

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

FISCAL NOTE

L.R. No.: 3376H.01I
Bill No.: HB 1563
Subject: Children and Minors; Children's Division; Family Law
Type: Original
Date: January 10, 2022

Bill Summary: This proposal modifies provisions relating to diligent searches for the placement of children.

FISCAL SUMMARY

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
General Revenue	(\$1,013,479)	(\$1,092,178)	(\$1,103,201)
Total Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue	(\$1,013,479)	(\$1,092,178)	(\$1,103,201)

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON OTHER STATE FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>Other</u> State Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0

Numbers within parentheses: () indicate costs or losses.

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FEDERAL FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>All</u> Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FULL TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE)			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
General Revenue	14 FTE	14 FTE	14 FTE
Total Estimated Net Effect on FTE	14 FTE	14 FTE	14 FTE

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 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
Local Government	\$0	\$0	\$0

FISCAL ANALYSIS

ASSUMPTION

§§210.127; 210.305 and 210.565 – "Diligent search" for relatives of foster children

Officials from the **Department of Social Services (DSS), Children's Division (CD)** state the Children's Division 2020 Annual Report indicated that 6,912 children came into or re-entered foster care, which would require the diligent search proposed in this legislation. As a result, CD anticipates needing 12 FTE total (2 Associate Social Services Specialists per region * 6 regions in the state) in order to carry out diligent searches.

DSS estimates the cost of 12 Associate Social Services Specialists with a starting salary of \$35,399 will cost approximately \$880,000 per year in personal service, fringe benefits and other expenses; 100% GR. **Oversight** does not have information to the contrary and therefore, Oversight will reflect the estimates as provided by the DSS/CD.

Officials from the **DSS, Division of Legal Services (DLS)** anticipate a fiscal impact to DLS that could be covered by two attorneys. DLS believes the bill will generate additional CD requests for assistance from DLS litigation or permanency attorneys in seeking judicial orders releasing CD from "diligent search" efforts. DLS notes the legislation could have a significant fiscal impact on CD because the bill would dramatically expand CD's duties to identify and locate biological parents, grandparents, and "relatives" (with "relatives" likely including all persons related by blood or affinity and all persons with a close relationship to the child or the child's family); makes several search-effort duties ongoing until a court excuses search efforts or such persons are located and identified (and in some cases until the child is placed with a relative); and requires CD report its efforts to locate and identify such persons at each court hearing until excused by the court or the child's "relatives" are located. In addition, the bill could increase the number of potential placement "relatives" for which background checks would need to be conducted.

DSS estimates the cost of 2 Attorneys with a starting salary of \$62,000 will cost approximately \$212,000 per year in personal service, fringe benefits and other expenses; 100% GR. **Oversight** does not have information to the contrary and therefore, Oversight will reflect the estimates as provided by the DSS/DLS.

Officials from the **Department of Public Safety, Missouri Highway Patrol, the Office of Administration** and the **Office of the State Courts Administrator** each assume the proposal will have no fiscal impact on their respective organizations. **Oversight** does not have any information to the contrary. Therefore, Oversight will reflect a zero impact in the fiscal note for these agencies.

<u>FISCAL IMPACT – State Government</u>	FY 2023 (10 Mo.)	FY 2024	FY 2025
GENERAL REVENUE			
<u>Costs – DSS/CD (§§210.127; 210.305 and 210.565)</u>			
Personal service	(\$353,991)	(\$429,037)	(\$433,327)
Fringe benefits	(\$266,628)	(\$321,377)	(\$322,815)
Equipment and expense	(\$211,223)	(\$129,514)	(\$132,751)
Total <u>Costs</u> -	(\$831,842)	(\$879,928)	(\$888,893)
FTE Changes	12 FTE	12 FTE	12 FTE
<u>Costs – DSS/DLS (§§210.127; 210.305 and 210.565)</u>			
Personal service	(\$103,333)	(\$125,240)	(\$126,492)
Fringe benefits	(\$59,299)	(\$71,574)	(\$71,994)
Equipment and expense	(\$19,005)	(\$15,436)	(\$15,822)
Total <u>Costs</u> -	(\$181,637)	(\$212,250)	(\$214,308)
FTE Changes	2 FTE	2 FTE	2 FTE
ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE	<u>(\$1,013,479)</u>	<u>(\$1,092,178)</u>	<u>(\$1,103,201)</u>
Estimated Net FTE Change on the General Revenue Fund	14 FTE	14 FTE	14 FTE

<u>FISCAL IMPACT – Local Government</u>	FY 2023 (10 Mo.)	FY 2024	FY 2025
	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>

FISCAL IMPACT – Small Business

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

FISCAL DESCRIPTION

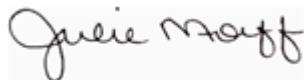
This bill requires the Children's Division (CD) within the Department of Social Services (DSS) to make diligent searches for the biological parent or parents in a timely manner after a child is placed into its custody. Additionally, when an initial emergency placement of a child is deemed

necessary, CD is to diligently search and locate grandparents for placement of the child. If grandparents are deemed unavailable or unfit, then CD must make a diligent search to locate other relatives for placement of the child within 30 days from the time the emergency placement is deemed necessary for the child (§210.127; §210.305 and §210.565).


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

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Department of Public Safety - Missouri Highway Patrol
Department of Social Services
Office of Administration
Office of the State Courts Administrator



Julie Morff
Director
January 10, 2022



Ross Strobe
Assistant Director
January 10, 2022