**This Week in the Missouri Senate:
Digital Audio File Script on SB 588**

This week in the Missouri Senate, we review an upcoming new law that relates to criminal justice…

**Nat Snd / Runs :02 / OC: deals with expungement.**

*“This bill deals with expungement.”*

[Senate Bill 588](http://www.senate.mo.gov/16info/bts_web/Bill.aspx?SessionType=R&BillID=22246607) received final legislative passage on May 11, was signed into law on July 13, and will take effect on New Year’s Day 2018.

The measure is sponsored by Sen. Bob Dixon of Springfield.

He first presented his proposal to the [Senate Judiciary and Civil and Criminal Jurisprudence Committee](http://www.senate.mo.gov/JUDI/) on Jan. 26.

Senator Dixon told the panel he believes this issue had been largely ignored for too long…

**Dixon 1 / Runs :21 / OC: things, find employment.**

*“The time for the Legislature to have a very frank discussion about a real expungement process that provides a path of restoration to those who have done wrong, but have learned from their mistakes, and have corrected their ways over a period of time — so that they can, among other things, find employment.”*

He also pointed out not *everything* would be removed from someone’s criminal record…

**Dixon 2 / Runs :17 / OC: a sex offender.**

*“What we’ve done with this is we have reduced the time period that a person has to wait. We have expanded what can be expunged. We do leave off — as unexpungable — things with a weapon, crimes of assault, crimes that would require someone to be registered as a sex offender.”*

That same day, Sen. Shalonn “Kiki” Curls of Kansas City presented [Senate Bill 603](http://www.senate.mo.gov/16info/bts_web/Bill.aspx?SessionType=R&BillID=22246569), a related measure that was combined with Senate Bill 588.

She told the committee she agrees with the need to upgrade expungement rules…

**Curls 3 / Runs :19 / OC: a second chance.**

*“Obviously, I sincerely hope that this is something that we can give serious consideration to, certainly for those individuals who have paid their debt to society and who would be allowed to continue to lead productive lives. Having made past mistakes, of course, but — of course — been on a straight and productive path for some time, so — you know — those are folks in our society, of course, our constituency that we should be giving a second chance”*

When the proposal was first-debated on the Missouri Senate floor on April 6, Sen. Curls talked about how this idea had gone through a long process…

**Curls 4 / Runs :18 / OC: be most fair.**

*“There were a number of entities, criminal defense bar as well. So, this is something really that’s been vetted for quite some time, and they really did a lot of work to really try to hash out and get to a final document where — of course — not all sides were happy, but certainly they came to a resolution on what they thought would be most fair.”*

At present, if someone wants to get rid of certain parts of his or her criminal record, there is a $100 surcharge. Senate Bill 588 will raise the amount to $250. In addition, the judge involved would allowed be to waive the surcharge, if needed.

Because of the steps involved to get this new law properly in place, the effective date has been moved from the standard Aug. 28 to Jan. 1, 2018.

And, remember, you can follow these and other issues facing the Missouri Senate by visiting our website: [senate.mo.gov](http://www.senate.mo.gov).

Reporting for the Missouri Senate, I’m Dean Morgan.