

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH  
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

**FISCAL NOTE**

L.R. No.: 0788S.02I  
Bill No.: SB 198  
Subject: Department of Health and Senior Services; Vital Statistics; Victims of Crime  
Type: Original  
Date: February 8, 2023

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Bill Summary: This proposal modifies provisions relating to the waiver of fees for birth certificates for certain victims.

**FISCAL SUMMARY**

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND</b>			
<b>FUND AFFECTED</b>	<b>FY 2024</b>	<b>FY 2025</b>	<b>FY 2026</b>
<b>Total Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

Oversight assumes the loss of \$15 per birth certificate (issued to a person that qualifies under this bill) to the General Revenue Fund (\$4), Children’s Trust Fund (\$5), MOPHS Fund (\$5), and Endowed Care Cemetery Audit Fund (\$1) would not be a material amount and have not reflected a fiscal impact from this proposal.

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON OTHER STATE FUNDS</b>			
<b>FUND AFFECTED</b>	<b>FY 2024</b>	<b>FY 2025</b>	<b>FY 2026</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 2024</b>	<b>FY 2025</b>	<b>FY 2026</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 2024</b>	<b>FY 2025</b>	<b>FY 2026</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 or at full implementation of the act.
- Estimated Net Effect (savings or increased revenues) expected to exceed \$250,000 in any of the three fiscal years after implementation of the act or at full implementation of the act.

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL FUNDS</b>			
<b>FUND AFFECTED</b>	<b>FY 2024</b>	<b>FY 2025</b>	<b>FY 2026</b>
<b>Local Government</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

## FISCAL ANALYSIS

### ASSUMPTION

#### §193.265 – Modifies provisions relating to vital records for victims of domestic violence/abuse

Officials from the **Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS)** state §193.265.6 of this proposed legislation states no fee shall be required or collected for a certification of birth if the request is made by a victim of domestic violence or abuse, as defined in §455.010 RSMo, and if the victim provides documentation signed by an employee, agent, or volunteer of a victim service provider, an attorney, or a health care or mental health care professional, from whom the victim has sought assistance relating to the domestic violence or abuse. The victim may only be eligible one time for a fee waiver under this subsection.

Per Missouri Coalition against Domestic and Sexual Violence (MCADS) and the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV) 2019 statistical data, domestic violence programs served 36,304 Missourians with over 26,000 requests for services going unmet due to a lack of resources. Therefore, a **total number** equaling more than **62,304**.

There is no estimate of how many of these individuals will request birth certificates. Requests could range from 0% to 100% issuance of approximately 62,304 certificates. Each certificate costs \$15. Therefore, the total loss of revenue for the issuance of requests at 100% would be equivalent to \$778,800 for FY 24; \$934,560 for FY 25; and \$934,560 for FY 26. Birth certificates have a current fee split of \$5 per certificate to the Children's Trust Fund; \$5 to the Missouri Public Health Services (MOPHS) Fund; \$4 to General Revenue; and \$1 to the Endowed Care Cemetery Fund.

Moreover, these types of requests typically take more time than regular requests. Many of these applications come with incomplete information which makes the match more difficult and takes more time in processing. If a match does not result in the issuance of a certified copy, a search fee is not collected like it is from the general public. DHSS expects the number of requests to increase and the loss of revenue and lack of adequate staff to be an issue for program operations. The Department would request a range of one (1) to up to seven (7) FTE to account for the deficiency in staffing depending on how much the work load increases. FTE count comes from the calculation of a fifteen (15) minute application review, processing, and issuance time average with 2,080 working hours per annum which equals 8,320 applications processed per FTE.

**Oversight** notes, based on DHSS calculations, the loss of revenue to the various state funds impacted by this proposal are estimated to be:

<b>Fund Name</b>	<b>FY 2024 (10 mos.)</b>	<b>FY 2025</b>	<b>FY 2026</b>
General Revenue (\$4)	\$207,680	\$249,216	\$249,216
Children’s Trust Fund (\$5)	\$259,600	\$311,520	\$311,520
MOPHS Fund (\$5)	\$259,600	\$311,520	\$311,520
Endowed Care Cemetery Audit Fund (\$1)	\$51,920	\$62,304	\$62,304
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$778,800</b>	<b>\$934,560</b>	<b>\$934,560</b>

General Revenue	62,304* \$4 = \$249,216
Children’s Trust	62,304* \$5 = \$311,520
Endowed Care	62,304* \$1 = \$62,304
MOPHS Fund	62,304* \$5 = <u>\$311,520</u>
Total	\$934,560

**Oversight** notes this legislation does provide that a victim is only eligible one time for a waiver of the fee (§193.265.6(2)).

**Oversight** also notes HB 1300 (2020 legislative session) contained similar language regarding the provision of a free birth certificate to victims of domestic violence. In that fiscal note response, DHSS stated that while they did not know the number of birth certificates that would be issued and the actual potential fiscal impact was unknown, they believed the number of qualifying individuals who would apply for a free birth certificate would be minimal due to the target population most likely being unaware of the legislation.

Since the number of individuals actually applying for a free birth certificate was assumed to be minimal, Oversight assumed, for fiscal note purposes, that it was possible for up to 10% of victims to request a free birth certificate annually. The annual estimated loss of funds to GR in the fiscal note for HB 1300 was \$0 to \$26,724; the loss to the Children’s Trust Fund was \$0 to \$33,405; the loss to the MOPHS Fund was \$0 to \$33,405; and the loss to the Endowed Care Cemetery Audit Fund was \$0 to \$6,681.

For the current proposal, **Oversight** assumes the potential losses to be minimal and will not present for fiscal note purposes.

**Oversight** also notes DHSS assumes it will need between one (1) and seven (7) new FTE as a result of this proposal. Because Oversight assumes a minimal number of individuals will actually request a free birth certificate, Oversight further assumes the DHSS will likely not need additional FTE. However, if the DHSS needs additional funding as a result of the provisions of this proposal, they may request additional funding through the budget process.

Officials from the **Newton County Health Department** and the **St. Louis 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 local public health agencies.

**Oversight** only reflects the responses received from state agencies and political subdivisions; however, other public health departments were requested to respond to this proposed legislation but did not. A general listing of political subdivisions included in the Missouri Legislative Information System (MOLIS) database is available upon request.

<u>FISCAL IMPACT – State Government</u>	FY 2024 (10 Mo.)	FY 2025	FY 2026
	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>

<u>FISCAL IMPACT – Local Government</u>	FY 2024 (10 Mo.)	FY 2025	FY 2026
	<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.

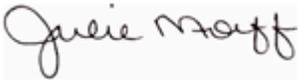
FISCAL DESCRIPTION

This proposal appears to have no material fiscal impact.

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

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Department of Health and Senior Services  
Newton County Health Department  
St. Louis County Health Department



Julie Morff  
Director  
February 8, 2023



Ross Strobe  
Assistant Director  
February 8, 2023