

HB 2173 -- JACKSON COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT

SPONSOR: McManus

This bill establishes the Armed Offender Docket Pilot Project within the Jackson County Circuit Court. The armed offender docket must have dedicated judges and other personnel for all matters of hearing, setting of bail or other pretrial matters, trial, sentencing, and supervision of those accused or convicted of first degree robbery or a firearms offense.

The circuit court may impose a \$30 surcharge for each criminal case assigned to the armed offender docket. Any funds collected from the surcharge must be used solely to defray the costs of prosecution, pretrial supervision, and statistical analysis of such cases. The bill prohibits any surcharge from being collected in any proceeding when the proceeding or the defendant is dismissed by the court or when costs are to be paid by the state, county, or municipality.

The presiding judge of the circuit court, along with the prosecuting attorney and all law enforcement agencies in the circuit must assist in the coordinating and sharing of specified court and law enforcement data and information that is relevant to the operation and evaluation of the armed offender docket.

Within six months after each anniversary of the creation of the armed offender docket, the circuit court must provide and publish a public report on the operations of the armed offender docket during the year immediately preceding the anniversary, including any commentary on the operations as may be offered by the research university, prosecuting attorney, or law enforcement agency in the circuit.

The provisions of the bill will expire on December 31, 2020.