

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

FISCAL NOTE

L.R. No.: 5187-02
Bill No.: SB 996
Subject: Children and Minors; Education, elementary and secondary; Elementary and Secondary Education, Department of; Teachers; Telecommunications
Type: Original
Date: March 10, 2020

Bill Summary: This proposal modifies provisions related to the virtual school program.

FISCAL SUMMARY

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
General Revenue	Could exceed (\$606,034)	Could exceed (\$611,724)	Could exceed (\$1,402,917)
Total Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue	Could exceed (\$606,034)	Could exceed (\$611,724)	Could exceed (\$1,402,917)

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON OTHER STATE FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>Other</u> State Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0

Numbers within parentheses: () indicate costs or losses.

This fiscal note contains 9 pages.

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FEDERAL FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>All</u> Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FULL TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE)			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
General Revenue	3 FTE	3 FTE	3 FTE
Total Estimated Net Effect on FTE	3 FTE	3 FTE	3 FTE

☒ 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 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
Local Government	(Unknown) to Could exceed \$345,475	(Unknown) to Could exceed \$345,475	(Unknown) to Could exceed \$1,063,000

FISCAL ANALYSIS

ASSUMPTION

Officials at the **Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE)** assume:

Hearing Costs

§ 161.670.3(2), RSMo, now requires DESE to approve or disapprove the enrollment of all students in Missouri Course Access Program (MOCAP). If DESE disapproves a student's request to enroll based on the best educational interests of the student, the student and student's family may now appeal the denial to the Missouri State Board of Education (State Board). The State Board is now required to issue a decision in writing in 30 calendar days.

Based on this proposed language, the Office of Governmental Affairs estimates costs of less than \$100,000. These costs which will be dependent on the number of hearing appeals the State Board receives from students and families, include but are not limited to:

- Hearing officer time for pre-hearing preparation, hearing, and drafting recommendations for the State Board;
- Administrative assistant time to schedule hearings, provide notice to parties, and any settlement negotiations;
- Court reporter costs; and
- State Board costs, which include:
 - Board member per diems
 - Emergency Board meeting costs

For cost explanation purposes, the average cost for a teacher discipline hearing is \$566.55/hearing:

- Average of 3 hours of hearing officer time x average of \$58.08/hour
- Average of 7 hours administrative assistant time x \$31.08/hour
- Average of \$174.75 in court reporter costs/hearing.

Student Costs

Under §161.670, current full-time provider indicates an enrollment of 325. The department expects this legislation could increase enrollment up to 1,000.

ASSUMPTION (continued)

Payments to Providers

Current

325 students x \$6,375 = \$2,071,875 Total payment to full-time provider(s)

Future

1000 student x \$6,375 = \$6,375,000 Total future payment to full-time providers

There is also a potential for 3 FTE to be added to current staff.

1 FTE. - Supervisor per 300 students

1 FTE. - Administrative Assistant per 2 registrars

1 FTE. - Data Specialist

Reduced Transfers to districts

2018-2019 State Funding	\$4,347,446,561
2018-2019 Regular Term ADA ¹	818,473
Total State Revenue per pupil by regular term ADA	\$5,312

Current

325 students x \$5,312 = \$1,726,400 savings to the formula

Future

1000 student x \$5,312 = \$5,312,000 savings to the formula

Between increased costs for virtual education and reduced funding to schools for those same students, **Oversight** assumes DESE will see a cost increase for student funding of \$345,475 in FY 21-22, and \$1,063,000 in FY 23.

DESE estimates this bill could increase the number of students using online education from 325 to 1,000 in FY 2023. **Oversight** will show the cost to payment providers and savings in state aid payments to districts as estimated by DESE.

In response to the very similar HB 2491 (2020), officials at the **Shell Knob School District** assumed that bill had a negative fiscal impact on their district.

ASSUMPTION (continued)

In response to the very similar HB 2491 (2020), officials at the **Smithville Public School District** stated that the portion of the bill that concerns me is "the program of the student's choice". They stated there is one online provider in particular that is 4 times more expensive than the other partners they have. To enroll a student full time in MOVA is approximately \$6,300 per year. If all of their students currently taking online classes with their preferred vendors made this choice, they would currently be paying \$63,000 which is equivalent to a full-time teacher. As online programs become more popular, these fees will increase and are not sustainable by small districts like them.

In response to the very similar HB 2491 (2020), officials at the **Wellsville-Middletown R-I** school district assumed the changes in this bill look like they may have a positive fiscal impact on their district.

Because local responses indicated the bill would either save or cost school districts money, **Oversight** will show (\$1,726,400) to Unknown FY 21-22, and (\$5,312,000) funding reductions to locals, less districts saving payments to providers of Could exceed \$2,071,875 in FY 21-22 and Could exceed \$6,375,000 in FY 23. Oversight will also show (\$0 or Unknown) cost of civil penalties for their noncompliance. That leaves school districts with (Unknown) to Could exceed \$345,475 savings in FY 21-22, and (Unknown) to Could exceed \$1,063,000 savings in FY 21-22

<u>FISCAL IMPACT - State Government</u>	FY 2021 (10 Mo.)	FY 2022	FY 2023
GENERAL REVENUE			
<u>Cost - §161.670</u>			
Salaries	(\$79,620)	(\$96,499)	(\$136,536)
Fringe Benefits	(\$55,242)	(\$66,607)	(\$91,424)
Equipment and Expense	<u>(\$25,697)</u>	<u>(\$3,143)</u>	<u>(\$11,957)</u>
<u>Total Cost - DESE</u>	<u>(\$160,559)</u>	<u>(\$166,249)</u>	<u>(\$239,917)</u>
FTE Change - DESE	3 FTE	3 FTE	3 FTE
<u>Cost -§161.670.3(2) - Hearing costs</u>	(\$100,000)	(\$100,000)	(\$100,000)
<u>Cost -§161.670 - payments to providers</u>	Could exceed (\$2,071,875)	Could exceed (\$2,071,875)	Could exceed (\$6,375,000)
<u>Savings - §161.670 - reduced payments to districts</u>	Could exceed <u>\$1,726,400</u>	Could exceed <u>\$1,726,400</u>	Could exceed <u>\$5,312,000</u>
ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE	Could exceed <u>(\$606,034)</u>	Could exceed <u>(\$611,724)</u>	Could exceed <u>(\$1,402,917)</u>
Estimated Net FTE Change on General Revenue	3 FTE	3 FTE	3 FTE

<u>FISCAL IMPACT - Local Government</u>	FY 2021 (10 Mo.)	FY 2022	FY 2023
SCHOOL DISTRICTS			
<u>Transfer</u> - Reduction in state revenue transfer to districts	Could exceed (\$1,726,400)	Could exceed (\$1,726,400)	Could exceed (\$5,312,000)
<u>Savings</u> - Reduction in payments to providers	Could exceed \$2,071,875	Could exceed \$2,071,875	Could exceed \$6,375,000
<u>Cost</u> - Civil penalties	(\$0 or <u>Unknown</u>)	(\$0 or <u>Unknown</u>)	(\$0 or <u>Unknown</u>)
SCHOOL DISTRICTS NET DIRECT FISCAL IMPACT	(Unknown) to Could exceed <u>\$345,475</u>	(Unknown) to Could exceed <u>\$345,475</u>	(Unknown) to Could exceed <u>\$1,063,000</u>

FISCAL IMPACT - Small Business

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

FISCAL DESCRIPTION

Currently, for purposes of calculation and distribution of state school aid, all students enrolled in the Missouri Course Access and Virtual School Program shall be included in the student enrollment of the school district in which the student physically is enrolled. This bill specifies that, full-time equivalent students shall not be included in the student enrollment of the school district in which such student resides. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) shall pay any Missouri Course Access and Virtual School Program 100% of its average per-pupil expenditure for each full-time equivalent student.

Currently, a school district or charter school is required to allow any eligible student who resides in such district to enroll in Missouri Course Access and Virtual School Program courses if, prior to enrolling in any such course, a student has received approval from his or her school district or charter school. The bill allows, such student to enroll in virtual courses if the student has received approval from DESE. DESE, rather than each school district or charter school, shall adopt a policy that delineates the process by which a student may enroll in courses provided by the Missouri Course Access and Virtual School Program. If DESE denies a student's request to enroll in such a course, local education agencies shall inform the student and the student's

FISCAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

family of their right to appeal any denial to the State Board of Education, rather than to the local school district board or charter school governing body.

Currently, if a school district or charter school denies a student's enrollment in a virtual course, such school shall provide its good cause justification for denial. Both the family and school administration shall also provide their reasons in writing to the members of the school board or governing body and the documents shall be entered into the official board minutes.

The bill specifies that, DESE shall provide its good cause justification for denying a student's enrollment in a virtual course. Both the family and DESE shall provide their reasons in writing to the State Board, and members of the State Board, rather than the school board or governing body, shall issue their decision in writing within 30 days. The bill repeals the provision allowing for an appeal to be made to DESE.

Currently, costs associated with such virtual courses are to be paid by the school district or charter school directly on a pro rata monthly basis based on a student's completion of assignments and assessments. The bill specifies that, costs shall be paid by the school district or charter school, or by DESE for full-time equivalent students, to the provider on a pro rata basis once per semester based on a student's completion of assignments and assessments.

Currently, school districts or charter schools are required to consider recommendations from DESE and evaluate the progress of enrolled students who are enrolled in any course or full-time virtual school, and may terminate or alter the course offering if it is found that the course or full-time virtual school is not meeting the educational needs of the students. The bill grants DESE the authority to terminate or alter the course offering for full-time equivalent students, and the responsibility of school districts and charter schools to monitor full-time student progress and success is repealed.

School districts or charter schools are required currently, to inform parents of their child's right to participate in the virtual schools program. The bill specifies that, any school district or charter school that fails to notify parents of his or her child's right to participate in the program shall be subject to civil penalties in an amount equal to \$100 for each day such school district or charter school is in violation of this requirement, including reasonable attorney's fees.

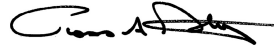
This legislation is not federally mandated, would not duplicate any other program and would not require additional capital improvements or rental space.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE)
Shell Knob School District
Smithville Public School District
Wellsville-Middletown R-I



Julie Morff
Director
March 10, 2020



Ross Strobe
Assistant Director
March 10, 2020