

HB 159 -- House Arrest for Certain Offenders

Sponsor: Brandom

This bill changes the laws regarding house arrest for certain offenders with electronic monitoring or shackling. In its main provisions, the bill:

(1) Allows a judge to place any offender ordered to be confined in the county jail for a nonviolent offense, whether before, during, or after trial, on house arrest as an alternative to jail confinement (Section 221.025, RSMo);

(2) Requires the governing body of any county and the City of St. Louis to establish the amount to be expended for the cost of incarceration of prisoners on house arrest; requires the sheriff or the facility superintendent to certify to the circuit clerk of the county or the chief executive officer of the city the number of days a prisoner accused of a nonviolent offense remained on house arrest; and requires the county commission or the facility superintendent to supply the cost per diem for prisons and for house arrest. If a court or judge places a person accused of a nonviolent offense on house arrest in any case where the state is determined to be liable for the costs, the state must provide reimbursement for the total cost of the house arrest program for that individual (Section 221.105);

(3) Specifies that any person charged with a bailable nonviolent offense who does not post bail prior to his or her appearance before a judge may be placed on house arrest (Section 544.455); and

(4) Allows a court to order a defendant who pleads guilty to or is found guilty of a nonviolent offense and sentenced to imprisonment or a period of detention in a county jail as a condition of probation to be placed on house arrest in lieu of any or all of the ordered period of confinement. The court may also order that in a particular case or with certain types of offenses a defendant cannot be placed on house arrest by the sheriff (Section 557.011).