

HB 2439 -- CONVICTION REVIEW UNIT

SPONSOR: Bosley

This bill allows the Missouri Office of Prosecution Services to establish a conviction review unit to investigate claims of actual innocence of any defendant, including a defendant who pled guilty.

The Missouri Office of Prosecution Services will create an application process for defendants as specified in the bill. The conviction review unit will consist of two attorneys hired by the Executive Director of the Missouri Office of Prosecution Services, an investigator, paralegal, and other administrative staff. The Director shall be an ex officio member of the unit.

Once the review is complete, the conviction review unit will present its findings either to the prosecuting attorney who prosecuted the case or, if the review was requested by the Attorney General, special prosecutor, or other prosecuting attorney's office, to the office who requested the review. The prosecuting attorney's office is not required to accept or follow the findings and recommendations of the conviction review unit.

Any document produced by the conviction review unit shall be closed records until after the finality of all proceedings.

This bill is similar to HB 1086 (2023).