

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH  
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

**FISCAL NOTE**

L.R. No.: 1001-03  
Bill No.: SB 257  
Subject: Taxation and Revenue - Property; Utilities  
Type: Original  
Date: February 28, 2017

---

Bill Summary: This proposal allows telephone companies to select an alternate method of property tax assessment.

**FISCAL SUMMARY**

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND</b>			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
<b>Total Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON OTHER STATE FUNDS</b>			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
Blind Pension Fund	\$0	(Up to \$91,235)	(Up to \$91,235)
<b>Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>Other</u> State Funds</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>(Up to \$91,235)</b>	<b>(Up to \$91,235)</b>

Numbers within parentheses: ( ) indicate costs or losses.

This fiscal note contains 6 pages.

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FEDERAL FUNDS</b>			
<b>FUND AFFECTED</b>	<b>FY 2018</b>	<b>FY 2019</b>	<b>FY 2020</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 2018</b>	<b>FY 2019</b>	<b>FY 2020</b>
<b>Total Estimated Net Effect on FTE</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</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 2018</b>	<b>FY 2019</b>	<b>FY 2020</b>
<b>Local Government</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>(Up to \$6,091,762)</b>	<b>(Up to \$6,091,762)</b>

## FISCAL ANALYSIS

### ASSUMPTION

Officials from the **State Tax Commission (TAX)** estimate the fiscal impact to local taxing jurisdictions (cities, counties, fire districts, etc) will be \$3,045,880 to \$6,091,762. The proposal has provisions which provide that school districts are held harmless from the reductions in assessed valuations in telecommunications. School districts represent 66% of property tax liability. The State Tax Commission estimate is based on the following:

- Total Assessed Valuation of Telephone Companies valued by TAX: **\$608,233,531**
- Current Tax Dollars Generated (based on average levy of \$6.07): **\$36,919,775**
- Projected Range of Assessed Value if proposed legislation enacted: **\$304,116,765 - \$456,175,148**
- Fiscal Impact (Potential Revenue Loss) to the taxing districts in Missouri: **\$3,045,880- \$6,091,762**
- Fiscal Impact (Potential Revenue Loss) to the Blind Pension Fund (based on a tax levy of \$.03): **\$45,618-\$91,235**

Officials from the **Department of Revenue** and the **Office of the State Auditor** each assume the proposal will have no fiscal impact on their respective organizations.

Officials from the **County of Boone** notes that in 2016, Century Tel paid \$819,583 in county property taxes. This would be reduced, under SB 257, by 20%, shifting the tax burden from the entity to the citizens of the County for a fiscal impact of \$164,000 - 205,000. Also in 2016, Century Tel paid \$13.5 million in State property taxes. SB 257 would likewise shift the tax burden, of \$2.7 million - \$3.5 million from the entity to the citizens.

Officials from the **West Plains Public School District** and the **Forsyth R-II School District** each assume the proposal will have a negative unknown fiscal impact on public schools.

Officials from the **Kirksville Public School District** and the **Kansas City Public School District** each assume the proposal will have no fiscal impact on their respective organizations.

ASSUMPTION (continued)

**Oversight** assumes there are many variables that could change the fiscal impact of this proposal, including:

- Not all local political subdivisions' property tax rates are at their ceiling. Therefore, if the assessed valuation of telephone companies is decreased as a result of this proposal, local political subdivisions may be able to increase their tax rate to make up the difference. In this scenario, all other property tax owners in the political subdivision would pay more in property tax to make up the decrease in taxes paid by telephone companies.
- If a local political subdivision's tax levy is already at the ceiling allowed, then the local political subdivision will realize a decrease in tax revenue if a telephone company within its political subdivision pays less property taxes as a result of this proposal.
- If a school district's tax levy is below its ceiling, but some other political subdivisions (county, library, fire protection, etc.) are already at their ceiling, then the property tax levy could be increased for some political subdivisions, but not for others, resulting in some realizing a loss in property taxes, and others not.
- If a school district is paid less in property tax from a telephone company as a result of this bill, that school district is then allowed to directly bill a fee to the telephone company for the difference, which may result in the school district being held harmless.
- Oversight has no information regarding in what school districts the \$608,233,531 assessed valuation of telephone companies is situated, and subsequently, if the school districts are at (or close to) their property tax levy ceilings. The loss estimate provided by the State Tax Commission is a state aggregate.

Because of the several unknown variables listed above, Oversight, will simply reflect a range of "Up to" the State Tax Commission's largest estimated loss.

<u>FISCAL IMPACT - State Government</u>	FY 2018 (10 Mo.)	FY 2019	FY 2020
<b>BLIND PENSION FUND</b>			
<u>Loss - Reduction of Property Tax Collections</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>(Up to \$91,235)</u>	<u>(Up to \$91,235)</u>
<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON THE BLIND PENSION FUND</b>	<b><u>\$0</u></b>	<b><u>(Up to \$91,235)</u></b>	<b><u>(Up to \$91,235)</u></b>

<u>FISCAL IMPACT - Local Government</u>	FY 2018 (10 Mo.)	FY 2019	FY 2020
<b>LOCAL POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS</b>			
<u>Income - School Districts - are allowed to bill telephone companies to recoup loss in property tax revenue resulting from bill</u>		\$0 or Unknown	\$0 or Unknown
<u>Loss - Reduction of Property Tax Collections Loss</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>(Up to \$6,091,762)</u>	<u>(Up to \$6,091,762)</u>
<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS</b>	<b><u>\$0</u></b>	<b><u>(Up to \$6,091,762)</u></b>	<b><u>(Up to \$6,091,762)</u></b>

FISCAL IMPACT - Small Business

No direct fiscal impact to small businesses would be expected as a result of this proposal.

FISCAL DESCRIPTION

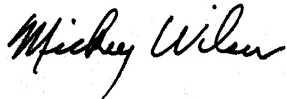
Currently, a telephone company has their tangible personal property assessed in the same manner as a railroad. This bill allows a telephone company to annually elect to have their tangible personal property assessed in accordance with depreciation schedules. The proposal also allows school districts that realize a reduction in property taxes as a result of this change, to bill the telephone company for the reduction.

This legislation is not federally mandated, would not duplicate any other program and would not require additional capital improvements or rental space.

L.R. No. 1001-03  
Bill No. SB 257  
Page 6 of 6  
February 28, 2017

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

State Tax Commission  
Office of the State Auditor  
Department of Revenue  
West Plains Public School District  
Kirksville Public School District  
Forsyth Public School District  
Kansas City Public School District



Mickey Wilson, CPA  
Director  
February 28, 2017

Ross Strobe  
Assistant Director  
February 28, 2017