

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH  
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

**FISCAL NOTE**

L.R. No.: 5077S.01I  
 Bill No.: SB 1311  
 Subject: Education, Elementary and Secondary; Department of Elementary and Secondary Education  
 Type: Original  
 Date: April 8, 2024

Bill Summary: This proposal establishes the "Media Literacy and Critical Thinking" pilot program requiring Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to select 5-7 school districts to address the components of media literacy during the 2025-26 and 2026-27 school years.

**FISCAL SUMMARY**

| <b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND</b>  |                   |   |   |
|--|-------------------|---|---|
| FUND AFFECTED  | FY 2025           | FY 2026                                   | FY 2027                                   |
| General Revenue*                                     | (\$99,606)        | Up to (\$1,089,606 to \$1,179,606)        | Up to (\$1,019,325 to \$1,109,325)        |
| <b>Total Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue</b> | <b>(\$99,606)</b> | <b>Up to (\$1,089,606 to \$1,179,606)</b> | <b>Up to (\$1,019,325 to \$1,109,325)</b> |

\*Oversight has ranged the fiscal impact for the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education for cost of RPDC contractors.

| <b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON OTHER STATE FUNDS</b>              |            |            |            |
|---|------------|------------|------------|
| FUND AFFECTED   | FY 2025    | FY 2026    | FY 2027    |
|   |            |            |            |
| <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 2025</b> | <b>FY 2026</b> | <b>FY 2027</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 2025</b> | <b>FY 2026</b> | <b>FY 2027</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 2025</b> | <b>FY 2026</b>          | <b>FY 2027</b>          |
|  |                |                         |                         |
| <b>Local Government</b>                    | <b>\$0</b>     | <b>\$0 or (Unknown)</b> | <b>\$0 or (Unknown)</b> |

## FISCAL ANALYSIS

### ASSUMPTION

Officials from the **Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE)** state:

#### Section 161.355.3.-5.: Pilot Program & Guidelines (Preschool – Grade 12)

#### Section 161.355.7 creating Samples of Learning Activities, Resources, and Training

This section presents a pilot program to be implemented during the 2025-26 and 2026-27 school years which will include five to seven diverse school districts. This includes identifying high-quality resources, demonstrating/reporting various aspects of media literacy and digital fluency, and developing guidelines (acceptable use of social media, consequences, access, analyze, evaluate, create/act, ethics, etiquette, cyberbullying, algorithms, misinformation) for the pilot program.

DESE will convene a Pilot Program Development Committee (2024-25, 2 meetings) and develop Learning Activities and Resources (2024-25, 4 meetings). Meeting costs to include travel, meals, supplies is \$70,281 (18 committee members total: 6 committee members - 2 urban, 2 suburban, 2 rural for Grades PK-4; 6 committee members for Grades 5-8; 6 committee members Grades 9-12 =18 committee members representing all nine RPDC regions). Four meetings during FY25 to develop the Pilot Program and Guidelines. NOTE: Two (2) meetings needed during FY25 to develop the Pilot Program and Guidelines and four (4) meetings for creating samples of learning activities and resources.

#### Section 161.355.7. Teacher Training

DESE estimates the need for nine (9) RPDC contractors for three years. Contractors are \$110,000 - \$120,000 per person with 9 total for three years to train all K-12 teachers through the consolidated contract with the RPDCs for a total between \$1,002,000 and \$1,080,000.

In addition, DESE estimates the need for an Annual Consultant (20 hours/week) at \$29,325 x three years = \$87,975. The Consultant or .5 FTE will lead all elements of this proposal for the 2024-25, 2025-26, and 2026-27 implementation year, including assisting the pilot sites in their report writing during Year 3 which is required for all pilot sites (Section 161.355.8.) and compiling all final reports for the main DESE summary report (Section 161.355.9.).

Section 161.355.9(6): Creating a Draft of Proposed Media Literacy & Critical Thinking State Standards Preschool-12

DESE will convene a Standards Development Committee (2025-26, 6 meetings): \$70,281 (18 committee members total: 6 committee members - 2 urban, 2 suburban, 2 rural for Grades PK-4; 6 committee members for Grades 5-8; 6 committee members Grades 9-12 =18 committee members representing all nine RPDC regions).

In response to a similar proposal, HB 492 (2023), upon further inquiry, **DESE** stated, based on their interpretation, all teachers in PK-12 would be trained on media literacy and critical thinking. Given the estimate of 70,000 K-12 teachers in Missouri (not including PK), DESE proposed one FTE in each of the nine regional professional development centers (RPDCs) to train all PK-12 teachers in each RPDC region for the three-year period within the pilot. That would be an estimated 7,778 teachers to be trained for each RPDC-based supervisor over the three-year period. DESE has ranged the necessary FTE from one (1) to nine (9).

**Oversight** notes that DESE has decided to utilize contractors rather than FTE in this proposal. DESE has ranged the necessary contractor for the RPDCs from one (1) to nine (9).

**Oversight** will show the costs as estimated by DESE with the 9 RPDC being contracted rather than those individuals being DESE employees with salary and E&E as reflected on previous fiscal note for HB 492 from 2023.

**Oversight** notes a pilot program site shall address each component of media literacy outlined in the act and report on how the site addresses news content literacy, visual literacy, digital fluency, and digital literacy, as those terms are defined in the act. Oversight is uncertain the costs to schools, if any, to implement provisions of this proposal if selected by DESE to participate in the pilot program. Therefore, Oversight will reflect a zero or unknown cost on the fiscal note.

**Oversight** received zero responses from school districts related to the fiscal impact of this proposal. Oversight has presented this fiscal note on the best current information available. Upon the receipt of additional responses, Oversight will review to determine if an updated fiscal note should be prepared and seek approval to publish a new fiscal note. Oversight only reflects the responses received from state agencies and political subdivisions; however, school districts were requested to respond to this proposed legislation but did not. A listing of political subdivisions included in the Missouri Legislative Information System (MOLIS) database is available upon request.

| <u>FISCAL IMPACT – State Government</u>                                    | FY 2025<br>(10 Mo.)      | FY 2026  | FY 2027  |
|--|--------------------------|--|--|
| <b>GENERAL REVENUE</b>   |                          |  |  |
| <u>Costs</u> - DESE – RPDC Contract<br>Subject Matter Experts - §161.355.7 | \$0                      | Up to<br>(\$990,000 to<br>\$1,080,000)                   | Up to<br>(\$990,000 to<br>\$1,080,000)                   |
| <u>Costs</u> - pilot program development<br>committee - §161.355.7         | (\$70,281)               | \$0  | \$0  |
| <u>Costs</u> - annual consultant - §161.355.7                              | (\$29,325)               | (\$29,325)   | (\$29,325)   |
| <u>Costs</u> - standards development<br>committee - §161.355.9             | \$0                      | (\$70,281)   | \$0  |
| <b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON<br/>GENERAL REVENUE</b>                         | <b><u>(\$99,606)</u></b> | <b><u>Up to<br/>(\$1,089,606 to<br/>\$1,179,606)</u></b> | <b><u>Up to<br/>(\$1,019,325 to<br/>\$1,109,325)</u></b> |

| <u>FISCAL IMPACT – Local Government</u>   | FY 2025<br>(10 Mo.) | FY 2026                            | FY 2027                            |
|---|---------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>SCHOOL DISTRICTS</b>   |                     |                                    |                                    |
| <u>Costs</u> - to implement the Media<br>Literacy and Critical Thinking pilot<br>program - §161.355 | \$0                 | \$0 or<br>(Unknown)                | \$0 or<br>(Unknown)                |
| <b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON<br/>SCHOOL DISTRICTS</b>   | <b><u>\$0</u></b>   | <b><u>\$0 or<br/>(Unknown)</u></b> | <b><u>\$0 or<br/>(Unknown)</u></b> |

FISCAL IMPACT – Small Business

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

FISCAL DESCRIPTION

This act establishes the "Media Literacy and Critical Thinking Act," which requires the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) to establish the "Media Literacy

and Critical Thinking" pilot program during the 2025-26 and 2026-27 school years. Under the act, DESE shall select between five and seven school districts to participate in the pilot program. A pilot program site shall address each component of media literacy outlined in the act and report on how the site addresses news content literacy, visual literacy, digital fluency, and digital literacy, as those terms are defined in the act.

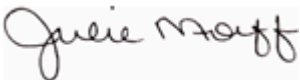
The media literacy and critical thinking pilot program shall terminate on June 30, 2027, and each pilot program site shall submit a report to DESE by August 1, 2027. DESE shall study the results of pilot program and develop guidelines for students on areas outlined in the act, including the safe use of social media platforms; digital ethics and etiquette; and identifying online misinformation. DESE shall also develop guidelines that provide school districts with examples of learning activities, resources, and training that promote critical thinking and the skills necessary to evaluate all forms of media.

Before January 1, 2028, DESE shall compile the reports from the pilot program sites and submit its summary to the General Assembly. DESE's summary shall include specific information described in the act, including qualitative and quantitative insights on how the pilot program sites addressed media literacy; strategies and resources used by educators; any professional development that was required; and recommendations for the facilities, instructional materials, and technologies necessary to implement a statewide media literacy and critical thinking program. DESE shall also provide the General Assembly with a draft of media literacy and critical thinking state standards for preschool to grade 12. The provisions of the act shall expire on December 31, 2027.

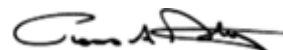
This legislation is not federally mandated, would not duplicate any other program and would not require additional capital improvements or rental space.

#### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Department of Elementary and Secondary Education



Julie Morff  
Director  
April 8, 2024



Ross Strobe  
Assistant Director  
April 8, 2024