

House Judiciary Committee

House Bill 2755

Proponent

February 14, 2024

Chairwoman Humphries and Members of the Committee on Judiciary

Our names are Ricky Morey and Michael Crow. We are submitting written testimony in support of House Bill 2755. We are the owners of Morey & Crow Bonding Co., LLC. Our family has been in the business of bonding since 1969, approximately 55 years.

We support this bill because it supports the industry standard of a 10% bond fee. This amount is considered when a Judge sets a bond, the higher the safety risk to society and/or the consideration of if the defendant will appear in court determines the amount of the bond. When a bail agent accepts any amount lower than 10%, the judges' expert discretion is undermined. Creating a 10% bond fee also helps ensure that all defendants are treated equally in the amount they are charged, and it creates fair competition between all bail agents in the industry.

We also believe that this bill improves the professionalism of Bail Bonding. Felons are not allowed to be Bail Agents; however, some companies allow felons to work in the office as "bond consultants", or carry out other functions of a Bail agent. Some are answering phones, quoting rates, setting up bonds (preparing bail documents, collecting money due on posting bond and later, receivables). They are just not "writing" them at the jail. This bill also allows for criminal background checks and lists prohibited behaviors courts could use to suspend an agent if needed. Bail agent's accountability and professionalism are important.

We are also in agreement that bail agents must post bonds personally at the jail. We feel that electronic bonding could be done outside of local areas, including on a national level, and that the local courts would not have the same ability to monitor bail agents as they do now.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,



Ricky Morey
Morey & Crow Bonding Co, LLC.



Michael Crow
Morey & Crow Bonding Co, LLC.