

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

FISCAL NOTE

L.R. No.: 1217S.01I
 Bill No.: SJR 8
 Subject: Abortion; Constitutional Amendments
 Type: Original
 Date: February 24, 2025

Bill Summary: This proposal defines “person” in relation to the equal protection of laws.

FISCAL SUMMARY

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028
General Revenue*	\$0 or (More than \$8,000,000)	\$0	\$0
Total Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue	\$0 or (More than \$8,000,000)	\$0	\$0

*The potential fiscal impact of “(More than \$8,000,000)” would be realized only if a special election were called by the Governor to submit this joint resolution to voters.

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON OTHER STATE FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028
Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>Other</u> State Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0

Numbers within parentheses: () indicate costs or losses.

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FEDERAL FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028
Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>All</u> Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FULL TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE)			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028
Total Estimated Net Effect on FTE	0	0	0

- 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.

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028
Local Government*	\$0	\$0	\$0

*Transfer-in and reimbursement of election costs net to \$0 and only occur if a special election is called by the Governor.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

ASSUMPTION

SJR – Constitutional amendment regarding the right to life

Officials from **Office of the Secretary of State** assume, each year, a number of joint resolutions that would refer to a vote of the people a constitutional amendment and bills that would refer to a vote of the people the statutory issue in the legislation may be considered by the General Assembly.

Unless a special election is called for the purpose, Joint Resolutions proposing a constitutional amendment are submitted to a vote of the people at the next general election. Article XII section 2(b) of the Missouri Constitution authorizes the governor to order a special election for constitutional amendments referred to the people. If a special election is called to submit a Joint Resolution to a vote of the people, section 115.063.2 RSMo requires the state to pay the costs. The cost of the special election has been estimated to be \$8 million based on the cost of the 2022 primary and general election reimbursements.

The Secretary of State's office is required to pay for publishing in local newspapers the full text of each statewide ballot measure as directed by Article XII, Section 2(b) of the Missouri Constitution and Section 116.230-116.290, RSMo. Funding for this item is adjusted each year depending upon the election cycle. A new decision item is requested in odd numbered fiscal years and the amount requested is dependent upon the estimated number of ballot measures that will be approved by the General Assembly and the initiative petitions certified for the ballot. In FY 2014, the General Assembly changed the appropriation so that it was no longer an estimated appropriation.

For the FY26 petitions cycle, the SOS estimates publication costs at \$60,000 per page. This amount is subject to change based on number of petitions received, length of those petitions and rates charged by newspaper publishers.

The Secretary of State's office will continue to assume, for the purposes of this fiscal note, that it should have the full appropriation authority it needs to meet the publishing requirements. Because these requirements are mandatory, the SOS reserves the right to request funding to meet the cost of the publishing requirements if the Governor and the General Assembly again change the amount or continue to not designate it as an estimated appropriation.

Oversight has reflected, in this fiscal note, the state potentially reimbursing local political subdivisions the cost of having this joint resolution voted on during a special election in fiscal

year 2026. This reflects the decision made by the Joint Committee on Legislative Research that the cost of the elections should be shown in the fiscal note. The next scheduled statewide general election is in November 2026 (FY 2027). It is assumed the subject within this proposal could be on this ballot; however, it could also be on a special election called for by the Governor (a different date). Therefore, Oversight will reflect a potential election cost reimbursement to local political subdivisions in FY 2026.

Officials from the **Office of Attorney General (AGO)** assume any additional litigation costs arising from this proposal can be absorbed with existing personnel and resources. However, the AGO may seek additional appropriations if there is a significant increase in litigation.

Oversight does not have any information to the contrary. Therefore, Oversight assumes the AGO will be able to perform any additional duties required by this proposal with current staff and resources and will reflect no fiscal impact to the AGO for fiscal note purposes.

Officials from the **Kansas City Election Board** state it costs \$800,000 to conduct an election in the Kansas City portion of Jackson County. The State would be responsible for their pro-rata share based on voter registration.

Officials from the **St. Louis City Board of Elections** state there will be no fiscal impact unless a special election is called. The cost of a city-wide election is approximately \$500,000.

Oversight notes that officials from the SOS have included reimbursement costs to local election boards in their estimate of total costs for a special election. Therefore, Oversight will not reflect a separate special election cost for the St. Louis City Board of Elections.

Officials from the **University of Central Missouri** assume the proposal will have an indeterminate fiscal impact on their organization.

Officials from the **Department of Commerce and Insurance**, the **Department of Health and Senior Services**, the **Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development**, the **Department of Mental Health**, the **Department of Public Safety - Missouri Highway Patrol**, the **Department of Social Services**, the **Missouri Consolidated Health Care Plan**, the **Missouri Department of Conservation**, the **Missouri Department of Transportation**, the **Office of Administration**, the **Office of the Governor**, the **Office of the State Courts Administrator**, the **Jackson County Board of Election Commissioners**, the **Platte County Board of Elections**, the **St. Louis County Board of Elections**, and the **Northwest Missouri State University**, 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 received from state agencies and political subdivisions; however, other hospitals and colleges 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 2026 (10 Mo.)	FY 2027	FY 2028
GENERAL REVENUE			
<u>Transfer-out - SOS - reimbursement of local election authority election costs if a special election is called by the Governor</u>	\$0 or (More than \$8,000,000)*	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON THE GENERAL REVENUE FUND	<u>\$0 or (More than \$8,000,000)*</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>

<u>FISCAL IMPACT – Local Government</u>	FY 2026 (10 Mo.)	FY 2027	FY 2028
LOCAL POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS			
<u>Transfer In - Local Election Authorities - reimbursement of election costs by the State for a special election</u>	\$0 or More than \$8,000,000*	\$0	\$0
<u>Costs - Local Election Authorities - cost of a special election if called for by the Governor</u>	\$0 or (More than \$8,000,000)*	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS	<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.

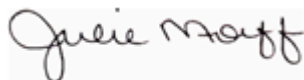
FISCAL DESCRIPTION

This constitutional amendment, if approved by the voters, modifies the equal protection provision of the Missouri Constitution to define "person" as every human being with a unique DNA code regardless of age, including an unborn child. Nothing in the Constitution shall be construed to secure or protect a right to abortion or the funding of an abortion.

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

Attorney General's Office
Department of Commerce and Insurance
Department of Health and Senior Services
Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development
Department of Mental Health
Department of Public Safety - Missouri Highway Patrol
Department of Social Services
Missouri Consolidated Health Care Plan
Missouri Department of Conservation
Missouri Department of Transportation
Office of Administration
Office of the Governor
Office of the Secretary of State
Office of the State Courts Administrator
Kansas City Election Board
Jackson County Board of Election Commissioners
Platte County Board of Elections
St. Louis City Board of Elections
St. Louis County Board of Elections
Northwest Missouri State University
University Of Central Missouri



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