

Senate Judiciary Committee

Declan Donahue 271-3324

SB 512-FN, relative to fees to annul criminal records related to charges that do not result in conviction.

Hearing Date: January 27, 2026

Time Opened: 1:13 a.m.

Time Closed: 11:16 a.m.

Members of the Committee Present: Senators Gannon, Abbas, Altschiller and Reardon

Members of the Committee Absent : Senator Carson

Bill Analysis: This bill requires a court to waive the filing fee for a petitioner that demonstrates that he or she has been found not guilty or that the case has been dismissed or not prosecuted.

Sponsors:

Sen. Murphy

Sen. Lang

Sen. Innis

Sen. Ward

Sen. Pearl

Sen. Watters

Sen. Sullivan

Sen. Gannon

Sen. Avarad

Sen. McGough

Who supports the bill: Senator Keith Murphy (District 16), Senator Daniel Innis (District 7), Senator Tim McGough (District 11), Jesse Medeiros, Timothy Finney, Lisa Ayer, James Gardner, Curtis Howland, Pamela Harders

Summary of testimony presented in support:

Senator Keith Murphy (Senator, District 16)

- This is a personal bill for Senator Murphy, having been charged for a crime of which he is completely innocent.
- The effects of a trial like this can be life-altering: the cost for a legal defense, time spent in jail, the mugshot and articles being spread across the internet, among others.
- After being found not guilty, you then have to pay \$100 to annul a criminal arrest even though there was no conviction, adding insult to injury.
- In his case, the money is gone, but it shouldn't happen to anyone else.
- This bill says the court shall not charge any fee to file a petition where there has not been any conviction.

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Date Hearing Report completed: January 28, 2026