

SCS HCS HB 237 & HB 238 & HB 482 -- COURTS

This bill changes the laws regarding courts and court procedures. In its main provisions, the bill:

(1) Requires a person to appear on a service of summons no less than 10 days nor more than 60 days from the date the summons was delivered instead of the current nor more than 30 days;

(2) Allows the required annual report of the Judicial Finance Commission regarding the finances of the Judicial Department to be consolidated with any other annual report prepared by the Missouri Supreme Court or the Office of State Courts Administrator if it is distributed to the required parties;

(3) Allows municipal courts to create an appointed counsel fund to pay the reasonable fees approved by the court for any attorney appointed to represent a defendant who is found by the judge to be indigent and unable to pay for legal representation and where prescribed by Supreme Court rules or the law; and

(4) Specifies that moneys for the appointed counsel fund will come from the \$1 fee collected on each case which currently is deposited into the judicial education fund. The court will determine the allocation of the fees between the accounts, but no court can retain more than \$1,500 in the judicial education fund for each judge, administrator, or clerk of the court and no more than \$5,000 in the appointed counsel fund.