

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH  
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

**FISCAL NOTE**

L.R. No.: 0235-05  
Bill No.: HCS for HB 143  
Subject: Children and Minors; Family Law; Family Services Division; Law Enforcement Officers and Agencies  
Type: Original  
Date: March 14, 2011

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Bill Summary: This legislation changes the laws regarding hotline calls reporting child abuse and neglect to the Children’s Division within the Department of Social Services.

**FISCAL SUMMARY**

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND</b>			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
<b>Total Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue Fund</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON OTHER STATE FUNDS</b>			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
<b>Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>Other</u> State Funds</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

Numbers within parentheses: ( ) indicate costs or losses.  
This fiscal note contains 5 pages.

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FEDERAL FUNDS</b>			
<b>FUND AFFECTED</b>	<b>FY 2012</b>	<b>FY 2013</b>	<b>FY 2014</b>
<b>Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>All</u> Federal Funds</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FULL TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE)</b>			
<b>FUND AFFECTED</b>	<b>FY 2012</b>	<b>FY 2013</b>	<b>FY 2014</b>
<b>Total Estimated Net Effect on FTE</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

- Estimated Total Net Effect on All funds expected to exceed \$100,000 savings or (cost).
- Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue Fund expected to exceed \$100,000 (cost).

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL FUNDS</b>			
<b>FUND AFFECTED</b>	<b>FY 2012</b>	<b>FY 2013</b>	<b>FY 2014</b>
<b>Local Government</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

## FISCAL ANALYSIS

### ASSUMPTION

#### **Sections 210.135 & 210.145:**

Officials from the **Jefferson City Police Department, Boone County Sheriff's Department, Office of the State Courts Administrator, Department of Health and Senior Services, Missouri State Highway Patrol, Department of Corrections** and the **Springfield Missouri Police Department** each assume the proposal would have no fiscal impact on their respective agencies.

In response to a previous version of this proposal, officials from the **Office of Prosecution Services** and the **Department of Public Safety** each assume the proposal would have no fiscal impact on their respective agencies.

Officials from the **Office of the Attorney General** assume any potential costs arising from this proposal can be absorbed with existing resources.

Officials from the **Department of Social Services-Children's Division** states the Division does not anticipate a fiscal or programmatic impact based on the following:

Section 210.135.3: The Division now has a process in place in which to offer assistance to staff in cases where it might be likely that staff are traumatized. Staff may now be removed from duties, when appropriate, at the direction of the division director.

Section 210.145.4: Currently both initial and repeat calls undergo the same screening process at the child abuse neglect hotline, which is based on statutory definition and criteria. This legislation would not change screen criteria and would not create a fiscal or programmatic impact for the Division.

Section 210.145.6: The Child Abuse/Neglect Unit screening process contains scripted language to instruct callers to contact 911 in instances where the child may be in immediate danger.

Currently Division workers use their own judgment on when it is appropriate to leave documentation on attempted visits; however it is common practice not to leave documentation. The Division would agree that number 1, 2 and 4 are reasonable criteria for not leaving documentation. Number 3 "the alleged perpetrator will be alerted regarding the attempted visit" would be more difficult to assess or control. There are situations where it makes more sense to

ASSUMPTION (continued)

leave documentation for families to contact the Division as soon as possible, such as in situations where we are trying to locate a victim who may need medical treatment. Currently in such a case the threat to a child who does not receive needed medical treatment would be weighed against the likelihood that the perpetrator may be alerted and the surrounding circumstances that put the child at risk. The Division would not however anticipate a fiscal or programmatic impact with respect to this provision.

Currently the Children's Division uses the CS-24, Description of the Investigation Process, to comply with 210.183 RSMo., which provides that "At the time of the initial investigation of a report of child abuse or neglect, the Division employee conducting the investigation shall provide the alleged perpetrator with a written description of the investigation process." The CS-24 provides the alleged perpetrator with a description of the investigation process, the alleged perpetrator appeal process and a statement of consumer rights which includes a Legal representation at all stages of the investigation and subsequent proceedings. This written material may require minor modification to accommodate the provisions of this legislation as well as modification to Division policy; however the Division would not anticipate a fiscal impact.

<u>FISCAL IMPACT - State Government</u>	FY 2012 (10 Mo.)	FY 2013	FY 2014
	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>

<u>FISCAL IMPACT - Local Government</u>	FY 2012 (10 Mo.)	FY 2013	FY 2014
	<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.

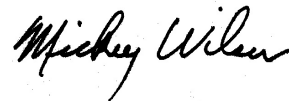
FISCAL DESCRIPTION

The proposed legislation appears to have no fiscal impact.

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 Attorney General  
Office of the State Courts Administrator  
Department of Corrections  
Department of Health and Senior Services  
Department of Social Services  
Department of Public Safety  
Missouri State Highway Patrol  
Office of Prosecution Services  
Boone County Sheriff's Department  
Springfield Missouri Police Department  
Jefferson City Police Department



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