

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

FISCAL NOTE

L.R. No.: 6315S.02I
 Bill No.: SB 1637
 Subject: Disabilities; Elderly; Health Care; Health Care Professionals
 Type: Original
 Date: February 24, 2026

Bill Summary: This proposal creates provisions relating to communication access services.

FISCAL SUMMARY

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND

FUND AFFECTED	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
General Revenue*	\$0 or (Could Exceed \$366,080)	\$0 or (Could Exceed \$392,704)	\$0 or (Could Exceed \$395,871)
Total Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue	\$0 or (Could Exceed \$366,080)	\$0 or (Could Exceed \$392,704)	\$0 or (Could Exceed \$395,871)

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON OTHER STATE FUNDS

FUND AFFECTED	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
Communication Access Service Fund*	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>Other</u> State Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0

*Distributions and transfers net to zero.

Numbers within parentheses: () indicate costs or losses.

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FEDERAL FUNDS

FUND AFFECTED	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>All</u> Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FULL TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE)

FUND AFFECTED	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
Communication Access Services Fund	1 FTE	1 FTE	1 FTE
Total Estimated Net Effect on FTE	1 FTE	1 FTE	1 FTE

- 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 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
Local Government	\$0	\$0	\$0

FISCAL ANALYSIS

ASSUMPTION

§209.247 – Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Statewide Registry

Officials from the **Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE)** assume §209.247 calls for the Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing to develop and maintain a statewide registry of communication access service providers, provide information regarding available resources to assist with costs and support to communication access service providers, hire a program manager to fulfill the requirements of this legislation, and subject to appropriation, administer scholarships for professional development and administer finance requests for communication access services between individuals who are deaf, blind, or hard of hearing. DESE assumes the requirements of this legislation will require a program manager FTE position with an annual salary of \$100,901 and an ongoing cost of \$13,339 and onetime cost of \$5,082 for expenses and equipment.

In addition to this FTE, DESE assumes it will cost between \$208,000 - \$400,000 to administer the program called for in this legislation. This estimate is based on programs in other states ranging from \$200,000-\$700,000. The Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing identified four major regions in Missouri that would participate in the services listed: Kansas City, St. Louis, Columbia, and Springfield. In each region there are currently one 1–2-hour appointments per day that cost approximately \$200 to cover or \$800 to cover all four appointments. Thus, DESE estimates the cost of the administration of services by multiplying \$800 * 261 business days equaling \$208,000. However, DESE also recognizes that with more access the number of appointments could increase thus reflecting the range in costs.

Lastly, the Commission believes the scholarships called for in this legislation would cost \$10,000 based on current scholarships to attend specialized programming and training opportunities ranging from \$50-\$2,000, depending on the training, with most opportunities being around \$500. Thus, \$10,000 could cover the costs of 50 recipients for professional development in the field of communication services.

Upon further inquiry, DESE noted the appointments would fulfil all the requirements of the proposal. Also, MCDHH noted that they have several existing programs already in the commission that do aspects of the requirements in the legislation which will make administering the new services easier and less costly. Therefore, Oversight will reflect cost as estimated by DESE for their organization.

Oversight notes this proposal creates the Communication Access Services Fund, which is responsible for upon appropriation, money in the fund shall be used by the commission for the salary of the program manager, distribution of financial assistance for communication access services, and distribution of scholarships under this section. Therefore, Oversight will reflect a cost as estimated by DESE for their organization transferring out to the Communication access

fund and the cost transferring out of the fund to fulfil the requirements of the proposal. Oversight notes this proposal is subject to appropriation.

Oversight notes the Communication Access Services Fund can receive gifts, donations, grants, and bequests. Therefore, Oversight will reflect a zero to unknown income for the fund.

Officials from the **Department of Health and Senior Services, Department of Mental Health, Department of Social Services, Office of the State Treasurer, Missouri House of Representatives, and Missouri Senate** each 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 agency.

Oversight only reflects the responses that we have received from state agencies and political subdivisions; however, other school districts were requested to respond to this proposed legislation but did not. Upon the receipt of additional responses, Oversight will review to determine if an updated fiscal note should be prepared and seek the necessary approval to publish a new fiscal note. A general listing of political subdivisions included in our database is available upon request.

Rule Promulgation

Officials from the **Joint Committee on Administrative Rules** assume this proposal is not anticipated to cause a fiscal impact beyond its current appropriation.

Officials from the **Office of the Secretary of State (SOS)** note many bills considered by the General Assembly include provisions allowing or requiring agencies to submit rules and regulations to implement the act. The SOS is provided with core funding to handle a certain amount of normal activity resulting from each year's legislative session. The fiscal impact for this fiscal note to the SOS for Administrative Rules is less than \$5,000. The SOS recognizes that this is a small amount and does not expect that additional funding would be required to meet these costs. However, the SOS also recognizes that many such bills may be passed by the General Assembly in a given year and that collectively the costs may be in excess of what the office can sustain with its core budget. Therefore, the SOS reserves the right to request funding for the cost of supporting administrative rules requirements should the need arise based on a review of the finally approved bills signed by the governor.

<u>FISCAL IMPACT – State Government</u>	FY 2027 (10 Mo.)	FY 2028	FY 2029
GENERAL REVENUE			
<u>Transfer Out – DESE (§209.247) Communication Access Fund p.3</u>	\$0 or (Could Exceed <u>\$366,080</u>)	\$0 or (Could Exceed <u>\$392,704</u>)	\$0 or (Could Exceed <u>\$395,871</u>)
ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE	\$0 or (Could Exceed <u>\$366,080</u>)	\$0 or (Could Exceed <u>\$392,704</u>)	\$0 or (Could Exceed <u>\$395,871</u>)
COMMUNICATION ACCESS SERVICES FUND			
<u>Transfer In - (§209.247) Appropriation from General Revenue p.3</u>	\$0 or Could Exceed \$366,080	\$0 or Could Exceed \$392,704	\$0 or Could Exceed \$395,871
<u>Revenue - (§209.247) Gifts, bequests or donations p.4</u>	\$0 or Unknown	\$0 or Unknown	\$0 or Unknown
<u>Cost – DESE (§209.247) p.3</u>	\$0 or	\$0 or	\$0 or
Personal Service	(\$84,084)	(\$102,919)	(\$104,977)
Fringe Benefits	(\$47,432)	(\$57,730)	(\$58,558)
Expense & Equipment	(\$16,564)	(\$14,055)	(\$14,336)
<u>Total Costs – DESE</u>	<u>(\$148,080)</u>	<u>(\$174,704)</u>	<u>(\$177,871)</u>
FTE Change – DESE	1 FTE	1 FTE	1 FTE
<u>Cost – DESE (§209.247) Scholarships p.3</u>	\$0 or (\$10,000)	\$0 or (\$10,000)	\$0 or (\$10,000)
<u>Cost – DESE (§209.247) Program Administration p.3</u>	\$0 or (Could Exceed <u>\$208,000</u>)	\$0 or (Could Exceed <u>\$208,000</u>)	\$0 or (Could Exceed <u>\$208,000</u>)
ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON COMMUNICATION ACCESS SERVICES FUND	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
Estimated Net FTE Change on Communication Access Servies Fund	1 FTE	1 FTE	1 FTE

<u>FISCAL IMPACT – Local Government</u>	FY 2027 (10 Mo.)	FY 2028	FY 2029
	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>

FISCAL IMPACT – Small Business

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

FISCAL DESCRIPTION

Under this act, the Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing shall establish a statewide communication access services program to improve compliance with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act for agencies and businesses by coordinating resources, filling service gaps, and assisting with costs related to accommodations. The Commission shall develop a statewide registry of service providers, establish training and equipment standards, maintain an informational website, provide training, conduct outreach, and submit an annual report to the Governor and General Assembly, as described in the act. The Commission shall also, subject to appropriation, finance requests for assistance in providing communication access services and administer scholarships for professional development, internships, and certification testing.

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
- Department of Health and Senior Services
- Department of Mental Health
- Department of Social Services
- Office of the Secretary of State
- Office of the State Treasurer

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Joint Committee on Administrative Rules
Missouri House of Representatives
Missouri Senate



Julie Morff
Director
February 24, 2026



Jessica Harris
Assistant Director
February 24, 2026