



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1866		DATE: 1/20/2026	
COMMITTEE: Crime and Public Safety			
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. AC "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVO		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 1/20/2026 11:58 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: BYRON KEELIN		PHONE NUMBER: 314-402-0655	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: FREEDOM PRINCIPLE		TITLE: PRESIDENT	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 2			
CITY: BALLWIN		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63022
EMAIL: freedomprinciplemo@protonmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/18/2026 2:44 PM	

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

Our organization strongly supports HB 1866, which proposes implementing more robust qualification requirements for peace officer licensure in Missouri. This bill is an essential step in ensuring that our law enforcement officers exemplify the integrity and accountability that public safety demands. By granting the director explicit authority to deny applications from individuals whose licenses were previously revoked or surrendered, and by establishing clear citizenship requirements, HB 1866 enhances the trust and professionalism expected in our criminal justice system.

The need for these increased qualifications has been made abundantly clear in the wake of the recent corruption scandal involving St. Louis City Sheriff Alfred Montgomery. The revelations surrounding Sheriff Montgomery's actions have deeply shaken public confidence in law enforcement institutions.

To prevent similar crises and restore faith in our peace officers, we must set and enforce higher standards for those who serve and protect our communities. HB 1866 will serve as a critical safeguard, ensuring that individuals with a history of misconduct or disqualification cannot evade accountability by simply reapplying. I urge you to support this bill for the safety and well-being of all Missourians.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: JAYLN TALBOT		PHONE NUMBER: 573-508-2465	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: DEPT. PUBLIC SAFETY		TITLE: LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: 1101 RIVERSIDE DR.			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/20/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: ROBERT SHOCKEY		PHONE NUMBER: 314-574-0044	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI POLICE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 1001 E. HIGH ST.			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/20/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: SARAH BERRY		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/17/2026 2:29 PM

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I respectfully submit opposition to HB 1866.

At its core, this bill quietly inserts a categorical exclusion that is not tied to conduct, competence, or character, but instead to citizenship status alone.

In doing so, it departs from long-standing principles of fairness, due process, and equal protection that should govern who is trusted with public authority.

Missouri already has robust mechanisms to deny or revoke peace officer licenses based on misconduct, dishonesty, abuse of authority, or failure to meet professional standards.

Those safeguards protect the public.

HB 1866 goes further—not by strengthening accountability—but by stripping discretion and substituting a blanket prohibition unrelated to performance or behavior.

This raises **SERIOUS** concerns:

Equal Protection: Lawful permanent residents are subject to U.S. laws, taxes, and civic obligations.

Excluding them categorically—without any individualized assessment—conflicts with basic constitutional principles that prohibit arbitrary **DISCRIMINATION**.

Due Process: The bill explicitly prevents meaningful consideration of rehabilitation, context, or individual merit, even on appeal.

Justice without discretion is not justice—it is rigidity.

Public Safety: Trust in law enforcement is built on integrity, training, and accountability—not on nationality.

This bill does **NOTHING** to improve training, oversight, or ethical enforcement standards.

Precedent: When we begin defining eligibility for public service by status rather than conduct, we normalize the idea that rights and responsibilities can be withdrawn by classification rather than cause.

If the goal is to protect Missourians, the moral path is clear:

hold officers to higher standards of conduct, not narrower definitions of who is allowed to serve.

Good law elevates accountability.

Good governance resists fear-based exclusions.

Good conscience asks whether a rule is just—not merely whether it is permitted.

For these reasons, I urge the committee to reject HB 1866.

Rev. Sarah M. Berry