

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

FISCAL NOTE

L.R. No.: 1039H.011
 Bill No.: HB 385
 Subject: Elections; Prisons and Jails
 Type: Original
 Date: January 5, 2023

Bill Summary: This proposal allows people confined in jails to vote by absentee ballot.

FISCAL SUMMARY

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
General Revenue	\$0 or (Less than \$250,000)	\$0 or (Less than \$250,000)	\$0 or (Less than \$250,000)
Total Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue	\$0 or (Less than \$250,000)	\$0 or (Less than \$250,000)	\$0 or (Less than \$250,000)

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON OTHER STATE FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
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 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>All</u> Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FULL TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE)			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
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 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
Local Government	\$0 or (Unknown)	\$0 or (Unknown)	\$0 or (Unknown)

FISCAL ANALYSIS

ASSUMPTION

Officials from the **Office of the Secretary of State (SOS)** and **Department of Corrections (DOC)** both assume the proposal will have no fiscal impact on their organizations.

Oversight notes there could be a potential increase in absentee ballots if this proposal were to be enacted. There may be additional mailing expense for returned voted ballot postage that will be charged to the State of Missouri. Oversight will reflect a zero or a (Less than \$250,000) annual fiscal impact to the State of Missouri.

Officials from the **City of Kansas City** assume the proposal could have a negative fiscal impact on Kansas City in an indeterminate amount because the additional administrative costs in complying with this legislation and the mailing costs could be passed on to the City by the counties it contracts with for incarcerating its prisoners.

Officials from the **City of Springfield** assume the proposal will have no fiscal impact on their organization.

In response to similar legislation, HB 2265 from 2022, officials from the **Kansas City Election Board** assumed if the proposal were to become law the cost to update the voter registration database would be \$10,000 (Staff overtime). The cost for postage, printing and temporary expense, per election, would be roughly \$15,000 per election.

In response to similar legislation, HB 2265 from 2022, officials from the **Greene County Clerk's Office** assumed the proposal will have no fiscal impact on their organization. There is an unknown fiscal impact to the Sheriff's office.

Officials from the **St. Joseph Police Department** assume a potential negative fiscal impact due to having to make accommodations for absentee voting for those that are incarcerated.

Officials from the **Jackson County Board of Elections, Platte County Board of Elections, St. Louis City Board of Elections, St. Louis County Board of Elections, Phelps County Sheriff, Kansas City Police Department, and St. Louis County Police Department** each assume the proposal will have no fiscal impact on their respective organizations.

Oversight notes there could be a potential increase in absentee ballots if this proposal were to be enacted. Oversight is unable to determine how many additional individuals confined in jails will cast an absentee ballot; however, Oversight will reflect a zero or unknown fiscal impact for the additional cost to local election authorities and local political subdivisions.

<u>FISCAL IMPACT – State Government</u>	FY 2024 (10 Mo.)	FY 2025	FY 2026
GENERAL REVENUE			
<u>Cost - SOS</u> Returned ballot postage	\$0 or (Less than \$250,000)	\$0 or (Less than \$250,000)	\$0 or (Less than \$250,000)
ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND	\$0 or (Less than \$250,000)	\$0 or (Less than \$250,000)	\$0 or (Less than \$250,000)

<u>FISCAL IMPACT – Local Government</u>	FY 2024 (10 Mo.)	FY 2025	FY 2026
LOCAL POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS			
<u>Cost – Jails</u> Postage and mailing application	\$0 or (Unknown)	\$0 or (Unknown)	\$0 or (Unknown)
<u>Cost - Local Election Authorities</u> Processing additional absentee ballots	\$0 or (Unknown)	\$0 or (Unknown)	\$0 or (Unknown)
ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS	\$0 or (Unknown)	\$0 or (Unknown)	\$0 or (Unknown)

FISCAL IMPACT – Small Business

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

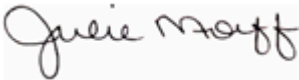
FISCAL DESCRIPTION

This bill allows an individual who is otherwise eligible to vote and is confined in jail to vote by absentee ballot and requires jails that house such individuals to provide the application for absentee ballots, pay for postage and timely mail to the correct local election authority, provide a safe location with necessary materials, provide a notary, and if requested, provide articles from a neutral news source that identifies the candidates and issues.

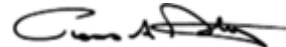
This legislation is not federally mandated, would not duplicate any other program and would not require additional capital improvements or rental space.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Office of the Secretary of State
Department of Corrections
City of Kansas City
City of Springfield
Kansas City Board of Elections
Platte County Board of Elections
St. Louis County Board of Elections
St. Louis City Board of Elections
Greene County Clerk
Phelps County Sheriff
Kansas City Police Department
St. Louis County Police Department
St. Joseph Police Department



Julie Morff
Director
January 5, 2023



Ross Strobe
Assistant Director
January 5, 2023