SENATE BILL NO. 223

AN ACT

To repeal section 476.055, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to court automation, with existing penalty provisions.

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

Section A. Section 476.055, RSMo, is repealed and one new
2   section enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 476.055,
3   to read as follows:

476.055. 1. There is hereby established in the state
2   treasury the "Statewide Court Automation Fund". All moneys
3   collected pursuant to section 488.027, as well as gifts,
4   contributions, devises, bequests, and grants received
5   relating to automation of judicial record keeping, and
6   moneys received by the judicial system for the dissemination
7   of information and sales of publications developed relating
8   to automation of judicial record keeping, shall be credited
9   to the fund. Moneys credited to this fund may only be used
10 for the purposes set forth in this section and as
11 appropriated by the general assembly. Any unexpended
12 balance remaining in the statewide court automation fund at
13 the end of each biennium shall not be subject to the
14 provisions of section 33.080 requiring the transfer of such
15 unexpended balance to general revenue; except that, any
16 unexpended balance remaining in the fund on September 1,
17 **[**2023**] 2029,** shall be transferred to general revenue.

EXPLANATION-Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in this bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

18   2. The statewide court automation fund shall be
19   administered by a court automation committee consisting of
20   the following: the chief justice of the supreme court, a
21   judge from the court of appeals, four circuit judges, four
22   associate circuit judges, four employees of the circuit
23   court, the commissioner of administration, two members of
24   the house of representatives appointed by the speaker of the
25   house, two members of the senate appointed by the president
26   pro tem of the senate, the executive director of the
27   Missouri office of prosecution services, the director of the
28   state public defender system, and two members of the
29   Missouri Bar. The judge members and employee members shall
30   be appointed by the chief justice. The commissioner of
31   administration shall serve ex officio. The members of the
32   Missouri Bar shall be appointed by the board of governors of
33   the Missouri Bar. Any member of the committee may designate
34   another person to serve on the committee in place of the
35   committee member.

36   3. The committee shall develop and implement a plan
37   for a statewide court automation system. The committee
38   shall have the authority to hire consultants, review systems
39   in other jurisdictions and purchase goods and services to
40   administer the provisions of this section. The committee
41   may implement one or more pilot projects in the state for
42   the purposes of determining the feasibility of developing
43   and implementing such plan. The members of the committee
44   shall be reimbursed from the court automation fund for their
45   actual expenses in performing their official duties on the
46   committee.

47   4. Any purchase of computer software or computer
48   hardware that exceeds five thousand dollars shall be made
49   pursuant to the requirements of the office of administration

50 for lowest and best bid. Such bids shall be subject to

51 acceptance by the office of administration. The court

52 automation committee shall determine the specifications for

53 such bids.

54   5. The court automation committee shall not require

55 any circuit court to change any operating system in such

56 court, unless the committee provides all necessary

57 personnel, funds and equipment necessary to effectuate the

58 required changes. No judicial circuit or county may be

59 reimbursed for any costs incurred pursuant to this

60 subsection unless such judicial circuit or county has the

61 approval of the court automation committee prior to

62 incurring the specific cost.

63   6. Any court automation system, including any pilot

64 project, shall be implemented, operated and maintained in

65 accordance with strict standards for the security and

66 privacy of confidential judicial records. Any person who

67 knowingly releases information from a confidential judicial

68 record is guilty of a class B misdemeanor. Any person who,

69 knowing that a judicial record is confidential, uses

70 information from such confidential record for financial gain

71 is guilty of a class E felony.

72   7. On the first day of February, May, August and

73 November of each year, the court automation committee shall

74 file a report on the progress of the statewide automation

75 system with:

76   (1) The chair of the house budget committee;

77   (2) The chair of the senate appropriations committee;

78   (3) The chair of the house judiciary committee; and

79   (4) The chair of the senate judiciary committee.

80   8. Section 488.027 shall expire on September 1, **[**2023**]**

81 **2029.** The court automation committee established pursuant

82   to this section may continue to function until completion of

83   its duties prescribed by this section**[, but shall complete**

84   **its duties prior to September 1, 2025.**

85   **9.   This section shall expire on September 1, 2025]**.

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