



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2967		DATE: 2/25/2026
COMMITTEE: Financial Institutions		
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: ANN ELWELL		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/24/2026 2:39 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Missouri needs a criminal justice system that fosters public trust at all stages, including re-entry. Please support state funding for this important bill. The Clean Slate expungement law needs public funding to be effective. And public funding will go a long way to rehabilitate formerly incarcerated individuals. Please vote YES on HB2967.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ANNE CALVERT BETTIS		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/22/2026 6:47 PM
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Please vote yes on this bill. Expungement should not be available only for those with financial means. I was convicted of a minor crime when I was very young and it took me a year and a half to pay off the lawyer who facilitated the expungement of my record. Support this bill please!



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: CARL BETTIS		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/22/2026 7:18 PM
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Funding is a necessity for any expungement law that is passed.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CAROLE WEBSTER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/22/2026 4:19 PM
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: CYNTHIA MUELLER		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/23/2026 10:35 AM
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This adds some mercy and fairness to our laws. I SUPPORT



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: ERIC JENNINGS		PHONE NUMBER: 573-526-4726	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: JUDICIAL CONFERENCE OF MISSOURI		TITLE: GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COUNSEL	
ADDRESS: 207 WEST HIGH STREET			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65102
EMAIL: eric.jennings@courts.mo.gov	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 2/24/2026 11:20 AM	
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: JULIE TIETZ		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/24/2026 8:33 AM
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I support this bill because there needs to be funding for any expungement law that may be passed. If there is no funding, then the burden falls on the individual, contributing to a two-tiered system of haves and have-nots. There should be justice for all, not just those with money.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: MAHREE SKALA		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/23/2026 2:33 PM

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Expungement of nonviolent criminal convictions can help people turn their lives around. It's important to fund the expungement work so as not to burden the courts or the former offenders.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MARILYN MCLEOD		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/24/2026 5:56 PM
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: MARILYN MCLEOD		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/25/2026 11:48 PM
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: NANCY ZELIFF		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/22/2026 10:38 PM	
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There needs to be funding for any expungement law that may be passed.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: RIVA CAPELLARI		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/24/2026 9:49 AM
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: SUMMER JOSEPHSON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/23/2026 10:54 AM
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I am a Missouri voter & I support this bill because expungement laws must be funded in order to be successful.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C. "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCAT		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 2/25/2026 11:57 PM
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I am Opposed to this Legislation.



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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: 2/24/2026 1:00 PM	

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HB 2967 creates the Missouri Expungement Fund as a non-reverting, dedicated treasury fund to support statewide court automation and criminal history systems tied to expungement processing.

While the policy objective may be administratively sound, the bill presents structural concerns:

1. Dedicated Non-Reverting Fund Proliferation

The bill exempts the fund from § 33.080 reversion requirements. Continued creation of non-reverting, special-purpose funds fragments budgetary oversight and reduces annual appropriations discipline. Missouri courts have repeatedly recognized that the power of appropriation is a core legislative function requiring transparency and control. If every policy objective is paired with a non-reverting silo fund, fiscal accountability erodes.

2. Blurred Separation of Powers

The fund directs expenditures to:
 The Office of State Courts Administrator (judicial branch),
 The Department of Public Safety (executive branch), and
 The Information Technology Services Division (executive branch).

While appropriation is required, creating a standing statutory funding mechanism that permanently channels money toward judicial infrastructure risks tension with Article V (judicial administration authority) and Article IV (executive budget authority). Coordination is appropriate; structural entanglement should be narrowly drafted.

3. Undefined Scope of “Automation” Spending

The bill broadly authorizes expenditure on “statewide court automation and criminal history systems.” Without statutory guardrails, this language permits substantial expansion of data systems beyond expungement processing. A clearer nexus requirement would reduce mission creep and future litigation risk.

4. Transparency and Reporting Gap

The proposal contains:
 No reporting requirement,
 No audit requirement,
 No sunset, and
 No performance metrics tied to expungement backlog reduction.

For a fund intended to improve justice access, measurable accountability is essential.

Conclusion

HB 2967 is not facially unconstitutional. However, it raises:

**Structural fiscal oversight concerns,
Separation-of-powers sensitivities, and
Transparency deficiencies.**

Absent tighter spending limitations, reporting safeguards, and periodic legislative review, I respectfully recommend withholding passage pending amendment.