

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH  
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

**FISCAL NOTE**

L.R. No.: 0819-01  
Bill No.: Perfected SJR 8  
Subject: Education, Elementary and Secondary; Bonds - General Obligation  
Type: Original  
Date: March 28, 2007

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Bill Summary: Proposes a constitutional amendment to elevate the allowable level of bonded indebtedness for school districts from 15% to 20%.

**FISCAL SUMMARY**

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND</b>			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010
<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 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010
<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 2008</b>	<b>FY 2009</b>	<b>FY 2010</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 2008</b>	<b>FY 2009</b>	<b>FY 2010</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 2008</b>	<b>FY 2009</b>	<b>FY 2010</b>
<b>Local Government</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

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## **FISCAL ANALYSIS**

### ASSUMPTION

Officials from the **Office of the Secretary of State (SOS)** assume many joint resolutions are considered by the General Assembly that would require the SOS 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. The SOS is provided with core funding to handle a certain amount of normal activity resulting from each year's legislative session. Funding for this item is adjusted each year depending upon the election cycle with \$1.6 million historically appropriated in even numbered fiscal years and \$100,000 appropriated in odd numbered fiscal years to meet these requirements. The appropriation has historically been an estimated appropriation because the final cost is dependent upon the number of ballot measures approved by the General Assembly and the initiative petitions certified for the ballot. In FY 2006 at the August and November elections there were 6 statewide Constitutional Amendments or ballot propositions that cost \$1 million to publish (an average of \$167,000 per issue). Therefore, the SOS assumes, for the purposes of this fiscal note, that it should have the full appropriation authority it needs to meet the publishing requirements. However, because these requirements are mandatory, SOS will request funding to meet the cost of our publishing requirements if the Governor and the General Assembly change the amount or eliminate the estimated nature of the appropriation.

According to officials from the **Department of Elementary and Secondary Education**, the proposal would increase the aggregate bond limit of school districts by billions of dollars. The actual effects of this proposal at the local level are dependent on the actions of the local school board in each district presenting bond issues to the voters and the actions of their local voters in approving or defeating proposed bond issues.

School districts cannot enter into general obligation bond debt without a super majority voter approval. There is the potential for significant increases in debt obligations that have to be paid for by the taxpayers of a district. The protection is that a school board cannot just decide to sell bonds for a particular project. The school board must get voter approval and the super majority level depends upon which election the issue is presented to the voters.

For some districts, 15% of their assessed valuation would not provide enough bonding capacity to do the classroom additions or new building that may be needed. Raising the limit to 20% offers the potential for more bonding capacity subject to voter approval.

**Oversight** assumes that the proposed constitutional amendment, if approved by the voters, only gives school districts the option of increasing the level of bond indebtedness and requires a local

ASSUMPTION (continued)

election to do so. Therefore, no estimate of fiscal impact to school districts is assigned.

Officials from the following school districts indicated there would be no fiscal impact to their districts resulting from this proposal: **Maryville, Parkway, and Independence.**

Officials from the **Fair Grove School District** state this proposal would fiscally impact their district by \$2.7 million in being able to increase bonds to build classrooms.

<u>FISCAL IMPACT - State Government</u>	FY 2008 (10 Mo.)	FY 2009	FY 2010
	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
<u>FISCAL IMPACT - Local Government</u>	FY 2008 (10 Mo.)	FY 2009	FY 2010
	<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

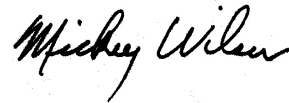
The proposed legislation appears to have no fiscal impact.

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

Department of Elementary and Secondary Education  
Office of Secretary of State  
Elections Division

School Districts  
Maryville  
Fair Grove  
Parkway  
Independence



Mickey Wilson, CPA  
Director  
March 28, 2007