

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

FISCAL NOTE

L.R. No.: 4881-01
Bill No.: HB 1261
Subject: Professional Registration and Licensing
Type: Original
Date: February 7, 2018

Bill Summary: This proposal requires a waiver of occupational fees for certain individuals.

FISCAL SUMMARY

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
General Revenue Fund	(\$71,892)	(\$71,892)	(\$71,892)
Total Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue	(\$71,892)	(\$71,892)	(\$71,892)

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON OTHER STATE FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
Various State Funds	Less than (\$6,000,000)	Less than (\$6,000,000)	Less than (\$6,000,000)
Missouri Public Health Services*	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Estimated Net Effect on Other State Funds	Less than (\$6,000,000)	Less than (\$6,000,000)	Less than (\$6,000,000)

*Transfer In and Loss Net to zero.

Numbers within parentheses: () indicate costs or losses. This fiscal note contains 9 pages.

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FEDERAL FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>All</u> Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FULL TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE)			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
Total Estimated Net Effect on FTE	0	0	0

Estimated Net Effect (expenditures or reduced revenues) expected to exceed \$100,000 in any of the three fiscal years after implementation of the act.

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
Local Government	(Unknown)	(Unknown)	(Unknown)

FISCAL ANALYSIS

ASSUMPTION

Officials from the **Department of Insurance, Financial Institutions and Professional Registration (DIFP)** assume this bill would add a new section 324.015 allowing low-income individuals, military families and young individuals to apply for waivers of occupational fees and any other fees associated with licensing requirements, and requires all state and political subdivision licensing authorities to waive those fees.

While the exact fiscal impact would be unknown and depend upon how many department licensees qualify as military families, low-income individuals and/or young individuals and how many of those individuals who do qualify would be aware of and apply for waiver, the department has prepared a fiscal estimate based upon 2016 US Census data which indicates 7% of Missourians are veterans and the 14% of Missourians are in poverty and department estimate of 4% of department licensees are young individuals . When applying these percentages to department licensees as potential waivers, it is estimated that department funds could decrease up to \$6,000,000 in each of the three fiscal years in this fiscal note should the bill become law.

Depending upon the current fund balance in impacted funds, the exact fee revenue lost and the effort needed to update department licensing systems and the extent of the change required to make our licensing processes compliant with the new waiver process (i.e. affidavits vs. income determinations, documentation of veteran's status, documentation of age, etc.), to meet the department's statutory requirements to process licenses and protect consumers, the department may be required to request general revenue or increase licensure fees for those licensees that do not qualify for the waiver to cover any funding shortfall. Again, it is unknown at this time to the exact extent each regulatory fund may be affected should the bill become law and the exact level of detail of documentation and system changes required to grant the waiver to the licensee.

The Department assumes these occupational fees do not include continuing education course fees, testing fees and other fees required in addition to licensure fees. If these fees are also meant to be included in the waiver, the fiscal impact would be much greater and also established national and vendor contracts would be need to be reestablished under the new law, as many vendors would not be able to give the tests and courses free of charge for the waived individuals. If individual businesses were meant to be allowed to receive waivers under this bill, there could be a much larger fiscal impact to the Department the form of reduced licensing fees collected though it is unknown how many of those business entities are operated by military families, low-income individuals and young individuals that would potentially be eligible for waivers under this bill.

ASSUMPTION (continued)

In summary, DIFP assumes an impact of up to a \$6,000,000 loss of revenue to Various State Funds.

Officials from the **Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS)** assume the following:

Division of Community and Public Health

The Division of Community and Public Health issues occupation licenses for the Onsite Wastewater Treatment Program (OWTP) and the Lead Licensing Program (LLP).

Based on data from the Missouri Census Data Center -ACS report it is estimated that potentially 25% of the population would be eligible for the waiver:

- 15.6% of Missouri residents are below the Federal Poverty Line.
- 10% of Missouri adults are veterans.
- 9.72% of the population is between the ages of 18 and 24.
- With a total 35.32% of the population meeting of these eligibilities, it is assumed for fiscal note purposes that 25% of those licensed by DCPH would be eligible for waiving the license fees, given that there will be overlap of eligibility between categories.

In FY17, LLP collected approximately \$86,400 in licensing fees that are deposited in the Missouri Public Health Services (MOPHS) Fund and used for program operations. Assuming 25% of applicants would receive a fee waiver as described above, LLP would lose \$21,600 in revenue to the MOPHS Fund that would have to be made up by a request in general revenue funds to continue program operations.

In FY17, OWTP collected approximately \$112,600 in licensing and training fees that are deposited in the MOPHS Fund and used for program operations. Assuming 25% of applicants would receive a fee waiver as described above, OWTP would lose \$28,150 annually from initial training and licensing. This number would continue to grow as the number of professionals increase each year. In addition, with the requirement of acquiring continuing education credits (CEUs) and renewing a license every three (3) years, there would be another \$9,000 per year lost to individuals not having to pay for CEUs or license renewal. This is a total of \$37,150 lost revenue for OWTP that would have to be made up from general revenue. Because CEUs can be obtained at DHSS or through outside groups approved by DHSS, there would likely be more individuals coming to DHSS to get the CEUs for free and not attending the courses offered by private companies. There is also an unknown cost to the amount of additional staff that may be needed to process a waiver instead of a payment.

ASSUMPTION (continued)

Division of Regulation and Licensure

The DRL's Board of Nursing Home Administrators (BNHA) collects fees associated with licensing nursing home administrators and residential care and assisted living administrators. For fiscal not purposes it is assumed that up to 10 percent of licensees would fall within the waiver criteria proposed within this legislation. In 2017, BNHC collected approximately \$131,415. The impact of this legislation could be a loss of revenue of unknown up to \$13,142 ($\$131,415 \times .10 = \$13,141.50$).

In summary, DHSS assumes a loss of income of \$71,892 to the General Revenue Fund in FY 2019, FY 2020 and FY 2021 and also a transfer of funds from the General Revenue Fund to the Missouri Public Health Service Fund of \$71,892 in FY 2019 and FY 2020 and \$27,920 in FY 2021 as a result of loss of licensing fees to the Missouri Public Health Service Fund.

Officials from the **St. Louis County Government** assume this legislation requires the County to provide unfunded services for certain categories of customers for free each ensuing year if this bill becomes law. Research and burden of proof will be even a bigger burden on the agency than just a typical license renewal.

Budgets are prepared based on expected revenue. This bill would reduce the revenue collected to provide licensing services proportionally related to the number of customers who are eligible under this bill to obtain the services for free. The exact number is unknown but fees would have to be increased on other customers to make up for this short fall of revenue created by free service for some.

Officials from the **City of Springfield** assume there will be a negative fiscal impact to the City of Springfield, MO; the financial impact cannot be determined without knowing how many military families, low-income individuals and individuals between the age of 18 and 25 that will purchase or renew occupational licenses, however, the loss is likely less than \$100,000.

Officials from the **City of Kansas City** assume legislation could have a negative fiscal impact on Kansas City in an indeterminate amount because subsection 4 of such legislation could be interpreted by a court to apply only to application fees and therefore the provisions of subsection 2 would apply to Kansas City thus not allowing Kansas City to charge occupational licensing fees for military families, low-income individuals and young individuals.

ASSUMPTION (continued)

Oversight assumes this proposal will have an effect on all local political subdivisions and, based upon Kansas City's response, will reflect a negative unknown - potentially substantial fiscal impact to local political subdivisions as a result of this proposal.

Officials from the **Joint Committee on Administrative Rules** state this legislation is not anticipated to cause a fiscal impact beyond its current appropriation.

Officials from the **Office of the Secretary of State (SOS)** assume 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 Secretary of State's Office for Administrative Rules is less than \$2,500. The SOS recognizes that this is a small amount and does not expect that additional funding would be required to meet these costs. However, we also recognize 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 our office can sustain with our core budget. Therefore, we reserve 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.

Oversight assumes the SOS could absorb the costs of printing and distributing regulations related to this proposal. If multiple bills pass which require the printing and distribution of regulations at substantial costs, the SOS could request funding through the appropriation process.

Officials from the **Department of Public Safety - Office of the Director**, the **Department of Mental Health**, the **Department of Social Services**, the **Department of Natural Resources** and the **Department of Agriculture** each assume the proposal will have no fiscal impact on their respective organizations.

Oversight has no information regarding the percentage of license holders that would qualify for this two-year exemption. Oversight assumes the percentage of license holders that would qualify as a "low-income individual" is not as high as the general population as assumed by DIFP (14%), but we do not have better data to put forth an estimate. Therefore, Oversight will assume a fiscal impact to license fee revenue of "less than" the estimate provided by DIFP.

<u>FISCAL IMPACT - State Government</u>	FY 2019 (10 Mo.)	FY 2020	FY 2021
GENERAL REVENUE FUND			
<u>Loss - DHSS</u> Reduced revenue due to waiver - Nursing Home Administrators	(\$13,142)	(\$13,142)	(\$13,142)
<u>Transfer Out - to Missouri Public Health Service Fund - DHSS</u> Reduce revenue due to waiver	(\$58,750)	(\$58,750)	(\$58,750)
ESTIMATED NET EFFECT TO THE GENERAL REVENUE FUND	<u>(\$71,892)</u>	<u>(\$71,892)</u>	<u>(\$71,892)</u>
VARIOUS STATE FUNDS			
<u>Loss - DIFP</u> Loss of Licensing Fees	Less than <u>(\$6,000,000)</u>	Less than <u>(\$6,000,000)</u>	Less than <u>(\$6,000,000)</u>
ESTIMATED NET EFFECT TO VARIOUS STATE FUNDS	<u>Less than (\$6,000,000)</u>	<u>Less than (\$6,000,000)</u>	<u>Less than (\$6,000,000)</u>
MISSOURI PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES FUND			
<u>Transfer In - from the General Revenue Fund - DHSS</u>	\$58,750	\$58,750	\$58,750
<u>Loss - DHSS</u> Reduced revenue due to waiver -LLP and OWTP	(\$58,750)	(\$58,750)	(\$58,750)
ESTIMATED NET EFFECT TO MISSOURI PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE FUND	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>

<u>FISCAL IMPACT - Local Government</u>	FY 2019 (10 Mo.)	FY 2020	FY 2021
LOCAL POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS			
<u>Loss</u> - of Licensing Fees	<u>(Unknown)</u>	<u>(Unknown)</u>	<u>(Unknown)</u>
ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS	<u>(Unknown)</u>	<u>(Unknown)</u>	<u>(Unknown)</u>

FISCAL IMPACT - Small Business

Positive impact on those businesses that have employees meeting qualifications for the exemption if the business reimburses the employee for the occupational license.

FISCAL DESCRIPTION

This bill requires all state and local licensing boards or entities to waive any fees charged to obtain or renew occupational licenses for military families, low-income individuals, and individuals between the ages of 18 and 25.

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 Insurance, Financial Institutions and Professional Registration
Department of Public Safety
Office of the Secretary of State
Joint Committee on Administrative Rules
Department of Health and Senior Services
Department of Natural Resources
Department of Agriculture
Department of Social Services
Department of Mental Health
City of Kansas City
St. Louis County Government
City of Springfield
St. Louis County Government

Ross Strope



Acting Director
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