure that the Missouri Judiciary will continue to attract qualified candidates who will maintain the high standards our citizens should expect from our court system. Thank you for your time.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: ASHLEY THRASHER		PHONE NUMBER: 816-271-1599	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI CIRCUIT CLERK's ASSOCIATION		TITLE: BUCHANAN COUNTY CIRCUIT CLERK	
ADDRESS: 411 JULES ST, ROOM 331			
CITY: ST JOSEPH		STATE: MO	ZIP: 64501
EMAIL: ashley.thrasher@courts.mo.gov	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/22/2024 4:18 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

The Missouri Circuit Clerk's Association is asking for your support in passing HB 1630. This legislation would make long-overdue changes to Chapter 483.083 RSMo, which details the compensation for Circuit Clerks, and has not been revised since 1995. Circuit Clerk salaries vary by county as they are currently based on county classification and other factors, with certain exceptions for some counties, according to the statute. We are requesting state-wide uniformity in Circuit Clerk salaries just as the salaries of Judges and Prosecuting Attorneys are the same regardless of the classification of the counties in which they serve. We are elected to our positions by the voters in our counties just as Judges and Prosecuting Attorneys are elected. After 29 years, we are requesting a change in Chapter 483.083 that would set the salary of all Missouri Circuit Clerks, regardless of county classification, at the same amount. We feel this will help retain experienced and knowledgeable Circuit Clerks who will maintain the high standards our citizens should expect from the Missouri circuit court system.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: CEE CEE SMITH		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: ceecee.smith@courts.mo.gov	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/23/2024 1:32 PM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

In regards to this proposed bill, I would like to state that I am in favor of its passage. The statute for compensation for circuit clerks has not been revised since 1995. Regardless of the size of the county, we all have to do the same job. In recent years, many additional responsibilities have been added to the list of duties for the circuit clerk, including Amendment 3 expungements and redaction relating to remote access just this past year. During the 2019-2022 term of office, ten Circuit Clerks left office prior to the end of their term. In 2022, 28 Circuit Clerks did not seek re-election. Lack of commensurate compensation for the rapidly increasing workload and required duties of Circuit Clerks was cited as a primary reason for leaving office. Thank you very much for your time. Cee Cee Smith, Hickory County Circuit Clerk since 2003



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: CHERYL CROWDER		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: Cheryl.Crowder@courts.mo.gov	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/23/2024 10:47 AM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

Requesting state-wide uniformity in Circuit Clerk salaries, Chapter 483.083 RSMo., which has not been revised since 1995. We have all taken on more work with the new computer system, expungements, consolidations of offices, taking on Municipal cases, expansion of treatment court, and remote access. The Circuit Clerks need proper compensation for the work that is expected because several clerks have retired or decided this job is no longer worth the work we put into it. Court Reporters and Treatment Court Administrators often make more than the Circuit Clerk. We love what we do and always take care of what is thrown our way but the pay needs to be corrected to reflect it. Thank you for your attention to this very important issue.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: CYNTHIA "CINDI" BOWMAN		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: cindi.bowman@courts.mo.gov	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/23/2024 11:09 AM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

Good morning! I am a Circuit Clerk in Butler County (Poplar Bluff). I have been in this position since 2010, although I have been employed in the Circuit Clerk's office for 37 years. The pay for circuit clerks has not increased, except for COLA increases, since 1995. The jobs have changed dramatically in 29 years, and the pay no longer aligns with our responsibilities. We, agree that all Circuit Clerks, regardless of county classification, should be paid the same. Here are some comparisons we have made among different county classifications that may help illustrate the situation. Butler County is a 3rd class county—authorized FTE is 19. (Circuit Clerk Salary is \$68,000.)St. Francois County is a 1st class county—authorized FTE is 19. (Circuit Clerk Salary is \$86,000.)Taney County is a 1st class county—authorized FTE is 19.242 (Circuit Clerk Salary is \$86,000.)Pettis County is a 4th class county operating as 2nd class--authorized FTE is 16.64 (Circuit Clerk Salary is \$78,000)Phelps County is a 3rd class county—authorized FTE is 18.22. (Circuit Clerk Salary is \$68,000.)Pulaski County is a 3rd class county—authorized FTE is 17.45. (Circuit Clerk Salary is \$68,000.)There are also several 3rd class counties that have only 3 FTE which would cause a unique situation with the Circuit Clerk having to complete the exact same duties with limited staff causing the inability to ever leave the office.I AM IN SUPPORT of this bill as I believe the duties of all of my fellow Circuit Clerks are not unique to each county and therefore warrants a legislative change increasing the pay to commensurate the job duties and that will also help retain experienced and knowledgeable Circuit Clerks now and in the future. Thank you for your consideration.Our Request:? The current salary for an Associate Circuit Judge is \$156,214,00.? We are asking for compensation equaling 62% of the Associate Circuit Judge Salary, which is \$96,852.68, for all Circuit Clerks. ? The cost of this increase to the State of Missouri would be \$2.874 million.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ERIC STALLO		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: eric.stallo@courts.mo.gov	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 1/22/2024 1:45 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I would ask for your support of HB 1630 to increase the salary of the Missouri Circuit Clerks. Our jobs have become increasingly difficult and stressful over the past 4-5 years due to several factors. Unfortunately our job duties include: IT, accounting, HR, and staff supervisor which can be stressful from day to day. 483.083 RSMO currently sets the base salary for the Circuit Clerks based on county classification which hasn't been revised since 1995. We are asking for one set salary for all Circuit Clerks across the state of Missouri set at 62% of what an Associate Judge makes. Thank you for your support of this bill.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: FERGUSON BRYAN FEEMSTER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: bryan.feemster@courts.mo.gov	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 1/23/2024 2:17 PM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

My name is Bryan Feemster. I am the Circuit Clerk of Greene County. I've completed my first year in the job. My previous career was in electrical power generation and supply with City Utilities of Springfield. My experiences ranged from maintenance mechanic to Director of Power Supply. There are similarities between power generation and a Circuit Clerk's responsibilities:

- Both produce a product that fulfills critical needs for people.
- Both require skilled, capable people with a great work ethic and willingness to work together.
- Both depend on a myriad of procedures which must be used to achieve excellent results.
- Both utilize multiple computer software systems.
- Both must quickly and effectively adapt to changes in statutes, rules, and regulations.
- Both require interaction with news media. However, Circuit Clerks have responsibilities we did not have in power generation.
- We work with our customers face-to-face and on the phone.
- We are responsible for the Accounting for funds into and out of the court.
- We bridge the differences between State Court Rules and individual needs of courts and judges.
- We take care of most Human Resources functions.
- We work with law enforcement, prosecuting attorneys, attorneys, and pro se litigants.
- We work with multiple advocacy groups for the benefit of our customers.

My transition to Circuit Clerk has been accelerated by the knowledge of experienced managers and clerks in Greene County and, just as importantly, the wide spectrum of knowledge readily shared between Circuit Clerks at this table, in this room, and across the state. Why should all Circuit Clerks receive the same base pay? Because the people of the State of Missouri cannot afford to lose a third of our experienced Circuit Clerks every four years as we did in the 2019 to 2022 term. (38 out of 116 locations). These leaders carried at least four years of experience out the door with them. Salary is an important factor in retention of these leaders.

- Circuit Clerks have a wide range of responsibilities regardless of the size of their staff or classification of their county.
- Circuit Clerks responsibilities can require action any hour of any day.
- Circuit Clerks are responsible for implementing all changes coming their way regardless of the number of people they have to help them.

We should not seek change for the sake of change but we should immediately seek change when it benefits the people we serve. Thank you for your time and attention.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JENNIFER HOTOP		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: jenhotop@hotmail.com		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/22/2024 4:33 PM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

I am the Circuit Clerk for Perry County, Missouri and submit this testimony in favor of passing HB1630 to increase the salary of Circuit Clerks. Our salary is set by Section 483.083 which has not been amended since 1995. However, our duties have increased vastly over the years to include HR management, on site management of court technology without IT training, increasing accounting demands due to many options to pay courts, management of municipal cases that were previously handled by municipalities, and expungement of marijuana cases due to Amendment 3. Further we are taxed with creating procedures to correctly redact documents and inform the public of their responsibilities to redact due to Supreme Court changes relating to Remote Public Access. We are requesting earnings equal to 62% of the Associate Judge salary which is fair and commensurate with the job we do for our Courts and Judges. Without addressing our pay scale, we will continue to lose more Circuit Clerks due to the increasing demands for too little pay.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: JULIE WHITSELL		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: Julie_Whitsell@hotmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/24/2024 1:49 PM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

Good Afternoon - As the Circuit Clerk of DeKalb County for the last 17 years, I would like to enter my support for HB 1630 as it relates to Circuit Clerk salary. As you will hear, the Circuit Clerks have not had an increase in salary, with the exception of Cola increases since 1995. This position and the responsibilities associated with it have changed drastically in those years. Just since taking office in January, 2007 the differences are staggering. When I took office, there were no computers in the courtroom. Dockets and Judges rulings were entered into the physical files by hand, we were using those old selectric typewriters and using white out. We were hand writing receipts. I mention these things simply as a reference. Jobs change, new technology and processes emerge as a natural progression. However, this position is a completely different position then it was. As an example of the added responsibilities of the Circuit Clerk in recent years, we have lived through Mandatory court consolidation which literally doubled my staff and workload managements. We went through the transition to e-filing (which still amazes me). I have initiated and overseen our physical files (hundreds of files from 1975-2015) being scanned into digital format, copies sent to SOS and backups with USB drives. We are now responsible for all sorts of courtroom technology with no IT training and little assistance. And that technology changes often. I am including the numerous databases that we must be familiar with in that example. Our courts have now taken over the processing of all municipal courts (I have 5). The added burden of Amendment 3 and Redaction rules resulting from a Supreme Court Rule have been extremely burdensome, as well as the changes relating to remote access to court documents. Just as a little bit of information, some of the responsibilities of a Circuit Clerk are: We process every case in the county from speeding tickets to murder. We have a prison in our county which adds quite a bit to our work load. We witness proceedings, we are responsible for all dockets, writs, transfer of inmates, webex links, judgments, child support and liens. We process every penny brought into the judiciary in DeKalb County such as court costs, fees and fines, bond refunds, tax intercepts, debt collections payments and lottery winnings as well as DOC payments. We pay all of that money out in a timely and consistent manner to each entity across the state per court rules. We assist with paperwork at the counter for pro se filers and we are responsible for jury panels. And we do this all with a smile on our face and in a professional manner. We serve the public. Currently our salary is based on our county class, with 1st class counties being the highest paid position. While a quick look at that might seem fair, we deem that it is not. While my position is definitely different than that of a Circuit Clerk in Boone County, for instance, it is just as important, necessary and stressful. I do not have the luxury of several clerks that are specialized in each area. I don't have clerks that just do service returns or garnishments all day long. What I have are clerks that know everything about every type of case. They are required to take in a garnishment and then open a criminal case. After that they may need to issue a writ of habeas corpus to the prison and then pull a jury list. Then they might open a divorce case, wait on someone at the counter wanting to file a mechanics lien. When

they are done with that they might sit and take an Adult abuse petition. This is just an example of how my clerks day might go. And Again, I am responsible for making sure that each person in this office is able to understand the different types of cases, how to process them correctly and the training to get to that point. And all of those fun extras like webex, DOC scheduler, etc. My clerks must be able to cover for each other at the drop of a hat. So my day might look different than others, it still deserves the same salary consideration. Attaching our salary to that of the Associate Judges is the best and most fair way of properly compensating this incredibly important position within the judiciary, regardless of class size. We are asking for compensation equaling 62% of the Associate Circuit Judge salary. The cost of this increase to the State of Missouri would be \$2.874 million. Thank you for your time and consideration. Julie Whitsell Circuit Clerk - DeKalb County



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: KELLY MANERS		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: kmaners1@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/23/2024 3:26 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

My name is Kelly Maners. I have been the Circuit Clerk of Pemiscot County since 2003. In my 21 years of service, there have been many changes in my office. We have consolidated the Courts, new technology is a constant change, new case management programs, ever changing legislation and new laws we must adapt to in order to comply, such as the Amendment 3 passage last year, just to name a few. Although our jobs have changed dramatically over the years, the pay for Circuit Clerks has not increased except for COLA increases since 1995. This proposed increase will more adequately compensate the Circuit Clerks, and will bring uniformity to our pay guidelines as well. I am honored to serve the people of Pemiscot County, the State of Missouri, and our Judicial System, and truly appreciate your consideration.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KIMBERLY (KIM) HATHCOCK		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: kim.hathcock@courts.mo.gov		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/23/2024 9:41 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Hello, my name is Kim Hathcock and I have been a public servant now for 18 years elected and June of this year a total of 25 years working for the Judiciary. Douglas County is classified as a 3rd class county but there is no way we are under worked and sit in the office doing nothing. The classification means nothing as literally we are over run with the day to day work we try to keep up with. As Circuit Clerk I am a working Circuit Clerk which means I go in the courtroom and assist with the Judge, Jury Trials, answer the phone, wait on the public, work on a docket daily along with my Clerks. I am also office manager, mother, friend and alot of times feel like a Psychologist. I am on call 24/7. I believe we as Circuit Clerks are far behind on what we are paid. I would kindly ask that you vote in favor of HB 1630 that we are asking to be voted on as we desperately need this pay raise. Over the years we have lost many experienced Circuit Clerks due to the high stress and low pay. I believe the raise in pay would definitely help to keep the good, experienced Circuit Clerks in office which we need. We have had to learn so many new things in the past three years that it is exhausting. Court no longer functions the way it use to when I started in 1999. Thank you for time and appreciate your consideration. Kim Hathcock-Douglas County Circuit Clerk



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KRISTI CRAIG		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: kristi.craig@courts.mo.gov		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/23/2024 10:38 AM

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I am the Circuit Clerk in Dent County. Just completed my first year as Circuit Clerk after serving 17 years as a deputy clerk. I support this bill for the following reasons: 1) The pay for Circuit Clerks has not increased, except for COLA increases, since 1995. The jobs have changed dramatically in 29 years, and the pay no longer aligns with our responsibilities; 2) We are in agreement that all clerks, regardless of county classification, should be paid the same. The salaries are based on county classifications now; and 3) We have had additional responsibilities added to our jobs in recent years, such as a) Mandatory court consolidation that almost doubled staff and workload management, b) Management of court technology with no IT training and little assistance, c) Management of caseload, juries, accounting, and courtroom technology using multiple database systems, d) Additional duties resulting from the expansion of treatment courts, e) Additional duties and caseload resulting from the requirement of circuit courts to take over many municipal courts, f) Expungement of marijuana cases in compliance with Amendment 3, and Document redaction requirements resulting from Supreme Court Rule changes relating to Remote Access to court documents. In closing, I feel that it is time for the Circuit Clerks to receive a raise and be paid for all of the duties that are required of us to do our jobs.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: MELINDA MABERRY		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: Melinda.Maberry@courts.mo.gov	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/23/2024 9:52 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

The pay for circuit clerks has not increased, except for COLA increases, since 1995. The jobs have changed dramatically in 29 years, and the pay no longer aligns with our responsibilities. We are in agreement that all clerks, regardless of county classification, should be paid the same.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: MELISSA HOLCOMB		PHONE NUMBER: 417-625-4346	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI CIRCUIT CLERK ASSOCIATION		TITLE: JASPER COUNTY CIRCUIT CLERK	
ADDRESS: 633 SOUTH PEARL			
CITY: JOPLIN		STATE: MO	ZIP: 64801
EMAIL: melissa.holcomb@courts.mo.gov	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/23/2024 11:14 AM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

My name is Melissa Holcomb, I am the Jasper County Circuit Clerk. I am writing you today in support of HB 1630. I ask for your support of this bill in order to allow adequate salary compensation that comes with the specific duties and responsibilities of all circuit clerks in the state. The statute that relates to the circuit clerk job duties, Chapter 483.083 RSMo has not been updated since 1995. Since that time the office has encountered many changes not only in staff but in how the office functions. The Office of State Courts has updated our case management system several times for record preservation and have gone from paper files to electronic. This has been a challenging task to say the least. And more recently taken on the responsibility of redaction for public access of documents and Amendment 3 cases, which deal with expungement of marijuana records that date back to 1972. Some other examples of additional responsibilities in recent years: •Mandatory court consolidation which has doubled our staff and workload •New court technology with hardly any IT training •Expansion of treatment courts with no additional staff •Taking over municipal courts in our arealf you need any additional information, please don't to contact me. I appreciate your time and attention in this matter. Respectfully submitted, Melissa



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: MONICA		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: cablefamily4@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/23/2024 1:40 PM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

• Compensation for Circuit Clerks is detailed in Chapter 483.083 RSMo. This statute has not been revised since 1995. • Our association is requesting state-wide uniformity in Circuit Clerk salaries, which are currently based on county classification and other factors, with certain exceptions from some counties, according to the statute. The salaries of judges and prosecuting attorneys are the same, regardless of the classification of the counties in which they serve. • During the 2019-2022 term of office, ten Circuit Clerks left office prior to the end of their term. • In 2022, 28 Circuit Clerks did not seek re-election. Lack of commensurate compensation for the rapidly increasing workload and required duties of Circuit Clerks was cited as a primary reason for leaving office. • Some examples of additional responsibilities of Circuit Clerks in recent years: • Mandatory court consolidation that almost doubled staff and workload management? • Management of court technology with no IT training and little assistance? • Management of caseload, juries, accounting, and courtroom technology using multiple database systems? • Additional duties resulting from of the expansion of treatment courts? • Additional duties and caseload resulting from the requirement of circuit courts to take over many municipal courts? • Expungement of marijuana cases in compliance with Amendment 3? • Document redaction requirements resulting from Supreme Court Rule changes relating to Remote Access to court documents Request? • The current salary for an Associate Circuit Judge is \$156,214.00. • We are asking for compensation equaling 62% of the Associate Circuit Judge Salary, which is \$96,852.68, for all Circuit Clerks. • The cost of this increase to the State of Missouri would be \$2.874 million.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1630		DATE: 1/24/2024
COMMITTEE: Government Efficiency and Downsizing		
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: PATRICIA A KRUEGER, NEWTON COUNTY CIRCUIT CLERK		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: patty.krueger@courts.mo.gov	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/22/2024 12:39 PM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

I support the increase in Circuit Clerk's salary primarily because of additional duties and responsibilities in recent years including:*Mandatory Court Consolidation resulting in staff and workload increasing by nearly 100%*Management of Court Technology with no IT training and little assistance*Managing our caseload, juries, accounting and courtroom technology through multiple database systems*Additional duties and workload resulting from expansion of treatment courts and the requirement of Circuit Courts to take over many municipal courts*Expungement of marijuana cases and deadlines in compliance with Amendment 3*Document redaction requirements resulting from Supreme Court Rule changes relating to Remote Access to court documentsCircuit Clerks are only asking for a little over half of what an Associate Circuit Judge and Prosecutor earn annually. Chapter 483.083 RSMo has not been revised since any of the above responsibilities have been required. (1995)



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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COMMITTEE: Government Efficiency and Downsizing			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SAMMYE G. WHITE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: sammye.white@courts.mo.gov		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/23/2024 1:05 PM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

As one of the Circuit Clerks who is affected by this I want to speak on behalf of the small rural courts. I do not have a lot of clerks who I supervise, but I still have all the administrative duties that are required by the Supreme Court, OSCA, and our local Judges. I do not have additional supervisors/administrators to take any of that load for me. Additionally, I handle docket entries for any/all case types that come through our office. We are learning and implementing new programs and procedures daily and ensuring that deputy clerks are trained and educated on these as well. These are examples of why the salary should be the same across the board and would still be fair. Pay for Circuit Clerks has not increased, except for COLA increases, since 1995. Our responsibilities and duties have changed dramatically in that time. This has caused an exodus of seasoned Circuit Clerks in the last few years. Please consider this bill thoughtfully. If you have further questions, I would be happy to try to answer them and many other Circuit Clerks across the State.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1630		DATE: 1/24/2024	
COMMITTEE: Government Efficiency and Downsizing			
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: SHANNON H LANDERS		PHONE NUMBER: 573-748-2228	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: NEW MADRID COUNTY CIRCUIT CLERK's OFFICE		TITLE: NEW MADRID COUNTY CIRCUIT CLERK	
ADDRESS: 450 MAIN STREET			
CITY: NEW MADRID		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63869
EMAIL: shannon.landersoncourts.mo.gov	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/22/2024 10:43 AM	

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

As I am unable to attend this hearing, I am writing to ask for your support in passing HB 1630. This legislation would make long-overdue changes to Chapter 483.083 RSMo, which has not been revised since 1995. Having been employed in the New Madrid County Circuit Clerk's Office for 37 years, with 2 years as Circuit Clerk, I have witnessed the ever-increasing duties a circuit clerk has incurred. A circuit clerk is not just a record keeper for the court; our duties now include court manager, jury manager, HR manager, accountant, project manager, and IT coordinator. With the ever-mounting workload within the judicial system, other judicial officials, such as judges, prosecutors, and even court reporters, have received increased compensation. There have been many circuit clerks who have resigned or retired within the past few years due to the increased workload and required duties. In order to retain and gain the experienced clerks the citizens of our great state deserve, I am asking for the long over due legislative change to compensate for our knowledge and increasing responsibilities. Shannon H. Landers
 New Madrid County Circuit Clerk



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1630		DATE: 1/24/2024	
COMMITTEE: Government Efficiency and Downsizing			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: STACEY NAILE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: stacey.naile@courts.mo.gov	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/23/2024 4:23 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am for an increased salary for Circuit Clerks. Their pay has not increased since 1995, except of Cost of Living raises. The job duties of a Circuit Clerk have substantially changed since 1995 - 29 years worth of developing new court processes, learning new systems, and adapting to changes from legislation. I agree that all Circuit Clerks, regardless of county classification, should be paid equally. The salaries of Judges and Prosecutors are the same, regardless of the classification of the county they oversee. From 2019-2022, 28 Circuit Clerks did not seek re-election, the lack of commensurate compensation for increasing workload and duties were cited as the primary reason leaving. Increased work load examples: 1) Mandatory court consolidation which resulted in doubling staff and work load management2) Management of court technology with no IT training (new systems include: DOC Video Scheduler, Webex, ShowMeCourts, ShowMeJury, MOCareers, TRACKS)3) Management of caseload, juries, accounting, and courtroom technology using multiple database systems4) The expansion of Treatment Courts has increased job duties5) Additional workload and case load due to the requirement of Circuit Courts to take over multiple municipal courts (with no added FTE to hire additional staff to help with the workload)6) Expungement of Marijuana cases due to Amendment 3 - overseeing the daunting task of reviewing thousands of cases, creating orders, redacting cases, etc.7) Document redacting as required by Supreme Court Rule via Remote Access to court documentsI am asking that Circuit Clerks receive compensation equaling to 62% of an Associate Circuit Judge salary. Thank you for taking the time to listen to my testimony.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1630		DATE: 1/24/2024	
COMMITTEE: Government Efficiency and Downsizing			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SUSAN SADLER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/24/2024 12:00 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1630		DATE: 1/24/2024	
COMMITTEE: Government Efficiency and Downsizing			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: TIFFANY PHILLIPS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: tiffany.phillips@courts.mo.gov	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 1/22/2024 3:55 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My name is Tiffany Phillips and I am the Circuit Clerk in Polk County (Bolivar). I am asking for your support in passing HB 1630. This legislation would make long-overdue changes to Chapter 483.083 RSMo, which has not been revised since 1995. While we are deeply grateful for the recent 8.7% COLA increase for all State employees, we are requesting a salary that will more adequately compensate Missouri Circuit Clerks for the duties and responsibilities required of us. We are certainly proud employees of the State of Missouri; however, unlike the majority of State employees, we are, with a few exceptions, elected to our positions by the voters in our counties. We do not have 40 hour per week jobs—we are on call at all times. Other officials such as Judges, Prosecutors, and Sheriffs who work within or in connection with the judicial system have received significant pay increases during recent years through changes in legislation or constitutional requirements. Even Court Reporters, who are employees of Circuit Judges, have recently benefitted from changes in legislation pertaining to their salaries. After 29 years, we are requesting a change in Chapter 483.083 that would set the salary of all Missouri Circuit Clerks, regardless of county classification, at 62% of the salary of an Associate Circuit Judge. To say that our role is to “maintain the records of the court” does not begin to describe the duties and responsibilities of a Circuit Clerk: • We are court managers, jury managers, recorders of court proceedings, HR managers, project managers, treatment court coordinators and IT coordinators. • We are responsible for the accounting of all funds receipted and disbursed through the courts. During the past five years, Missouri Circuit Clerks’ offices have received and disbursed, through payments of fines and court costs, an average of \$200.5 million per year, most of which is paid to the State and to our counties. • In the past five years, our caseload in traffic, municipal, and ordinance cases has increased by 91% as we have taken over a significant number of municipal courts after changes in the Supreme Court’s minimum operating standards for municipal courts became too burdensome for many. Again, we thank you for your role in raising the pay for all state employees to a competitive wage that will attract and retain quality employees. We now ask for a legislative change that will help retain experienced and knowledgeable Circuit Clerks and ensure that the Missouri Judiciary will continue to attract qualified candidates who will maintain the high standards our citizens should expect from our court system.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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COMMITTEE: Government Efficiency and Downsizing			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C. "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCAT		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: arniedienoff@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 1/24/2024 12:32 AM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

I am Opposed to this Bill in its present form. There NEEDS to a total in-depth discussion on Wages of ALL Circuit Clerk Staff, who are the lowest paid Court Clerks in the Nation.