

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

FISCAL NOTE

L.R. No.: 5789S.02I
Bill No.: SJR 52
Subject: Abortion; Constitutional Amendments; Children and Minors
Type: Original
Date: April 4, 2022

Bill Summary: This proposal establishes "Protect Children First".

FISCAL SUMMARY

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
General Revenue*	\$0 or (More than \$7,000,000)	\$0	\$0
Total Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue	\$0 or (More than \$7,000,000)	\$0	\$0

*Election costs would only be incurred if the Governor called a special election.

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

*Transfer-in and reimbursement of election costs net to \$0 and only occur if a special election is called by the Governor.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

ASSUMPTION

SJR – Protect Children First

Officials from the **Office of the Secretary of State (SOS), Elections Division** state each year, a number of joint resolutions that would refer to a vote of the people a constitutional amendment and bills that would refer to a vote of the people the statutory issue in the legislation may be considered by the General Assembly.

Unless a special election is called for the purpose, Joint Resolutions proposing a constitutional amendment are submitted to a vote of the people at the next general election. Article XII section 2(b) of the Missouri Constitution authorizes the governor to order a special election for constitutional amendments referred to the people. If a special election is called to submit a Joint Resolution to a vote of the people, section 115.063.2 RSMo requires the state to pay the costs. The cost of the special election has been estimated to be \$7 million based on the cost of the 2020 Presidential Preference Primary.

The SOS is required to pay for publishing in local newspapers the full text of each statewide ballot measure as directed by Article XII, Section 2(b) of the Missouri Constitution and Section 116.230-116.290, RSMo. Funding for this item is adjusted each year depending upon the election cycle. A new decision item is requested in odd numbered fiscal years and the amount requested is dependent upon the estimated number of ballot measures that will be approved by the General Assembly and the initiative petitions certified for the ballot. In FY 2014, the General Assembly changed the appropriation so that it was no longer an estimated appropriation.

For the FY22 petitions cycle, the SOS estimates publication costs at \$70,000 per page. This amount is subject to change based on number of petitions received, length of those petitions and rates charged by newspaper publishers.

The SOS will continue to assume, for the purposes of this fiscal note, that it should have the full appropriation authority it needs to meet the publishing requirements. Because these requirements are mandatory, the SOS reserves the right to request funding to meet the cost of its publishing requirements if the Governor and the General Assembly again change the amount or continue to not designate it as an estimated appropriation.

Oversight has reflected, in this fiscal note, the state potentially reimbursing local political subdivisions the cost of having this joint resolution voted on during a special election in fiscal year 2023. This reflects the decision made by the Joint Committee on Legislative Research that the cost of the elections should be shown in the fiscal note. The next scheduled statewide primary election is in August 2022 and the next scheduled general election is in November 2022 (both in FY 2023). It is assumed the subject within this proposal could be on one of these ballots; however, it could also be on a special election called for by the Governor (a different date).

Therefore, Oversight will reflect a potential election cost reimbursement to local political subdivisions in FY 2023.

Officials from the **Department of Elementary and Secondary Education**, the **Department of Health and Senior Services**, the **Department of Revenue**, the **Department of Social Services**, the **Platte County Election Authority** and the **St. Louis County Election Authority** each assume the proposal will have no fiscal impact on their organizations. **Oversight** does not have any information to the contrary. Therefore, Oversight will reflect a zero impact in the fiscal note for these agencies.

Officials from the **Kansas City Election Authority** state the cost to conduct an election is the Kansas City portion of Jackson County and is \$625,000. The State would be responsible for their pro-rata share based on voter registration. **Oversight** does not have any information to the contrary. Oversight notes the State would reimburse local election authority costs for a special election.

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

Officials from the **Office of the Secretary of State (SOS), Administrative Rules Division** notes many bills considered by the General Assembly include provisions allowing or requiring agencies to submit rules and regulations to implement the act. The SOS is provided with core funding to handle a certain amount of normal activity resulting from each year's legislative session. The fiscal impact for this fiscal note to the SOS for Administrative Rules is less than \$5,000. The SOS recognizes that this is a small amount and does not expect that additional funding would be required to meet these costs. However, the SOS also recognizes that many such bills may be passed by the General Assembly in a given year and that collectively the costs may be in excess of what the office can sustain with its core budget. Therefore, the SOS reserves the right to request funding for the cost of supporting administrative rules requirements should the need arise based on a review of the finally approved bills signed by the governor.

<u>FISCAL IMPACT – State Government</u>	FY 2023 (6 Mo.)	FY 2024	FY 2025
GENERAL REVENUE			
<u>Transfer-out - SOS - reimbursement of local election authority election costs if a special election is called by the Governor</u>	\$0 or (More than \$7,000,000)	\$0	\$0
ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON THE GENERAL REVENUE FUND	<u>\$0 or (More than \$7,000,000)</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>

<u>FISCAL IMPACT – Local Government</u>	FY 2023 (10 Mo.)	FY 2024	FY 2025
LOCAL POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS			
<u>Transfer In - Local Election Authorities - reimbursement of election costs by the State for a special election</u>	\$0 or More than \$7,000,000	\$0	\$0
<u>Costs - Local Election Authorities - cost of a special election if called for by the Governor</u>	\$0 or (More than \$7,000,000)	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS	<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.

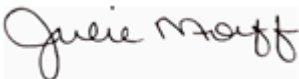
FISCAL DESCRIPTION

This constitutional amendment, if adopted by the voters, establishes the "Protect Children First" provision of the Constitution and recognizes that children are the future of Missouri and are a blessing and gift from Almighty God. The strength and success of Missouri is dependent on healthy and happy children and their mothers and families, as well as on stable home lives. It is the public policy of Missouri to give special consideration to the care of our children, born and unborn, especially those children who are orphans, children in foster care, and children who have been abused. Nothing in the Constitution shall be construed to secure or protect a right to abortion, or to require the funding of abortion by taxpayers or by any other means. The General Assembly shall have the authority to enact laws and make appropriations to carry out the provisions of this amendment.

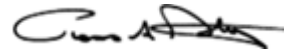
This legislation is not federally mandated, would not duplicate any other program and would not require additional capital improvements or rental space.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
Department of Health and Senior Services
Department of Revenue
Department of Social Services
Office of the Secretary of State
Kansas City Election Authority
Platte County Election Authority
St. Louis County Election Authority



Julie Morff
Director
April 4, 2022



Ross Strobe
Assistant Director
April 4, 2022