



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2254		DATE: 2/18/2026	
COMMITTEE: Judiciary			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C. A.C. "HONEST ABE" DIENOFF		PHONE NUMBER: 314-440-9000	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI STATE PUBLIC ADVOCACY		TITLE: STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 1535			
CITY: O'FALLON		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63366
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 12:00 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: GREG GOODWIN		PHONE NUMBER: 573-751-7017	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 899			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MARY MCENTEE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: TRACI DUNCAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: JUDE WHEATLEY		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 7:02 PM
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This bill is likely an improvement over existing law.

However, I do have two underlying issues with this bill.

First, the biggest, the death penalty is so serious I would suggest that income status should not be a factor in appointment of council at all.

Second, a person can latter become indigent and I do think the court should have the explicit ability to modify this finding at a later time after it enters it order after conviction.

Third, I'm concerned the good cause shown component of this bill could be abused to appoint underqualified council in such serious cases.

Fourth, and finally, three years of post conviction experience is likely not enough for death penalty cases simply because they are so serious.



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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: 2/17/2026 9:44 AM
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Legislative Notice:

The General Assembly is placed on notice that capital postconviction representation standards must be uniformly funded, administered, and documented to withstand federal review under 28 U.S.C. §§ 2261–2265. Partial compliance or inadequate funding may negate any intended federal habeas advantages and increase litigation exposure. Appropriations and administrative safeguards should accompany enactment.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: SHARON GEUEA JONES		PHONE NUMBER: 573-808-2156	
REPRESENTING: MO TO ABOLISH THE DEATH PENALTY		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 227 JEFFERSON			
CITY: JC		STATE: MO	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 12:00 AM	
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