



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 2107</b>		DATE: <b>1/12/2026</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Corrections and Public Institutions</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 DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>In-Person</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/12/2026 11:47 PM</b>	
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

I am in Support of this Bill as it provides for mandatory minim State Law Enforcement Training through the State P.O.S.T. Commission. It give Law Enforcement Responsibilities to dedicated Security Officers of the House of Representatives, The State Senate and the General Assembly. there is an Emergency Clause as their Security Officers are already on Staff.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>BECKY WOODS</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/12/2026 4:59 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

**I oppose**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>BRENDA HOPFER</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/12/2026 1:05 PM</b>	
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**I oppose this bill**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>CHARLES KNIGHT</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/12/2026 1:46 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

**No, No, No. I thought the state of Missouri had a budget crisis. We do not need another police force for just the legislature's use. Please change the responsibilities of the current Capitol Police Division if necessary and give them raises if needed.**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>DOWELL KINCAID</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/12/2026 11:09 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>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>ERIC BINKLEY</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/12/2026 6:41 PM</b>	

**THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.**  
**While I agree the Capitol should be protected but this bill goes WAY too far !!!**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>GARY FARRAR</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/12/2026 11:12 AM</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>GARY RIDENHOUR</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/12/2026 6:45 PM</b>
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**I oppose HB 2107 Armed Legislative Security Officers.**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>JAN FARRAR</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/12/2026 11:09 AM</b>
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**I adamantly oppose**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>JENNIFER GORE</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/12/2026 8:59 PM</b>	
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**This is government overreach. Armed guards without clearly defined duties can squelch the freedoms of citizens who choose to be seen and heard at the Capitol.**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>JON STAMBAUGH</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/12/2026 12:00 AM</b>
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<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>MARK O BROTEMARKLE</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/11/2026 11:26 AM</b>	

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While establishing legislative security officers, as HB 2107 is intended to do, sounds reasonable and beneficial, I believe it is inefficient, a waste of tax dollars, and will not provide the best level of security for our elected officials and guests at the Missouri Capitol. There are other concerns as well. It is likely better to pause and review other avenues so that the best security may be implemented.

Currently, the Missouri Capitol Police, the Missouri State Highway Patrol (MSHP), the Cole County Sheriff, and Federal agencies have jurisdiction at the Missouri Capitol.

Other states use either the state's Capital Police or State Troopers/Police to provide security for their legislative bodies. I don't know of any other state legislative body with the type of security HB 2107 intends to establish. Additionally, the United States Capitol's Legislative bodies are protected by the Capitol Police.

Initially, I believed the best option for increasing security in the Missouri legislative chambers was to have Missouri Capitol Police Officers assigned to a specialty assignment to provide security for the legislative bodies. After further consideration, I believe the MSHP is the best law enforcement organization to provide this security as a specialty assignment or division.

The Legislative session is roughly six months. This leaves full-time security positions with little or nothing to do from June to January. If the MSHP provided security, the MSHP could utilize Troopers assigned to provide security for the legislative bodies in other areas, like the Lake of the Ozarks, or increase traffic enforcement during the summer months. Doesn't it make more sense to have these positions filled as specialty assignments within the MSHP than to establish full-time law enforcement positions (an agency/department) to cover a five- to six-month session?

When I first heard of the proposed full-time positions with full State benefits being discussed, I was told the full-time positions were needed to attract younger employees to fill the positions. Not only would using the MSHP likely provide younger, more vibrant persons to protect our legislative bodies, but it would also help prevent complacency by allowing Troopers to be rotated in and out of the specialty assignment. The Missouri State Highway Patrol already has similar specialty assignments, like the Gaming Division, and the MSHP's Governor Security Division, with a long history of protecting elected officials.

Utilizing the MSHP to provide security would allow those positions to remain filled as Troopers could rotate between legislative bodies, or cover illnesses or other issues that prevent a security officer from

**being at work.**

**To provide the best security, security personnel should have a chain of command and be employed outside the legislative body. Utilizing MSHP Troopers would fulfill this need.**

**The Sergeant at Arms and Assistant Sergeant at Arms, along with Door Keepers, would be directed by House or Senate Rules to handle rule violations inside the House or Senate and remain ceremonial positions.**

**There has been no specific threat or articulated need to immediately implement these security positions in addition to the current security specialist employed in the legislative bodies.**

**Please vote no on HB 2107 and speak with Governor Mike Kehoe and MSHP Commander Michael A. Turner about utilizing MSHP Troopers to provide security for our legislative bodies.**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>MICHAEL COMPTON</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>ACT FOR MISSOURI</b>		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: <b>5 SOUTHEAST 230TH ROAD</b>			
CITY: <b>WARRENSBURG</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>64093</b>
EMAIL: <b>mike@act4mo.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/12/2026 10:54 AM</b>	
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

I am filing testimony in opposition to HB 2107.

Every Missourian wants the Capitol to be safe for legislators, staff, and the public. However, HB 2107 goes beyond reasonable security improvements by authorizing the General Assembly, or either chamber, to employ “legislative security officers” who are POST-licensed peace officers, may carry firearms, and are granted sweeping law-enforcement powers they deem “necessary” to secure and keep the legislature functioning, including the power to apprehend and arrest.

My concerns are straightforward:

Overbroad, undefined authority. The bill’s “all powers...necessary” language is vague and invites expansion far beyond basic security. It does not clearly define jurisdiction, limits, or specific duties.

Accountability and transparency gaps. The bill does not require written policies (use of force, detention/arrest standards, body cameras, records retention), public reporting, or a clear complaint process for citizens.

Risk to citizen access and civic participation. The Capitol is where the people must be able to lawfully observe proceedings and petition their government. A chamber-controlled armed force with undefined powers risks chilling lawful speech and assembly, even if that is not the stated intent.

Duplication and conflict with existing law enforcement. Missouri already has established Capitol law enforcement functions. HB 2107 does not explain why existing structures are insufficient or how conflicts in command and jurisdiction would be resolved.

Emergency clause concerns. The emergency clause accelerates enactment despite these unresolved guardrail issues. This should be deliberated carefully, not rushed.

If the legislature wants a security update, it should be narrowly tailored: limit jurisdiction to the Capitol complex, enumerate powers, require coordination with existing Capitol Police, adopt mandatory written policies and training, require annual public reporting (staffing, arrests, complaints, use-of-force), and create an independent complaint process. At minimum, remove the emergency clause.

For these reasons, I urge the committee to vote NO on HB 2107.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>NADINE KELSAY</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/12/2026 10:36 AM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>NADINE SOLES</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/12/2026 6:49 PM</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>NANCY KOCH</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/12/2026 11:28 AM</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>NATALIE STEPHENS</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/12/2026 10:38 AM</b>	
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**Capitol Police are already in the building. This is an unnecessary and unjustified expense.**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>NICKLAS HERBERT</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/12/2026 9:13 AM</b>
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**Is the Capitol police not enough? Allowing the hiring of security for legislators, negates the reasoning for Capitol police. If people feel unsafe then hire more Capitol police and let them do the security instead of private individuals.**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>PATRICIA KNIGHT</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/12/2026 12:15 PM</b>	
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**Why is another security force necessary? How is this to be paid for? This feels like the legislature wants the ability to 'lock out' the people who elected them. If this is a personal safety issue, would it be more sensible and cost efficient to amend the duties of the current Capitol Police Division instead of creating another bureaucratic entity?**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>PAUL FOELLER</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/12/2026 6:13 PM</b>
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Legislative security should be exactly the same as if calling 911. The local area Sheriff and city police should be the exact same security level to the Legislative offices as for the local community. For a government to have its own police force, is to waste taxpayers money by duplication of duties. Furthermore, a policing entity geared directly to a government entity, blurs the lines of the local policing authority, and undermines the public's trust.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>QUENTIN PANTOYA</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/12/2026 3:24 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

I am writing to express strong opposition to HB 2107. This bill would unnecessarily designate powers to Legislative-controlled law officers, incidentally increasing the overall control of the majority party. This imbalance threatens the checks and balances which allow our government to work fairly, and borders unconstitutional. Peace officers do not fall under the purview of the Legislative branch as defined by the Constitution, and if Legislators have a need for protection, there exist entities for these purposes already.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>SARA GILLILAN</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/12/2026 11:03 AM</b>
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**I adamantly oppose giving more power to the Capitol police. Over reach could lead to serious unconstitutional authority.**



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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>1/12/2026 3:40 PM</b>	
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**Witness Testimony — OPPOSE HB 2107**

**I oppose HB 2107.**

**Public safety at the Capitol is important, but granting a chamber-controlled, armed law-enforcement force broad and undefined powers — including arrest authority — is dangerous without clear limits, independent oversight, and public accountability.**

**HB 2107 raises serious concerns about:**

**Undefined scope of authority, including arrest powers**

**Legislative control over armed officers, blurring separation of powers**

**Lack of independent oversight or transparency mechanisms**

**Use of an emergency clause that restricts public scrutiny and debate**

**Missouri already has multiple law-enforcement agencies capable of providing Capitol security. Creating a legislature-controlled force with police powers is unnecessary, duplicative, and ripe for abuse unless authority is narrowly defined and externally accountable.**

**Emergency powers should be used sparingly and only when clearly justified. This bill does not meet that standard.**

**Safety must never come at the cost of civil liberties, due process, or transparent government. I urge the committee to reject HB 2107**



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 2107</b>		DATE: <b>1/12/2026</b>
COMMITTEE: <b>Corrections and Public Institutions</b>		
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>SHERYL GORDEN</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/12/2026 10:39 AM</b>
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This bill grants "all powers...necessary" without defined geographic jurisdiction, oversight mechanisms, or transparency requirements, creating risk for politicized enforcement. Also, doesn't explain why there needs to be another law enforcement as there is already one for the legislators. Needing this enforced 'immediately' without cause also is another reason not to support this legislation. Seems pretty fishy to me.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 2107</b>		DATE: <b>1/12/2026</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Corrections and Public Institutions</b>			
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>SUSAN GIBSON</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/11/2026 8:18 PM</b>	
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MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 2107</b>		DATE: <b>1/12/2026</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Corrections and Public Institutions</b>			
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>TOM WARD</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/12/2026 11:11 AM</b>	

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

It is in my opinion the legislation in HB 2107 is unnecessary because existing law already provides comprehensive security authority and resources for protecting the General Assembly at the Capitol and on related state property.? Creating a separate category of “legislative security officers” would duplicate current powers, fragment the command structure, and introduce legal and operational confusion without adding any meaningful protection.?

Missouri Capitol Police are already providing public safety at the seat of state government and patrolling the Capitol complex and other state buildings in the capital city and county.? These officers hold the same arrest powers as other law enforcement officers to maintain order and preserve the peace in all state-owned or leased buildings and grounds at the seat of government, which includes the Capitol and legislative offices.? Under existing statutes, Capitol Police have authority to arrest individuals for crimes occurring in their jurisdiction, including threats, assaults, weapons violations, and other offenses directed at legislators, staff, or the public.? They are trained, POST-licensed peace officers who can provide armed protection, manage access control, respond to emergencies, and coordinate with other state and local law enforcement agencies when needed.?

HB 2107 would authorize the General Assembly, House, or Senate to employ legislative security officers who may carry firearms and who “shall have all powers granted to law enforcement officers in this state,” including apprehension and arrest powers.? Because Capitol Police already possess full law-enforcement authority on Capitol grounds and surrounding state property, creating a second, parallel force with identical powers does not expand legal tools; it simply duplicates them and risks conflicting policies, training standards, and use-of-force practices within the same building.? Current law places Capitol Police under the Department of Public Safety, with clear lines of command, supervision, discipline, and professional standards applicable to all sworn officers.? HB 2107 would shift some law-enforcement authority inside the Capitol directly under the House or Senate as employing entities, creating split command on the same premises, complicating incident response, and muddying accountability for critical decisions in use-of-force, arrests, and investigations.?

The bill asserts that “immediate action is necessary to ensure safety within the capitol building during the current legislative session,” but it does not identify any gap in authority or capacity that Capitol Police do not already possess.? Without evidence of a specific legal deficiency in current Capitol Police powers or resources, invoking an emergency clause is policy-driven rather than necessity-driven, and does not meet the threshold of a genuine absence of existing protections for the General Assembly.? If legislators believe additional security is warranted, the most direct and coherent approach is to increase appropriations, staffing, training, or equipment for Capitol Police, or to refine

**their statutory charge, rather than standing up a separate force inside the same facility.? Strengthening coordination, threat assessment protocols, and emergency planning with Capitol Police builds on existing protections for the General Assembly while preserving a unified, professional law-enforcement structure at the seat of state government.  
For these reasons, I oppose this legislation.**



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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COMMITTEE: <b>Corrections and Public Institutions</b>			
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>TRACY R WELBORN</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/12/2026 11:40 AM</b>	

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I strongly oppose HB 2107. This bill creates unnecessary duplication of law enforcement authority, grants overly broad powers without sufficient safeguards, and abuses the emergency clause—raising serious concerns about accountability, potential politicization, and misuse of taxpayer resources.

Missouri already has a well-established Capitol Police Division under the Department of Public Safety, which provides professional, coordinated security for the Capitol Complex, including armed officers with full peace officer powers. HB 2107 allows the General Assembly, House, or Senate to hire their own separate armed "legislative security officers" who must be POST-certified and carry firearms, while granting them "all powers...necessary" to ensure the "proper discharge of their duties," including the power to apprehend and arrest persons. The bill offers no clear justification for why a second, legislature-controlled force is needed, nor does it address how coordination, jurisdiction, or potential conflicts with existing Capitol Police would be managed. This creates the risk of overlapping authority, confusion during incidents, and inconsistent enforcement.

The grant of "all powers...necessary" is dangerously vague and overbroad. Without defined geographic limits, clear oversight mechanisms, reporting requirements, or independent review, these officers could exercise enforcement powers in ways that prioritize political interests over public safety. Without defined jurisdiction, oversight, transparency, or independent review, these officers could be weaponized for political purposes, creating an atmosphere of fear and intimidation that impedes citizens' normal access to their representatives. Such mechanisms ring hollow when they invite overreach, stifling grassroots challenges and empowering insiders. In a state where trust in institutions is already strained, empowering a chamber-specific armed force without transparency invites perceptions of politicized policing and potential abuse.

The inclusion of an emergency clause to make the law effective immediately upon passage is unjustified. The bill claims "immediate action is necessary to ensure safety within the capitol building during the current legislative session and thereafter," but provides no evidence of a specific, imminent threat that cannot be addressed through existing Capitol Police resources. Emergency clauses should be reserved for genuine crises, not used routinely to bypass normal legislative timelines and public input. This overuse undermines fair process and sets a troubling precedent.

HB 2107 does not enhance security—it adds redundancy, risks conflicts, and erodes accountability. I urge the House to reject this bill and instead focus on strengthening oversight of our existing Capitol Police if any improvements are truly needed. Missourians deserve transparent, non-politicized law

**enforcement, not a patchwork of armed legislative forces.**



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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COMMITTEE: <b>Corrections and Public Institutions</b>		
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>TRAVIS HEINS</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>1/12/2026 5:03 PM</b>
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