

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

FISCAL NOTE

L.R. No.: 3469H.011
 Bill No.: HB 1513
 Subject: Education, Elementary and Secondary; Department of Elementary and Secondary Education; Internet and E-Mail; Children and Minors
 Type: Original
 Date: January 18, 2024

Bill Summary: This proposal establishes the Media Literacy and Critical Thinking Act.

FISCAL SUMMARY

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027
General Revenue*	(\$99,606)	(\$1,089,606 to \$1,179,606)	(\$1,019,325 to \$1,109,325)
Total Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue	(\$99,606)	(\$1,089,606 to \$1,179,606)	(\$1,019,325 to \$1,109,325)

*Oversight has ranged the fiscal impact for the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education for cost of RPDC contractors.

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON OTHER STATE FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027
Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>Other State Funds</u>	\$0	\$0	\$0

Numbers within parentheses: () indicate costs or losses.

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FEDERAL FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027
Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>All</u> Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FULL TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE)			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027
Total Estimated Net Effect on FTE	0	0	0

- Estimated Net Effect (expenditures or reduced revenues) expected to exceed \$250,000 in any of the three fiscal years after implementation of the act or at full implementation of the act.
- Estimated Net Effect (savings or increased revenues) expected to exceed \$250,000 in any of the three fiscal years after implementation of the act or at full implementation of the act.

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027
Local Government	\$0	\$0 or (Unknown)	\$0 or (Unknown)

FISCAL ANALYSIS

ASSUMPTION

Officials from the **Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE)** state this proposal presents the “Media Literacy and Critical Thinking” related legislation for PK-12 students.

Section 161.355.7 creating Samples of Learning Activities, Resources, and Training

This section presents a pilot program to be implemented during the 2025-26 and 2026-27 school years which will include five to seven diverse school districts. This includes identifying high-quality resources, demonstrating/reporting various aspects of media literacy and digital fluency, and developing guidelines (acceptable use of social media, consequences, access, analyze, evaluate, create/act, ethics, etiquette, cyberbullying, algorithms, misinformation) for the pilot program.

DESE will convene a Pilot Program Development Committee (2024-25, 2 meetings) and develop Learning Activities and Resources (2024-25, 4 meetings). Meeting costs to include travel, meals, supplies is \$70,281 (18 committee members total: 6 committee members - 2 urban, 2 suburban, 2 rural for Grades PK-4; 6 committee members for Grades 5-8; 6 committee members Grades 9-12 =18 committee members representing all nine RPDC regions). NOTE: Two (2) meetings needed during FY25 to develop the Pilot Program and Guidelines and four (4) meetings for creating samples of learning activities and resources.

Section 161.355.7. Teacher Training

DESE estimates the need for nine (9) RPDC contractors for three years. Contractors are \$110,000 - \$120,000 per person with 9 total for three years to train all K-12 teachers through the consolidated contract with the RPDCs for a total between \$990,000 and \$1,080,000.

In addition, DESE estimates the need for an Annual Consultant (20 hours/week) or .5 FTE based on Supervisor salary of \$29,325 x three years = \$87,975, The Consultant or .5 FTE will lead all elements of this proposal for the 2023-24, 2024-25, and 2025-26 implementation year, including assisting the pilot sites in their report writing during Year 3 which is required for all pilot sites (Section 161.355.8.) and compiling all final reports for the main DESE summary report (Section 161.355.9.).

Section 161.355.9(6): Creating a Draft of Proposed Media Literacy & Critical Thinking State Standards Preschool-12

DESE will convene a Standards Development Committee (2025-26, 6 meetings): \$70,281 (18 committee members total: 6 committee members - 2 urban, 2 suburban, 2 rural for Grades PK-4; 6 committee members for Grades 5-8; 6 committee members Grades 9-12 =18 committee members representing all nine RPDC regions). If standards are created after the pilot program has been completed there may be additional ongoing costs to continue the program.

In response to similar legislation, HB 492 from 2023, **DESE** estimated the need for nine (9) RPDC staff members for three years to complete the training of teachers required in section 161.355.7. Costs to include a supervisor at the mid-point salary (O03317) of \$53,976. These nine RPDC staff were expected to be needed for a minimum of three years with associated E&E costs.

DESE stated the process for developing Academic Performance Standards and promulgating the associated rules could extend past the dates listed in this legislation.

DESE stated, based on their interpretation, all teachers in PK-12 would be trained on media literacy and critical thinking. Given the estimate of 70,000 K-12 teachers in Missouri (not including PK), DESE proposed one FTE in each of the nine regional professional development centers (RPDCs) to train all PK-12 teachers in each RPDC region for the three-year period within the pilot. That would be an estimated 7,778 teachers to be trained for each RPDC-based supervisor over the three-year period.

In response to HB 492 from 2023, DESE ranged the necessary FTE from one (1) to nine (9).

Oversight will show the costs as estimated by DESE with the 9 RPDC being contracted rather than those individuals being DESE employees with salary and E&E as reflected on previous fiscal note for HB 492 from 2023.

Officials from the **Henry County R-1 School District** assume the proposal will have no fiscal impact on their organization.

Oversight received one response from school districts related to this proposal. Oversight has presented this fiscal note on the best current information available. Upon the receipt of additional responses, Oversight will review to determine if an updated fiscal note should be prepared and seek the necessary approval to publish a new fiscal note.

Oversight only reflects the responses received from state agencies and political subdivisions; however, numerous school districts were requested to respond to this proposed legislation but did not. A listing of political subdivisions included in the Missouri Legislative Information System (MOLIS) database is available upon request.

<u>FISCAL IMPACT – State Government</u>	FY 2025 (10 Mo.)	FY 2026	FY 2027
GENERAL REVENUE			
<u>Costs</u> - DESE – RPDC Contract Subject Matter Experts (9) - §161.355.7	\$0	(\$990,000 to \$1,080,000)	(\$990,000 to \$1,080,000)
<u>Costs</u> - pilot program development committee - §161.355.7	(\$70,281)	\$0	\$0
<u>Costs</u> - annual consultant - §161.355.7	(\$29,325)	(\$29,325)	(\$29,325)
<u>Costs</u> - standards development committee - §161.355.9	\$0	(\$70,281)	\$0
ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE	<u>(\$99,606)</u>	<u>(\$1,089,606 to \$1,179,606)</u>	<u>(\$1,019,325 to \$1,109,325)</u>

<u>FISCAL IMPACT – Local Government</u>	FY 2025 (10 Mo.)	FY 2026	FY 2027
SCHOOL DISTRICTS			
<u>Costs</u> - to implement the Media Literacy and Critical Thinking pilot program - §161.355	\$0	\$0 or (Unknown)	\$0 or (Unknown)
ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON SCHOOL DISTRICTS	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0 or (Unknown)</u>	<u>\$0 or (Unknown)</u>

FISCAL IMPACT – Small Business

No direct fiscal impact to small businesses would be expected as a result of this proposal.

FISCAL DESCRIPTION

This bill establishes the "Media Literacy and Critical Thinking Act". This bill defines "media literacy" to include concepts such as but not limited to: an individual's ability to access, analyze, evaluate, and participate with all forms of media, including news in print and social media content, and recognize bias and stereotypes in media, as well as Internet safety.

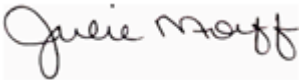
The bill requires the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to establish a "Media Literacy and Critical Thinking" pilot program for the 2025-26 and 2026-27 school years. Between five and seven diverse schools shall be selected by DESE to participate in the Pilot Program as specified in the bill.

The Program shall address media literacy, develop strategies for student learning in classroom curricula, and demonstrate various literacy strategies used. Pilot program schools shall provide a report to DESE before August 1, 2027 and before January 1, 2028 DESE shall compile and submit a summary report to the General Assembly. The Pilot Program shall terminate June 30, 2027.

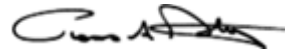
This legislation is not federally mandated, would not duplicate any other program and would not require additional capital improvements or rental space.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
Henry County R-1 School District



Julie Morff
Director
January 18, 2024



Ross Strobe
Assistant Director
January 18, 2024