

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH  
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

**FISCAL NOTE**

L.R. No.: 0257S.03I  
Bill No.: SB 68  
Subject: Cities, Towns and Villages; Counties; County Government; Emergencies;  
Liability; Political Subdivisions; Religion; State Departments  
Type: Original  
Date: January 19, 2021

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Bill Summary: This proposal provides protections for the free exercise of religion during emergencies.

**FISCAL SUMMARY**

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND</b>			
<b>FUND AFFECTED</b>	<b>FY 2022</b>	<b>FY 2023</b>	<b>FY 2024</b>
<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>			
<b>FUND AFFECTED</b>	<b>FY 2022</b>	<b>FY 2023</b>	<b>FY 2024</b>
<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.

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FEDERAL FUNDS</b>			
<b>FUND AFFECTED</b>	<b>FY 2022</b>	<b>FY 2023</b>	<b>FY 2024</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 2022</b>	<b>FY 2023</b>	<b>FY 2024</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 \$250,000 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 2022</b>	<b>FY 2023</b>	<b>FY 2024</b>
<b>Local Government</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

## FISCAL ANALYSIS

### ASSUMPTION

Officials at the **City of Springfield** anticipates a negative fiscal impact of an unknown amount from this bill due to an increase in COVID-19 cases or other communicable disease outbreaks requiring disease investigation and contact tracing as a result of people not observing social distancing or other mitigation strategies in houses of worship.

Officials at the **Columbia/Boone County Public Health and Human Services** assume an unknown cost due to an increase in COVID-19 cases requiring disease investigation and contact tracing. It is impossible to estimate how many additional COVID-19 cases there will be as a result of religious organizations not abiding by social distancing.

**Oversight** notes it is currently the responsibility of local public health agencies (LPHAs) to conduct disease investigation and contact tracing regardless of whether a statewide emergency has been proclaimed by the governor. Oversight assumes that any potential costs that may be incurred as a result of this proposal would be indirect costs. Therefore, Oversight will present no fiscal impact for provisions of this proposal.

### Rule Promulgation

Officials from the **Joint Committee on Administrative Rules** assume this proposal is not anticipated to cause a fiscal impact beyond its current appropriation.

Officials from the **Office of the Secretary of State** notes many bills considered by the General Assembly include provisions allowing or requiring agencies to submit rules and regulations to implement the act. The Secretary of State's office 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 Secretary of State's office for Administrative Rules is less than \$5,000. The Secretary of State's office 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.

**Oversight** assumes the SOS could absorb the costs of printing and distributing regulations related to this proposal. If multiple bills pass which require the printing and distribution of regulations at substantial costs, the SOS could request funding through the appropriation process.

Officials from the **Attorney General's Office**, the **Office of Administration**, the **Office of the Governor**, the **Missouri House of Representatives** and the **Missouri Senate** each assume the proposal will have no fiscal impact on their respective organizations. **Oversight** does not have

any information to the contrary. Therefore, Oversight will reflect a zero impact in the fiscal note for these agencies.

Officials from the cities of **Ballwin, Kansas City, O’Fallon, Puxico, St. Louis City** and the **Newton County Health Department** each assume the proposal will have no fiscal impact on their respective organizations. **Oversight** does not have any information to the contrary. Therefore, Oversight will reflect a zero impact in the fiscal note for these agencies.

**Oversight** only reflects the responses that we have received from state agencies and political subdivisions; however, other cities and counties were requested to respond to this proposed legislation but did not. A general listing of political subdivisions included in our database is available upon request.

<u>FISCAL IMPACT – State Government</u>	FY 2022 (10 Mo.)	FY 2023	FY 2024
	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>

<u>FISCAL IMPACT – Local Government</u>	FY 2022 (10 Mo.)	FY 2023	FY 2024
	<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.

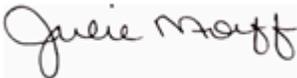
FISCAL DESCRIPTION

During an emergency related to an infectious, contagious, communicable, or dangerous disease, this act provides that the state, any state agency, political subdivision, county commission, county health board, or person is prohibited from enacting, adopting, maintaining, or enforcing measures that would restrict, directly or indirectly, the free exercise of religion. Additionally, a religious organization, as defined in the act, shall not be held liable for civil damages resulting from an exposure or potential exposure on the premises of the organization to a disease warranting the emergency unless the religious organization's actions are willful or wanton or grossly negligent.

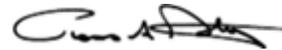
This legislation is not federally mandated, would not duplicate any other program and would not require additional capital improvements or rental space.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

City of Springfield  
Columbia/Boone County Public Health and Human Services  
Joint Committee on Administrative Rules  
Office of the Secretary of State  
Attorney General's Office  
Office of Administration  
Office of the Governor  
Missouri House of Representatives  
Missouri Senate  
City of Ballwin  
Kansas City  
City of O'Fallon  
City of Puxico  
St. Louis City  
Newton County Health Department



Julie Morff  
Director  
January 19, 2021



Ross Strobe  
Assistant Director  
January 19, 2021