



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 882		DATE: 2/12/2025	
COMMITTEE: Judiciary			
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: ARNIE C. "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: arniedienoff@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2025 11:52 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 882		DATE: 2/12/2025	
COMMITTEE: Judiciary			
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: TIMOTHY FABER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: tfaber@mobaptist.org	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2025 9:27 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Those who have been convicted of sexual crimes should not be allowed to change their names. The only reason I can think of for a person who has been convicted of being a sexual predator to change their name is to hide their identity . . . to be deceptive . . . and that most likely so that they can prey upon others once again. Changing their name would make it more difficult to do background checks for employment, for volunteering in church and civic organizations, and to ensure they are abiding by the legal requirements to not be at schools, parks, etc, where minors are present. If a person is to ever bring about any positive change in their life, it begins with acknowledging past wrongs. But changing one's name is attempting to hide one's past wrongs, not acknowledge them.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 882		DATE: 2/12/2025	
COMMITTEE: Judiciary			
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: CHRISTOPHER CROSS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: legal.guardian77@gmail.com		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/4/2025 10:38 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Relevant to HB 882, the Missouri Supreme Court has ruled sex offenders who are required to register in Missouri, are required to register for the rest of their natural life. See Doe v. Olson No. SC 100296 (Mo banc 2024). Also relevant to HB 882, in 2024, the U.S. District Court, E.D., MO granted a permanent injunction against the State of Missouri, to prohibit requiring sex offenders to post a sign on Halloween night, on the basis that this violates the 1st and 14th Amendments because it is compelled government speech. As such, HB 882 seeks to force any and all sex offenders in Missouri to engage in compelled speech for the rest of their natural life by prohibiting them from changing their legal name through required judicial processes as long as a sex offender remains on the state sex offender registry. Therefore, HB 882 is a clear violation of both the 1st and 14th Amendments: (1) because it constitutes compelled government speech, (2) is not narrowly tailored to serve any legitimate government interest and (3) deprives due process by barring sex offenders access to courts to petition to change a legal name. Notwithstanding the aforesaid, HB 882 lacks common sense. If a sex offender changes his or her legal name, the sex offender is statutorily required to notify his or her local law enforcement office where he or she registers and to provide the court orders granting the petition to change the name. If the sex offender fails or refuses to provide this information, the sex offender fails to register, which is a felony.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 882		DATE: 2/12/2025
COMMITTEE: Judiciary		
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: CHRISTOPHER CROSS		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: legal_guardian77@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2025 10:06 AM

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

In 2005, and reaffirmed in 2023 and again in 2024, the Missouri Supreme Court ruled that individuals on the Missouri sex offender registry are required to register for the duration of their natural life if he or she has ever been required to register under federal SORNA laws. See *Doe v. Olson* No. SC 100296 (Mo banc 2024); *Smith v. St. Louis Cnty*, 659 S.W.3d 895, 898, 904 (Mo. banc 2023); and *R.W. v. Sanders*, 168 S.W.3d 65, 70 (Mo. banc 2005). In *re Reed*, 584 S.W.2d 103, 104 (Mo. Ct. App. 1979) points out that in *Matter of Natale*, 527 S.W.2d 402 (Mo. App. 1975), Judge Dowd painstakingly and thoroughly traced the entire history of the state law, which was created in 1939, relating to name change. Judge Dowd concluded that in Missouri, the discretion of the trial court judge to deny a name change petition is tightly regulated. As Judge Dowd held, “The scope of discretion to deny a petition for change of name is narrow.” *Id.* at 405. In other words, the right to change a person’s name is a fundamental right because it is protected speech that one exercises, in part, to define and express such things as, but not necessarily limited to his or her self-identity, personality, marriage, familial status, religious, political or other beliefs, prescribed culture, preference, and so on. In *re Reed*, at 104 (pointing out the Plaintiff sought a name change because the desired name prescribed to and reflected “his spirit of jocundity, refulgent personality coruscating on those with whom he associated and by reason of his sanguinary outlook on life.”) In 2024, the U.S. District Court, E.D. of Missouri, granted a statewide permanent injunction against the State of Missouri, to bar the State from compelling individuals on the State’s sex offender registry to comply with and engage in government compelled speech that is required purely for identification purposes without a compelling state interest and/or a countervailing public interest. See *Sanderson v. Bailery, et al.*, No. 4:23-CV-1242-JAR (October 2, 2024). Similarly, a person’s name is an identification marker of the person. State laws along with constitutional rights permits a person to legally and lawfully change his or her name when doing so is not detrimental to another person. The State has the burden to prove the name change is detrimental, to make HB 882 and any enacted state law arising therefrom, substantially needed, lawful and legal to protect the government’s compelling state interest and/or a substantial, valid and articulated public interest. In light of the Missouri Supreme Court requiring any and all individuals on the registry to register for the duration of their natural life, House Bill 882 seeks to permanently bar individuals labeled sex offender from changing their name for the rest of their natural life. HB 882 simply fails to grasp how the sex offender registry operates and what sex offender laws require. In *U.S. v. Howell*, 552 F.3d 709, 712-13 (8th Cir. 2009), the Court explicitly points out “[a] sex offender shall, not later than 3 business days after each change of name . . . appear in person in at least 1 jurisdiction involved pursuant to subsection (a) of this section [42 U.S.C. 16913] and inform that jurisdiction of all changes in the information required for that offender in the sex offender registry.” When a person on the sex offender registry changes his or her name, Mo. Rev. Stat. § 589.407.1(1) (2018) and § 589.414.1(1) also mandates the individual report this to their local law enforcement office where he or she registers, to update State

sex offender registry records. § 589.407.1(1) mandates those on the State's sex offender registry report his or her legal name, among other identifying markers and § 589.414.1(1) mandates the person report any change of name. This information is then transmitted to the Missouri Highway Patrol, who then puts it on the State's public sex offender registry. The individual's prior name is then listed on the public registry as an alias. Furthermore, the Missouri Highway Patrol sex offender public registry page and search option, permits the general public to locate and identify the person by typing in his or her current name or any alias that the person has used. Thus, the individual is not permitted to conceal his or her identity any more than the person is able to manipulate the public sex offender registry. Mo. Rev. Stat. § 527.270 explicitly requires the person wanting to change his or her name to file with the court, an affidavit that affirmatively asserts the name change will not be detrimental to any person, and providing to the court a concise statement of the reason for the name change. In other words, this state law requires the person to affirmatively state he or she is not changing his or her name for any illegal and/or unlawful purpose. Since the name change is required by state law, § 589.407.1(1), to be reported, then the person does not engage in any illegal and/or unlawful act by changing his or her name because both the State and the general public are given notice that the person's name has been changed. If the person fails or refuses to report his or her name change, as § 589.407.1(1) requires, then the person fails to register, which in itself is a felony. And if the person fails or refuses to report his or her name change then the person may be subject to additional charges of contempt of court and/or perjury by having falsely declared to the court, by affidavit, that the name change was not detrimental to another person. As such, HB 882, as currently drafted and filed, does not serve a substantial legal purpose; it is not narrowly tailored to serve any compelling state government interest; it does not correct any substantial error in state reporting and/or publication requirements, and it does not serve any countervailing public interest. While it is reasonable to believe there is a limited number of individuals on the registry whose name(s) have legally and lawfully changed, it is unrealistic to believe this occurs at such a rate and frequency to warrant filing, passing and enacting HB 882. Thus, HB 882 is an overt and desperate effort to apply a so-called solution to a manufactured problem that does not exist. Moreover, HB 882 erroneously presupposes that Missouri is flooded with sex offenders changing their names that both the State and general public must fear an onslaught of sex crimes occurring, which simply is not true nor factual.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 882		DATE: 2/12/2025
COMMITTEE: Judiciary		
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: CORY CROSS		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: legal_guardian77@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2025 10:25 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

In 2005, and reaffirmed in 2023 and again in 2024, the Missouri Supreme Court ruled that individuals on the Missouri sex offender registry are required to register for the duration of their natural life if he or she has ever been required to register under federal SORNA laws. See *Doe v. Olson* No. SC 100296 (Mo banc 2024); *Smith v. St. Louis Cnty*, 659 S.W.3d 895, 898, 904 (Mo. banc 2023); and *R.W. v. Sanders*, 168 S.W.3d 65, 70 (Mo. banc 2005). In *re Reed*, 584 S.W.2d 103, 104 (Mo. Ct. App. 1979) points out that in *Matter of Natale*, 527 S.W.2d 402 (Mo. App. 1975), Judge Dowd painstakingly and thoroughly traced the entire history of the state law, which was created in 1939, relating to name change. Judge Dowd concluded that in Missouri, the discretion of the trial court judge to deny a name change petition is tightly regulated. As Judge Dowd held, “The scope of discretion to deny a petition for change of name is narrow.” *Id.* at 405. In other words, the right to change a person’s name is a fundamental right because it is protected speech that one exercises, in part, to define and express such things as, but not necessarily limited to his or her self-identity, personality, marriage, familial status, religious, political or other beliefs, prescribed culture, preference, and so on. In *re Reed*, at 104 (pointing out the Plaintiff sought a name change because the desired name prescribed to and reflected “his spirit of jocundity, refulgent personality coruscating on those with whom he associated and by reason of his sanguinary outlook on life.”) In 2024, the U.S. District Court, E.D. of Missouri, granted a statewide permanent injunction against the State of Missouri, to bar the State from compelling individuals on the State’s sex offender registry to comply with and engage in government compelled speech that is required purely for identification purposes without a compelling state interest and/or a countervailing public interest. See *Sanderson v. Bailery, et al.*, No. 4:23-CV-1242-JAR (October 2, 2024). Similarly, a person’s name is an identification marker of the person. State laws along with constitutional rights permits a person to legally and lawfully change his or her name when doing so is not detrimental to another person. The State has the burden to prove the name change is detrimental, to make HB 882 and any enacted state law arising therefrom, substantially needed, lawful and legal to protect the government’s compelling state interest and/or a substantial, valid and articulated public interest. In light of the Missouri Supreme Court requiring any and all individuals on the registry to register for the duration of their natural life, House Bill 882 seeks to permanently bar individuals labeled sex offender from changing their name for the rest of their natural life. HB 882 simply fails to grasp how the sex offender registry operates and what sex offender laws require. In *U.S. v. Howell*, 552 F.3d 709, 712-13 (8th Cir. 2009), the Court explicitly points out “[a] sex offender shall, not later than 3 business days after each change of name . . . appear in person in at least 1 jurisdiction involved pursuant to subsection (a) of this section [42 U.S.C. 16913] and inform that jurisdiction of all changes in the information required for that offender in the sex offender registry.” When a person on the sex offender registry changes his or her name, Mo. Rev. Stat. § 589.407.1(1) (2018) and § 589.414.1(1) also mandates the individual report this to their local law enforcement office where he or she registers, to update State

sex offender registry records. § 589.407.1(1) mandates those on the State's sex offender registry report his or her legal name, among other identifying markers and § 589.414.1(1) mandates the person report any change of name. This information is then transmitted to the Missouri Highway Patrol, who then puts it on the State's public sex offender registry. The individual's prior name is then listed on the public registry as an alias. Furthermore, the Missouri Highway Patrol sex offender public registry page and search option, permits the general public to locate and identify the person by typing in his or her current name or any alias that the person has used. Thus, the individual is not permitted to conceal his or her identity any more than the person is able to manipulate the public sex offender registry. Mo. Rev. Stat. § 527.270 explicitly requires the person wanting to change his or her name to file with the court, an affidavit that affirmatively asserts the name change will not be detrimental to any person, and providing to the court a concise statement of the reason for the name change. In other words, this state law requires the person to affirmatively state he or she is not changing his or her name for any illegal and/or unlawful purpose. Since the name change is required by state law, § 589.407.1(1), to be reported, then the person does not engage in any illegal and/or unlawful act by changing his or her name because both the State and the general public are given notice that the person's name has been changed. If the person fails or refuses to report his or her name change, as § 589.407.1(1) requires, then the person fails to register, which in itself is a felony. And if the person fails or refuses to report his or her name change then the person may be subject to additional charges of contempt of court and/or perjury by having falsely declared to the court, by affidavit, that the name change was not detrimental to another person. As such, HB 882, as currently drafted and filed, does not serve a substantial legal purpose; it is not narrowly tailored to serve any compelling state government interest; it does not correct any substantial error in state reporting and/or publication requirements, and it does not serve any countervailing public interest. While it is reasonable to believe there is a limited number of individuals on the registry whose name(s) have legally and lawfully changed, it is unrealistic to believe this occurs at such a rate and frequency to warrant filing, passing and enacting HB 882. Thus, HB 882 is an overt and desperate effort to apply a so-called solution to a manufactured problem that does not exist. Moreover, HB 882 erroneously presupposes that Missouri is flooded with sex offenders changing their names that both the State and general public must fear an onslaught of sex crimes occurring, which simply is not true nor factual. This written testimony is submitted by Christopher Cross, as legal guardian of Cory and with Cory's knowledge and his stated opposition to HB 882.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 882		DATE: 2/12/2025	
COMMITTEE: Judiciary			
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: JEREMIAH DAVIS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: Jeremiahdavis082@yahoo.com		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2025 10:50 AM

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

If people have done their time they have done their time and especially for people who put in good effort with their time Behind Bars to better themselves and the truly make no more victims then all this law and other laws like it do is make a hit list for any vigilante who wants to perpetrate that. And a good chunk of people are just stupid with violence and they don't care about what they're doing violence for as long as they're doing violence to what Society deems as unfavorable or deplorable. Some people are under constant attack and violence from people who just haven't been caught up in the system because of their foul actions of the past so they're the ones with the guns and how is somebody who is restricted in society to defend themselves rightly from people who just want to do violence with no criminal history on paper that is! It's the people without criminal history are the ones you really got to look out for for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God and yet we all know that everyone has sinned but not everyone has repented. And it seems like this country and the general mass of people don't care about repentance, just vengeance. Where's the Justice in forgiveness? The justice is with God not man. And some people who run the devil would probably just say well we're not God and we are human but all that really means is "I'm a ignorant person who wishes to stay in ignorance. And there is no place in my heart for love or growth." If you treat people like an animal you will get an animalistic response. Those are just the facts. So why are we as Americans treating other Americans and people like animals if we don't want them to behave like animals? Peace compassion love and understanding are the ways forward when passing laws. Some things I don't understand and I understand that I don't understand and I don't get upset with it like a lot of people to do when they don't understand something. I grow frustrated with how people treat each other on this planet and what I do is just try to make my own little corner of the world a little bit better because I can't change the whole world but I could clean up my own little corner for me and other people who wish to do good and those who don't wish to do good I'll make it good for them also. Because I'm not going to treat people like an animal and I will be a better person for it.