

HB 2586 -- ATTORNEY GENERAL DUTIES AND QUALIFICATIONS

SPONSOR: Barnes

This bill requires the Attorney General to:

- (1) Serve as the chief legal officer of the state of Missouri and provide legal advice to state agencies;
- (2) Defend constitutional challenges to the validity of state laws;
- (3) Enforce civil laws including, but not limited to, those that protect consumers and the environment;
- (4) Defend the state's interest in civil actions including, but not limited to, bankruptcies, workers' compensation cases, professional licensing cases, and habeas corpus petitions filed by state and federal inmates;
- (5) Defend criminal appeals of felony convictions; and
- (6) Bring and defend lawsuits on behalf of the state and its citizens.

The Attorney General or his or her designee may serve as prosecutor in any circuit court of this state in any case in which they have been appointed as special prosecutor or on any manner in which state law confers upon the Attorney General the authority to prosecute a claim. The General Assembly may establish additional duties for the Attorney General by statute.

The Attorney General shall be an attorney licensed and in good standing in the state of Missouri who has:

- (1) Tried a criminal case before a judge or jury in Missouri as a prosecutor on behalf of the state or as counsel for the accused;
- (2) Tried a civil case before a judge or jury in Missouri as counsel for the individual, business, association, or other entity bringing the claim or as counsel for the individual, business, association, or other entity defending the claim;
- (3) Tried an administrative case before a hearing officer in Missouri as counsel for the individual, business, association, or other entity in interest or as counsel for the state or governmental entity;
- (4) Represented any party to an appeal in a Missouri court and

participated in oral argument; or

(5) Participated in any motion hearing in a Missouri court involving the rules of civil or criminal procedure.