

HCS SS SB 218 -- COURT OPERATIONS

INTERPRETER SERVICES IN COURT PROCEEDINGS (Section 476.806)

Currently, an interpreter's or translator's fees and expenses in a criminal proceeding are payable by the State from funds appropriated for that purpose. This bill allows the fees and expenses in any civil, juvenile, or criminal proceeding to be paid by the State from the appropriated funds.

This provision is the same as HB 182 (2025).

CONFIDENTIALITY OF DECEASED INDIVIDUALS IN CERTAIN CONVICTIONS
(Section 476.1025)

This bill specifies that a parent, spouse, child, or personal representative of a person who was convicted of a misdemeanor offense can petition the court to have the record of the offense made confidential in any automated case management system if the person has been deceased for six months or more. The petition must be accompanied by a copy of a death certificate and the court must make the case confidential. Before making the record confidential in the system, the court must determine whether any person would be unfairly prejudiced by having the record made confidential in the system.

This provision is the same as HB 143 (2025).

JUDICIAL PRIVACY ACT (Sections 476.1300 TO 476.1313)

This bill amends the Judicial Privacy Act to replace the definition for "judicial officer" with a definition for "court-related officer", which includes various judges, prosecuting and circuit attorneys, circuit clerks, court administrators, deputy circuit clerks, division clerks, municipal clerks, juvenile officers, and chief deputy juvenile officers.

The definition of "written request" is amended to exclude a court-related officer's personal information. The bill specifies that the prohibition on a government agency publicly posting or displaying publicly available content of a court-related officer does not apply to a court-related officer's personal information that is included in any records of court proceedings of this State contained in any statewide court automation system.

These provisions are the same as HCS HB 1457 (2025).

BASIC CIVIL LEGAL SERVICES FUND (Section 477.650)

Currently, the Basic Civil Legal Services Fund is set to expire on December 31, 2025. The money in the Fund is used to provide legal representation to eligible low-income persons in civil matters. This bill repeals that expiration date. The bill also corrects an incorrect reference to a provision in the Missouri Constitution.

This provision is the same as HB 124 (2025).

TREATMENT COURTS (Section 478.001)

The bill adds mental health treatment court to the list of treatment court divisions, defined as a court focused on addressing the mental health disorder or co-occurring disorder of defendants charged with a criminal offense. This bill specifies that a mental health treatment court can be established by any circuit court to provide an alternative for the judicial system to dispose of cases that stem from a mental health disorder or co-occurring disorder.

This provision is similar to HB 83 (2025).

CIRCUIT JUDGES (Sections 478.330, 478.376, 478.610, 478.625, 478.690, and 478.710)

Currently, when an annual judicial performance report indicates for three consecutive years the need for two or more full-time judicial positions in any judicial circuit, an additional circuit judge position will be authorized if money for such position is appropriated. This bill requires the clerk of the Missouri Supreme Court to notify the Revisor of Statutes of any such authorized new circuit judgeships, and the Revisor must publish a footnote listing the authorized judgeships and the corresponding judicial circuits. Any new judgeship so authorized will be elected at the next general election and every six years thereafter, unless the judgeship is in a circuit where the circuit judges are selected under the Missouri Nonpartisan Court Plan or except as otherwise provided by law. Such newly authorized judicial positions will not be considered vacant or filled by appointment until the January following the authorization.

In addition to statutorily recognizing that the 6th judicial circuit has three circuit judges, the bill authorizes the following additional judgeships:

- (1) One additional circuit judge in the 13th judicial circuit. The judge will be elected in 2030 and every six years thereafter;
- (2) One additional circuit judge in the 19th judicial circuit. The judge will be elected in 2030 and every six years thereafter;

(3) One additional circuit judge in the 24th judicial circuit. The Governor will appoint the judge, who will serve until January 1, 2031, and a judge will be elected in 2030 and every six years thereafter; and

(4) One additional circuit judge in the 32nd judicial circuit. The Governor will appoint the judge, which will serve until January 1, 2029, and a judge will be elected in 2028.

These provisions are the same as HCS HBs 93 & 1139 (2025).

JUROR COMPENSATION (Sections 488.040 and 494.455)

This bill specifies that each grand and petit juror will receive at least \$6 per day for every day the juror actually serves and a mileage reimbursement rate as provided by law for State employees. Each county and the City of St. Louis can authorize additional compensation for its jurors. Alternatively, a governing body, as specified in the bill, can, by a majority vote, vote to restructure juror compensation so that grand and petit jurors do not get paid for the first two days of service but thereafter will receive \$50 per day, as well as mileage reimbursement at the rate provided by law for State employees for necessary travel from the juror's residence to the courthouse and back, to be paid by the county.

This provision is the same as HB 131 (2025).