

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

SENATE BILL NO. 240

98TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATORS KEAVENY AND SCHAAF.

Read 1st time January 14, 2015, and ordered printed.

ADRIANE D. CROUSE, Secretary.

0054S.01I

AN ACT

To amend chapter 29, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to requiring the state auditor to report on the costs of administering the death penalty.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Chapter 29, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new
2 section, to be known as section 29.305, to read as follows:

**29.305. 1. The state auditor shall make a one-time report on the
2 costs, both direct and indirect, born by county and state governments
3 in the prosecution and defense of at least ten cases filed on or after
4 January 1, 1990, in which a death sentence was sought and was imposed
5 and compare such costs to the costs of an equal number of first degree
6 murder cases filed on or after January 1, 1990, in which a death
7 sentence was not sought and the defendant was sentenced to life
8 without the possibility for parole and an equal number of first degree
9 murder cases filed on or after January 1, 1990, in which a death
10 sentence was sought, but the defendant was sentenced to life without
11 the possibility for parole at the conclusion of a sentencing phase. The
12 auditor may make additional comparisons including other sentences
13 imposed for homicide offenses.**

**14 2. In selecting the cases in which a death sentence was not
15 imposed, the auditor shall use a scientific method of random sampling
16 that includes all cases filed on or after January 1, 1990.**

**17 3. The comparison shall include the following costs estimated by
18 the auditor to be related to the cases examined and compared under
19 subsection 1 of this section:**

**20 (1) Staff salaries, benefits, and operating expenses for the
21 attorney general's office, including any contracts for assistance;**

22 **(2) Staff salaries, benefits, and operating expenses for the**
23 **department of corrections, including costs related to housing inmates**
24 **sentenced to death, carrying out the death penalty, and any contracts**
25 **for assistance;**

26 **(3) Staff salaries, including salaries of prosecuting and circuit**
27 **attorneys, benefits, operating expenses charged to counties, including**
28 **expenses in preparing for the presentation of aggravating and**
29 **mitigating circumstances with respect to sentencing proceedings in**
30 **death penalty cases, expert witness fees, additional investigations, and**
31 **contracts for assistance;**

32 **(4) Staff salaries, benefits, and operating expenses for the**
33 **Missouri state public defender system; and**

34 **(5) Staff salaries, benefits, and operating expenses for the**
35 **supreme court, courts of appeals, and circuit courts.**

36 **4. The auditor shall present the report to the governor, members**
37 **of the general assembly, and the Missouri supreme court by June 30,**
38 **2017.**

Bill ✓

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