



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 3535		DATE: 3/9/2026
COMMITTEE: Corrections and Public 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: AIDAN EVERETT WAGNER		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/9/2026 8:02 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		



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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: 3/9/2026 11:49 PM

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I am in Support of this Bill and allowing the State Fire Marshal and Deputy State Marshals to make arrests when working Related Cases.

I am Opposed to Finger-Printing and being entered into the State and National Data Bases.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: TIM BEAN		PHONE NUMBER: 573-751-1742	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY		TITLE: STATE FIRE MARSHAL	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 205			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65102
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/9/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: JON STAMBAUGH		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/9/2026 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KORTNIE HUDDLESTON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/9/2026 11:00 PM	
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I am in strong opposition to HB3535 and the proposal to expand the powers of the State Fire Marshal’s investigators by explicitly deeming them “peace officers” with the power of arrest.

While the stated goal of investigating arson is important, this bill represents a troubling expansion of police powers that moves us away from true public safety. We should be critical of any legislation that creates more law enforcement officers with arrest powers, especially when the underlying issues of fire safety are often rooted in economic neglect, unsafe housing, and lack of community resources.

Our communities do not need more armed individuals with the power to arrest. We need investment in fire prevention education, safe and affordable housing with working sprinklers and smoke detectors, and social services that address the root causes of desperation. By turning fire investigators into arrest-focused peace officers, we are shifting resources and focus away from prevention and toward a punitive model that has consistently failed to make us safe.

This bill also raises concerns about the further militarization of our public safety apparatus. It normalizes the idea that every public servant, from fire marshal to code inspector, should carry a badge and the power to detain. This is a dangerous path. It erodes the trust between the public and the very people meant to serve them. A fire scene should be a place for uncovering facts to prevent future tragedies, not primarily a crime scene for building a prosecution.

Finally, this expansion lacks a clear justification. It grants these new powers without specific oversight or mandatory training in de-escalation and community engagement. It creates a situation where individuals, potentially in crisis or from marginalized communities, could face arrest in the aftermath of a devastating fire, a moment when they most need compassion and support, not criminalization.

True safety is created through strong communities, not through more arrests. I urge you to vote no on this bill and to instead focus on policies that prevent fires and support survivors, rather than expanding the carceral system.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: MICHAEL DREYER		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/9/2026 10:59 PM

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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: 3/9/2026 8:57 AM

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HB 3535 authorizes state fire marshal investigators to exercise arrest powers based on undefined “exigent circumstances” involving potential bodily harm.

By introducing a vague emergency standard without statutory definition or jurisdictional limits, the bill effectively expands specialized fire investigators into general law-enforcement actors without clear legislative authorization or guardrails.

If the General Assembly intends to broaden arrest authority beyond fire and arson investigations, that expansion should be explicit and accompanied by clear statutory limits rather than delegated through an undefined emergency clause.