

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH  
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

**FISCAL NOTE**

L.R. No.: 0147-03  
Bill No.: SCS for SB 18  
Subject: Business and Commerce; Revenue Department; Taxation and Revenue - Sales and Use  
Type: Original  
Date: February 2, 2015

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Bill Summary: This proposal would require the Department of Revenue to notify sellers if there is a change in sales tax law interpretation.

**FISCAL SUMMARY**

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND</b>			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018
General Revenue	(Less than \$425,394)	(Less than \$435,213)	(Less than \$445,547)
<b>Total Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue</b>	<b>(Less than \$425,394)</b>	<b>(Less than \$435,213)</b>	<b>(Less than \$445,547)</b>

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON OTHER STATE FUNDS</b>			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018
<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 7 pages.

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FEDERAL FUNDS</b>			
<b>FUND AFFECTED</b>	<b>FY 2016</b>	<b>FY 2017</b>	<b>FY 2018</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 2016</b>	<b>FY 2017</b>	<b>FY 2018</b>
General Revenue	1 FTE	1 FTE	1 FTE
<b>Total Estimated Net Effect on FTE</b>	<b>1 FTE</b>	<b>1 FTE</b>	<b>1 FTE</b>

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

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL FUNDS</b>			
<b>FUND AFFECTED</b>	<b>FY 2016</b>	<b>FY 2017</b>	<b>FY 2018</b>
<b>Local Government</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

## FISCAL ANALYSIS

### ASSUMPTION

Officials from the **Department of Revenue (DOR)** assume this proposal would require the department to notify all affected businesses if the department, the Administrative Hearing Commission, or a court of competent jurisdiction changes the sales tax due on sales of tangible personal property or taxable services.

#### Fiscal impact

DOR officials assume there would be no tax due until the seller receives notification of a tax decision unless the seller had not been selling the product or service at the time of the decision, and stated this provision would allow any seller of a new product, or a product for which no express decision of taxability has been made, to avoid sales tax liability until notified of the collection requirements. DOR officials assume the notification requirement would reduce Total State Revenue by an unknown amount.

Officials from the **Office of Administration - Division of Budget and Planning (B&P)** assume this proposal could decrease total state revenues by an unknown amount but would not impact the calculation under Article X, Section 18(e).

BAP officials noted this proposal would require the DOR to notify sellers of any change in sales tax law that results from a decision by the DOR, the Administrative Hearing Commission, or a court, and the proposal would relieve the seller of any obligation to collect and remit tax until such notification is received. B&P officials stated that DOR has estimated this proposal would reduce Total State Revenue by an unknown amount.

**Oversight** does not have any way to estimate the number of decisions or the amount of sales tax due that might be affected by this provision; however, Oversight assumes the proposed waiver of liability for taxes would only apply to businesses actively selling the type of tangible personal property or service affected by the decision on the date the decision is made or handed down. Oversight assumes the waiver would not apply to any seller that has previously remitted tax on the tangible personal property or taxable services subject to the decision, nor to any business that had prior notice that the seller must collect and remit the tax. Accordingly, any prospective revenue reduction from the notification requirement would appear to be minimal and Oversight will not include a revenue reduction in this fiscal note.

ASSUMPTION (continued)

Administrative impact

**DOR** officials noted the legislation would result in increased personnel and postage costs to the Department in excess of \$500,000 per year; however, they also noted this version of the legislation would give DOR the ability to notify taxpayers through a secure electronic means of direct communication. Upon implementation of a secure electronic portal in conjunction with the Department's new integrated system, future mailing costs could be less.

**DOR** officials assume Collections and Tax Assistance (CATA) would have additional customer contacts with questions on letters received by customers, and would require one additional Revenue Processing Technician I (Range 10, Step L) for additional contacts to the registration section and tax assistance offices. Each technician would require CARES equipment and license.

DOR officials noted the Department does not maintain information regarding items sold by each business, and assume Sales Tax would need to notify approximately 140,000 businesses registered for sales and use tax in Missouri any time the state sales tax requirements change. DOR officials assume the notifications could be required up to five times per year, depending on the types of cases heard by the courts. The Department is unsure how it would notify businesses that sell taxable tangible personal property or services but are not currently registered for sales tax or use tax reporting.

DOR officials estimated the annual cost of notifications as (140,000 businesses x 5 notices per year) = 700,000 mailings per year, costing (700,000 mailings per year x \$0.555 cost per notice) \$388,500.

**Oversight** does not have information as to the number of decisions by the Department of Revenue, the Administrative Hearing Commission, or the courts regarding sales tax issues, but assumes the mandatory notification requirement could result in significant additional cost to DOR. Oversight assumes existing periodic communication with sellers of goods and taxable services would meet the mandatory notification requirement in this legislation for registered sellers and reduce the cost of implementing this proposal. Oversight also assumes DOR would not be required to directly contact unregistered businesses regarding sales or use tax decisions; the Department could notify unregistered merchants of sales tax program changes through notifications for other DOR programs, in publications, and on the DOR website. Oversight assumes the mailing cost to implement this proposal would be less than the DOR estimate.

ASSUMPTION (continued)

**DOR** officials assume Sales Tax would not need additional staff to issue the notifications, but up to 40 hours of overtime may be required, and the Department would need computer programming by ITSD to create a notifications process. Finally, DOR officials assume the notifications may result in additional contacts from taxpayers.

The DOR estimate of cost to implement this provision including one additional employee, the related benefits, equipment and expense, and the cost of mailing five notifications per year to businesses totaled \$430,240 for FY 2016, \$440,906 for FY 2017, and \$451,304 for FY 2018.

**Oversight** assumes the DOR estimate of expense and equipment cost for the new FTE could be overstated. If DOR is able to use existing desks, file cabinets, chairs, etc., the estimate for equipment could be reduced by roughly \$6,000 per new employee.

**Oversight** has, for fiscal note purposes only, changed the starting salary for the additional employee to correspond to the second step above minimum for comparable positions in the state's merit system pay grid. This decision reflects a study of actual starting salaries for new state employees and policy of the Oversight Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Legislative Research. Oversight has also adjusted the DOR estimate of equipment and expense in accordance with OA budget guidelines. Finally, Oversight assumes a limited number of additional employees could be accommodated in existing office space.

IT impact

**DOR** officials provided an estimate of the IT cost to implement this proposal of \$5,994 based on 79.92 hours of contractor programming to make changes to DOR systems.

**Oversight** assumes OA - ITSD (DOR) is provided with core funding to handle a certain amount of activity each year and will assume for fiscal note purposes OA - ITSD (DOR) could absorb the costs related to this proposal. If multiple bills pass which require additional staffing and duties at substantial costs, OA - ITSD (DOR) could request additional funding through the budget process.

Officials from the **Joint Committee on Administrative Rules** assume this proposal would not have a fiscal impact to their organization.

ASSUMPTION (continued)

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.

<u>FISCAL IMPACT - State Government</u>	FY 2016 (10 Mo.)	FY 2017	FY 2018
<b>GENERAL REVENUE FUND</b>			
<u>Cost - Department of Revenue</u>			
Salaries	(\$20,321)	(\$24,283)	(\$24,526)
Benefits	(\$10,089)	(\$12,107)	(\$12,228)
Equipment and expense	(\$6,484)	(\$610)	(\$625)
	(Less than	(Less than	(Less than
Printing and mailing	<u>\$388,500)</u>	<u>\$398,213)</u>	<u>\$408,168)</u>
<u>Total cost</u>	(Less than	(Less than	(Less than
	<u>\$425,394)</u>	<u>\$435,213)</u>	<u>\$445,547)</u>
Estimated FTE Change - Department of Revenue	1 FTE	1 FTE	1 FTE
<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND</b>	<b>(Less than</b> <b><u>\$425,394)</u></b>	<b>(Less than</b> <b><u>\$435,213)</u></b>	<b>(Less than</b> <b><u>\$445,547)</u></b>
Estimated Net FTE Effect on General Revenue Fund	1 FTE	1 FTE	1 FTE

<u>FISCAL IMPACT - Local Government</u>	FY 2016 (10 Mo.)	FY 2017	FY 2018
	<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.

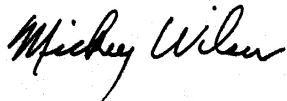
FISCAL DESCRIPTION

The proposed legislation would require the Department of Revenue to notify sellers if there is a change in sales tax law interpretation.

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 Secretary of State  
Joint Committee on Administrative Rules  
Office of Administration  
    Division of Budget and Planning  
Department of Revenue



Mickey Wilson, CPA  
Director  
February 2, 2015

Ross Strobe  
Assistant Director  
February 2, 2015