

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH  
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

**FISCAL NOTE**

L.R. No.: 5601-02  
Bill No.: SCS for SB 758  
Subject: Children and Minors; Social Services Dept.; Family Law  
Type: Original  
Date: April 13, 2012

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Bill Summary: Changes the laws regarding hotline calls and investigations of child abuse and neglect to the Children's Division.

**FISCAL SUMMARY**

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND</b>			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015
<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 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015
<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 2013</b>	<b>FY 2014</b>	<b>FY 2015</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 2013</b>	<b>FY 2014</b>	<b>FY 2015</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 2013</b>	<b>FY 2014</b>	<b>FY 2015</b>
<b>Local Government</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

## FISCAL ANALYSIS

### ASSUMPTION

Officials from the **Office of State Courts Administrator, Department of Corrections and Department of Public Safety - Missouri State Highway Patrol** assume the proposal will have no fiscal impact on their organizations.

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

Officials from the **Office of Prosecution Services (OPS)** assume the proposal will have no measurable fiscal impact on the OPS.

In response to the prior version of this proposal, officials from the **Boone County Sheriff's Department, Jefferson City Police Department and Springfield Police Department** assumed the proposal will have no fiscal impact on their organizations.

Officials from the **Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS)** did not respond to **Oversight's** request for a statement of fiscal impact. However, in response to the earlier version of this proposal, officials from the DHSS assumed the proposal would have no fiscal impact on their organization.

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

Section 210.135.3 - The CD 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.

In 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.

ASSUMPTION (continued)

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 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 CD does 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 proposal as well as modification to Division policy; however, the CD would not anticipate a fiscal impact.

<u>FISCAL IMPACT - State Government</u>	FY 2013 (10 Mo.)	FY 2014	FY 2015
	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>

<u>FISCAL IMPACT - Local Government</u>	FY 2013 (10 Mo.)	FY 2014	FY 2015
	<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

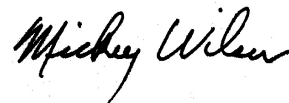
The proposed legislation appears to have no fiscal impact.

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 Attorney General  
Office of State Courts Administrator  
Department of Corrections  
Department of Social Services -  
    Children's Division  
Department of Public Safety -  
    Missouri State Highway Patrol  
Office of Prosecution Services  
Boone County Sheriff's Department  
Jefferson City Police Department  
Springfield Police Department

**NOT RESPONDING: Department of Health and Senior Services**



Mickey Wilson, CPA  
Director  
April 13, 2012