

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

FISCAL NOTE

L.R. No.: 1323S.01I
Bill No.: SB 316
Subject: Advertising and Signs; Contracts and Contractors; Crimes and Punishment;
Military Affairs; Veterans
Type: Original
Date: March 3, 2025

Bill Summary: This proposal modifies provisions relating to compensation for services rendered in veteran benefits matters.

FISCAL SUMMARY

| ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND | | | |
|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| FUND AFFECTED | FY 2026 | FY 2027 | FY 2028 |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| Total Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |

| 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 |

FISCAL ANALYSIS

ASSUMPTION

§42.028 – Compensation for assisting with veterans' benefits

Officials from the **Office of the State Public Defender** assume the proposal, per the National Public Defense Workload Study, the new charge contemplated by this change to Section 42.028 would take approximately twenty-two hours of SPD work for reasonably effective representation. If one hundred cases were filed under this section in a fiscal year, representation would result in a need for an additional attorney. Because the number of cases that will be filed under this statute is unknown, the exact additional number of attorneys necessary is unknown.

Oversight assumes this proposal will create a minimal number of new cases and that the SPD can absorb the additional caseload required by this proposal with current staff and resources. Therefore, Oversight will reflect no fiscal impact to the SPD for fiscal note purposes. However, if multiple bills pass which require additional staffing and duties, SPD may request funding through the appropriation process.

Officials from the **Missouri Office of Prosecution Services (MOPS)** assume the proposal will have no measurable fiscal impact on MOPS. The enactment of a new crime (§42.028.11) creates additional responsibilities for county prosecutors and the circuit attorney which may, in turn, result in additional costs, which are difficult to determine.

Oversight notes that this act provides that no person shall receive compensation for referring an individual to another person to advise or assist the individual with any veteran's benefits matter, which is described in the act. Additionally, no person shall receive compensation for any services rendered in connection with any claim filed within the one-year presumptive period of active-duty release. A person seeking to receive compensation for advising, assisting, or consulting with any veteran's benefits matter shall state the specific terms in a written agreement signed by both parties. Such compensation shall be purely contingent upon an increase in benefits and shall not exceed five times the amount of the monthly increase in benefits. Any initial or non-refundable fees or charges are prohibited by this act. Additionally, persons seeking to receive such compensation shall not utilize a medical professional with whom they have an employment or business relationship for a secondary medical exam. A violation of this act shall constitute an unlawful practice under the Missouri Merchandising Practices Act. Oversight assumes this will have a minimal fiscal impact and will not present an impact for fiscal note purposes.

Officials from the **Department of Commerce and Insurance**, the **Department of Public Safety - Missouri Veterans Commission**, the **Missouri National Guard**, and **Office of the State Courts Administrator** 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.

| <u>FISCAL IMPACT – State Government</u> | FY 2026 (10 Mo.) | FY 2027 | FY 2028 |
|---|---------------------|------------|------------|
| | | | |
| | <u>\$0</u> | <u>\$0</u> | <u>\$0</u> |
| | | | |
| | | | |

| <u>FISCAL IMPACT – Local Government</u> | FY 2026 (10 Mo.) | FY 2027 | FY 2028 |
|---|---------------------|------------|------------|
| | | | |
| | <u>\$0</u> | <u>\$0</u> | <u>\$0</u> |
| | | | |
| | | | |

FISCAL IMPACT – Small Business

This proposal may negatively impact certain small business that currently provide services to veterans for a fee.

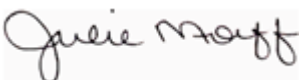
FISCAL DESCRIPTION

The proposed legislation appears to have no direct fiscal impact.

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 Commerce and Insurance
 Department of Public Safety – Missouri Veterans Commission
 Missouri National Guard
 Office of the State Public Defender
 Office of the State Courts Administrator
 Missouri Office of Prosecution Services



Julie Morff
 Director
 March 3, 2025



Jessica Harris
 Assistant Director
 March 3, 2025