



CREATE SAFER COMMUNITIES

Repeal the Missouri Incarceration Reimbursement Act

SUPPORT

HB 723

REP. PETERS
(R-Rolla)

SB 617

SEN. WEBBER
(D-Boone)

Why Missouri Must Repeal the Incarceration Reimbursement Act

The Missouri Incarceration Reimbursement Act unfairly and unjustly seizes money from incarcerated individuals outside of the individual's court-ordered sentence.¹ In practice, the law decreases an individual's chance at successfully reentering society and generates little benefit to the state.

- Seizing financial resources makes it harder for individuals returning home to secure housing, transportation, and jobs and increases the likelihood of recidivism.²
- Missouri's application of this law has been arbitrary, randomly targeting some individuals, but not others.³
- The cost of filing lawsuits to seize the modest bank accounts or inheritances of individuals leaving incarceration often exceeds the money recovered.⁴

Repealing the Act Strengthens Missouri Communities

Losing funds can be devastating for an individual returning home from incarceration. By repealing the Missouri Incarceration Reimbursement Act, Missouri would alleviate this financial burden, support successful reentry, and help reduce recidivism—creating safer, stronger communities.

To learn how you can help, visit missouriappleseed.org or email Liza Weiss at LWeiss@appleseednetwork.org

¹ Kansas City Star. *Missouri wants to take money prisoner got after his mom's death to pay for his incarceration.* Retrieved from <https://www.kansascity.com/news/state/missouri/article286687205.html>

² Brennan Center for Justice. *America's Dystopian Incarceration System: Pay to Stay Behind Bars.* Retrieved from <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/analysis-opinion/americas-dystopian-incarceration-system-pay-stay-behind-bars>

³ NCJA Crime & Justice News. *Missouri Law Makes Prisoners Pay for Their Own Incarceration.* Retrieved from <https://www.ncja.org/crimeandjusticenews/missouri-law-makes-prisoners-pay-for-their-own-incarceration>

⁴ The Missouri Times. *Missouri Supreme Court Rules Those Unable to Pay Jail Debts Cannot Be Sent Back to Prison.* Retrieved from <https://themissouritimes.com/missouri-supreme-court-rules-those-unable-to-pay-jail-debts-cannot-be-sent-back-to-prison/>