



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 1780</b>		DATE: <b>1/14/2026</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>General Laws</b>			
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>ARNIE C. AC "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/14/2026 12:00 AM</b>	
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>BRAD JONES</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-619-3077</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>NATIONAL FEDERATION OF INDEPENDENT BUSINESS</b>		TITLE: <b>STATE DIRECTOR</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>308 E. CAPITOL</b>			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65101</b>
EMAIL: <b>Brad.Jones@nfib.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>In-Person</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/13/2026 3:43 PM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>BUDDY LAHL</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>816-753-5222</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>MISSOURI RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION</b>		TITLE: <b>CEO</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>1417 W 47TH STREET</b>			
CITY: <b>KANSAS CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>64112</b>
EMAIL: <b>Buddyl@morerestaurants.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/14/2026 8:42 AM</b>	

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The Missouri Restaurant Association supports all "Act Against Abusive Website Litigation" Bills introduced in the House this session. Including HB 1674, 1694, 1755, 1780, 2056, 2312, 1842, 2150 Far too many restaurants and small business operators have paid fees to the same attorney while simultaneously making alterations to their website to be compliant with ADA guidelines. Many restaurants do not have the wherewithal to hire outside website designers and manage their sites independently. They strive to provide relevant information about their business and try to comply with all required laws. Having a 30 day right to cure allows an operator to do the right thing for the public without being strongarmed into paying litigious fees. I would also recommending an additional abusive clause to include "the plaintiff must demonstrate an actual use for the defendants' products or services" demonstrating that the plaintiff intended to use the good or services to further prevent frivolous lawsuits. Restaurants ore the cornerstone in every community from our big cities to our small towns. We applaud all Representatives for taking the time to pass this important piece of legislation.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>HAMPTON WILLIAMS</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-893-4241</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>MISSOURI INSURANCE COALITION</b>		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: <b>220 E. HIGH STREET, SUITE 200</b>			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65101</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>JARED P. HANKINSON</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
REPRESENTING: <b>MISSOURI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE &amp; INDUSTRY</b>		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/14/2026 12:00 AM</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>JORGEN SCHLEMEIER</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-634-4876</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>AMERICAN TORT REFORM ASSOC.</b>		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: <b>213 EAST CAPITOL AVENUE</b>			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65101</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/14/2026 12:00 AM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>LISA PANNETT</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
REPRESENTING: <b>ARMORVINE</b>		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>65101</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/14/2026 12:00 AM</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>LYNNE SCHLOSSER</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>913-461-8724</b>
REPRESENTING: <b>MO ASSOCIATION OF SHELTERED WORKSHOP MANAGERS</b>		TITLE:
ADDRESS: <b>1521 PEPPERWOOD DR.</b>		
CITY: <b>ST. LOUIS</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>63146</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/14/2026 12:00 AM</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>RAY MCCARTY</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-634-2246</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>ASSOCIATED INDUSTRIES OF MISSOURI</b>		TITLE: <b>PRESIDENT/CEO</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>3234 W TRUMAN BLVD</b>			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65109</b>
EMAIL: <b>rmccarty@aimo.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>In-Person</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/14/2026 8:29 AM</b>	

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**Associated Industries of Missouri (AIM) supports legislation that will stop abusive litigation that is currently being threatened by opportunistic plaintiffs' attorneys. This bill provides an opportunity to a business to remedy any shortcomings in ADA accessibility and provides enforcement by the Attorney General.**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>RICH AUBUCHON</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-616-1845</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>MO CIVIL JUSTICE REFORM COALITION, INC.</b>		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: <b>112 EAST HIGH STREET</b>			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65101</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>SANDY WAGGETT</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-480-4372</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>MSW INTERACTIVE DESIGNS</b>		TITLE: <b>OWNER</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>1636 CHEROKEE RD</b>			
CITY: <b>LAKE OZARK</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65049</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/14/2026 12:00 AM</b>	
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<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>SHANNON COOPER</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>660-890-1432</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>GREATER KC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE</b>		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: <b>208 MADISON</b>			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65101</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>SARAH BERRY</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/14/2026 9:40 AM</b>	
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I respectfully oppose HB 1780.

While framed as a response to “abusive website access litigation,” this bill creates a state-level deterrent to enforcing federally protected disability rights by exposing plaintiffs, attorneys, and advocates to retaliatory litigation, punitive damages, and fee-shifting merely for bringing accessibility claims.

HB 1780 allows defendants — and even the Attorney General — to initiate secondary lawsuits to relitigate the intent of accessibility enforcement actions (§537.1250.2), shifting the focus away from whether a website is accessible and toward whether a plaintiff can withstand financial and procedural punishment. This structure creates a chilling effect on individuals seeking to vindicate rights under the Americans with Disabilities Act, particularly disabled residents, small advocacy organizations, and public-interest counsel.

The bill further establishes a rebuttable presumption of abusive litigation if an accessibility issue is not corrected within a ninety-day window (§537.1250.3), despite the fact that many accessibility barriers are structural, ongoing, or disputed, and regardless of whether harm continues during that period. This effectively delays relief while privileging defendants’ timelines over disabled users’ access.

Additionally, HB 1780 authorizes punitive damages of up to three times attorney’s fees (§537.1250.4), transforming civil rights enforcement into a high-risk activity. Civil rights laws depend on private enforcement. Penalizing plaintiffs for bringing claims — before clear federal website standards exist — undermines that framework.

Finally, the bill invites state courts to second-guess federal civil rights enforcement mechanisms, creating inconsistency and uncertainty while the ADA remains governed by federal law. Missouri should not enact legislation that discourages compliance with accessibility obligations or intimidates those seeking equal access.

Accessibility is not abusive. Barriers are.

For these reasons, I urge the committee to vote NO on HB 1780.