

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH  
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

**FISCAL NOTE**

L.R. No.: 0795S.01I  
 Bill No.: SB 103  
 Subject: Courts; Fees  
 Type: Original  
 Date: January 27, 2023

Bill Summary: This proposal modifies the expiration dates for provisions relating to Court Automation.

**FISCAL SUMMARY**

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND</b>			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
General Revenue*/**	(\$1,666,667)	(\$2,000,000)	(\$2,000,000)
<b>Total Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue</b>	<b>(\$1,666,667)</b>	<b>(\$2,000,000)</b>	<b>(\$2,000,000)</b>

\*The current appropriation (12.320) for the Statewide Court Automation program includes a \$2 million General Revenue supplement – which Oversight assumes will continue if the sunset date is extended to 2029 with this proposal.

\*\*Oversight also assumes, should the Statewide Court Automation Fund be extended to September 1, 2029, there will be no transfer of the unexpended balance to the General Revenue Fund after September 1, 2023 as currently required in §476.055.1 RSMo. Oversight notes the balance for Fund 0270 at December 31, 2022 was \$5,030,475.

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON OTHER STATE FUNDS</b>			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
Statewide Court Automation Fund (0270)	\$1,175,595	\$1,410,714	\$1,410,714
<b>Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>Other</u> State Funds</b>	<b>\$1,175,595</b>	<b>\$1,410,714</b>	<b>\$1,410,714</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>
State Court Automation Fund (0270)*	34 FTE	34 FTE	34 FTE
<b>Total Estimated Net Effect on FTE</b>	<b>34 FTE</b>	<b>34 FTE</b>	<b>34 FTE</b>

\*Oversight notes these are current positions and this bill simply extends the sunset of the Statewide Court Automation fund

- 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

Officials from the **Office of the State Courts Administrator (OSCA)** assume this proposal extends the expiration dates for provisions relating to the Statewide Court Automation Fund. §476.055 would extend the Statewide Court Automation Fund until September 1, 2029. The Statewide Court Automation Fund's annual appropriation is approximately \$6.6 million and 34 FTE.

Officials from the **Office of the State Public Defender** assume the proposal will have no fiscal impact on their organization. **Oversight** does not have any information to the contrary. Therefore, Oversight will reflect a zero impact in the fiscal note for this office.

In response to similar legislation from this year, HB 90, officials from the **Missouri Office of Prosecution Services** assumed the proposal will have no fiscal impact on their organization. **Oversight** does not have any information to the contrary. Therefore, Oversight will reflect a zero impact in the fiscal note for this office.

**Oversight** notes the Statewide Court Automation Fund is a statutorily created fund and was created to build and sustain "an integrated court system that renders geography largely irrelevant...with greater efficiency, wider access, and enhanced accountability" for the litigant and taxpayer. This plan includes installation and ongoing development of Show-Me Courts, Show-Me Jury, Case.net, eFiling, Track This Case, Pay-By-Web, eBench, and other software packages. The fund is set to expire September 1, 2023.

The fund has a court fee of \$7 per case and has received the following receipts during FY19 – FY22:

STATEWIDE COURT AUTOMATION FUND (0270)	
	<u>Receipts</u>
FY 19	\$ 4,205,465
FY 20	\$ 3,889,127
FY 21	\$ 3,632,708
FY 22	\$ 4,500,815
Total	\$ 16,228,115
4 year average	\$ 4,057,029
Source: State Treasurer Fund Activity Reports	

**Oversight** notes the appropriation for the Statewide Court Automation program is made up of General Revenue Funds and funds from the Statewide Court Automation Fund. Below is a history of the expended funds for the last three fiscal years:

STATEWIDE COURT AUTOMATION				
	<u>Appropriation</u>	<u>General Revenue</u>	<u>Statewide Court Automation Fund</u>	<u>Unexpended Fund</u>
FY 20	\$ 7,276,217	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 3,269,800	\$ 2,006,417
FY 21	\$ 7,302,126	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 2,330,611	\$ 2,971,515
FY 22	\$ 7,336,965	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 2,338,534	\$ 2,998,431
Average	\$ 7,305,103	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 2,646,315	\$ 2,658,788
Source: FY 24 OSCA Budget Requests Book				

**Oversight** notes this proposal will extend the program until September 1, 2029. If this proposal is extended, Oversight assumes revenue and expenditures will continue for the fund and will therefore use the average amount, from the tables above, to reflect the fiscal impact over the next 3 years for this fund.

The appropriations for the Statewide Court Automation Fund includes 34 FTEs. **Oversight** assumes should this proposal be extended, the 34 FTEs will also continue to be funded through the Statewide Court Automation program and will be reflected in the table below.

<u>FISCAL IMPACT – State Government</u>	FY 2024 (10 Mo.)	FY 2025	FY 2026
<b>GENERAL REVENUE</b>			
<u>Cost</u> – OSCA – continuation of expenditures	<u>(\$1,666,667)</u>	<u>(\$2,000,000)</u>	<u>(\$2,000,000)</u>
<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE</b>	<b><u>(\$1,666,667)</u></b>	<b><u>(\$2,000,000)</u></b>	<b><u>(\$2,000,000)</u></b>
<b>STATEWIDE COURT AUTOMATION FUND (0270)</b>			
<u>Revenue</u> – OSCA – continuation of receipts received from \$7 court fee	\$3,380,858	\$4,057,029	\$4,057,029
<u>Cost</u> – OSCA – continuation of expenditures	<u>(\$2,205,263)</u>	<u>(\$2,646,315)</u>	<u>(\$2,646,315)</u>
FTE Change (continuation) – OSCA	34 FTE	34 FTE	34 FTE
<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON THE STATEWIDE COURT AUTOMATION FUND</b>	<b><u>\$1,175,595</u></b>	<b><u>\$1,410,714</u></b>	<b><u>\$1,410,714</u></b>
Estimated Net FTE Change (continuation) for the Statewide Court Automation Fund	34 FTE	34 FTE	34 FTE

<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.

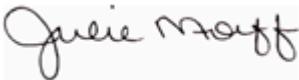
FISCAL DESCRIPTION

This act provides that any unexpended balance remaining in the Statewide Court Automation Fund shall be transferred to general revenue on September 1, 2029, rather than September 1, 2023, as provided in current law. Additionally, the court fee collected for the Statewide Court Automation Fund shall expire on September 1, 2029, rather than September 1, 2023. Finally, this act repeals the provision requiring the Court Automation Committee to complete its duties by September 1, 2025, and repeals the expiration date for the provision establishing the Statewide Court Automation Fund and the Court Automation Committee.

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 State Courts Administrator  
Office of the State Public Defender  
Missouri Office of Prosecution Services



Julie Morff  
Director  
January 27, 2023



Ross Strope  
Assistant Director  
January 27, 2023