

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

FISCAL NOTE

L.R. No.: 6601S.01I
 Bill No.: SB 1535
 Subject: Counties; Political Subdivisions; Tax Credits; Taxation and Revenue - Property;
 Veterans
 Type: Original
 Date: February 23, 2026

Bill Summary: This proposal establishes the "Missouri Disabled Veteran Homestead Tax Credit Act".

FISCAL SUMMARY

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND

FUND AFFECTED	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
General Revenue*	\$0	\$0 or Unknown, Up to \$942,907	\$0 or Unknown, Up to \$942,907
Total Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue	\$0	\$0 or Unknown, Up to \$942,907	\$0 or Unknown, Up to \$942,907

*Oversight notes the potential savings to the General Revenue Fund are from reduced Senior Property tax credits issued if qualifying veterans receive the proposed property tax credit (pending voter approval).

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON OTHER STATE FUNDS

FUND AFFECTED	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
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 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
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 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
Local Government	\$0	\$0 or (Unknown, Could exceed \$189,199,612)	\$0 or (Unknown, Could exceed \$189,199,612)

FISCAL ANALYSIS

ASSUMPTION

§137.1052 - Missouri Disabled Veteran Homestead Tax Credit Act

Officials from the **Office of Administration - Budget and Planning (B&P)** assume This proposal would allow counties to grant a property tax credit to qualifying disabled veterans as early as tax year 2027. B&P notes that property taxes are due December 31st of each tax year. Therefore, while this will begin for tax year 2027, it will not impact local revenues until FY28 (December 31, 2027) at the earliest.

The property tax credit would be equal to the amount of the local tax liability. B&P notes that this proposal excludes the statewide \$0.03 per \$100 value tax levy for the Blind Pension Trust Fund from the tax credit. The property tax credit will remain available to surviving spouses unless the spouse moves or remarries.

Local taxing jurisdictions must count the property tax credit as if the revenue were actually received. This requirement prevents participating districts from increasing their tax levies to offset the revenue lost from this credit. B&P notes that while counties may choose to opt-in, subcounty districts (schools, emergency services, SB 40, libraries, etc.) must participate if they are in a count that has opted to provide the credit.

B&P is unable to determine how many, if any, counties and veterans opt-in to this credit. Therefore, B&P will reflect potential impacts as \$0 (no one participates) to \$xx (max participation).

Other Tax Credits

Qualifying veterans may not combine this credit with any other credit related to their qualified residence. B&P notes that it appears this means taxpayers cannot combine this credit with:

- Senior and disabled property tax credit (PTC) (sections 135.010 to 135.035) – tax credit for qualifying property tax payments
- Homestead disaster credit (section 135.445) – tax credit for an insurance deductible on qualifying property impacted by a disaster.
- Disabled Access credit (section 135.562) – tax credit for costs related to making a primary residence handicap accessible
- Senior Property Tax Freeze (section 137.1050) – freezes local property taxes for seniors in participating counties
- Homestead Property Tax Freeze (section 137.1055) – freezes local property taxes for everyone in participating counties

However, the language does not appear to exclude using the Historic Preservation tax credit (sections 253.545 to 253.561) on property also receiving this tax credit.

B&P notes that this credit, the state PTC, and the local senior property tax freeze. Therefore, B&P assumes that qualifying veterans could choose which program they want to use.

Homestead Freeze – This credit is not optional for residents in counties that have opted in to the 5% or 0% credit. It is unclear whether this credit would supersede the homestead credit for counties that have approved both.

Disabled Access and Homestead Disaster credits – these credits are “relate to the eligible owner’s qualifying residence” but do not offset property taxes. The disabled access credit is available to low-income residents that must make their home handicap accessible. The disaster credit is used to offset insurance deductibles incurred during the 2025 weather disasters and has a 29 year carry forward.

Estimated Impacts

General Revenue - During tax year 2024, there were 1,235 veterans that claimed the PTC as a disabled veteran and property owner, for total PTC claims of \$942,907. B&P notes that some veterans aged 65 and older may have elected to claim the PTC as a senior rather than as a disabled veteran.

Under this proposal, some of these veterans could chose to use the local property tax credit instead and would thus no longer claim the PTC beginning with tax year 2027. Therefore, B&P estimates that this proposal could increase GR by up to \$942,907 annually beginning in FY28.

Blind Pension Trust Fund – This proposal excludes the Blind Pension Trust Fund from the property tax credit.

Local Tax Collections – Based on data from the U.S. Census Bureau, there are approximately 97,784 veterans with a service-connected disability residing in Missouri. In addition, the median home value was \$230,300 and the median real property tax liability was \$1,948 in Missouri during 2024.

B&P notes that property taxes are calculated on assessed value, rather than market value. Assessed value is currently 19% of market value. Therefore, during 2024 the median assessed home value in Missouri was \$43,753. Removing the Blind Pension tax levy of \$13.13 (\$0.03 per \$100 assessed value) from the median real property taxes paid of \$1,948, B&P estimates that the median local real property tax was \$1,935 in 2024.

Using the number of disabled veterans, B&P estimates that if all counties participate and if all qualifying veterans within those counties participate, this provision could reduce local property tax revenues by \$189,199,612 (\$1,935 median local liability x 97,784 disabled veterans) annually.

Officials from the **Department of Revenue (DOR)** assume this proposal allows a qualified veteran to receive a tax credit they can use against the residential property tax they owe. The qualified veteran must be honorably discharged and have a 100% disability rating from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. This proposal allows a county to adopt an ordinance to offer this tax credit, starting January 1, 2027.

The qualified veterans who own their primary residence can apply to receive to the county to receive the tax credit. The credit is then applied to their residential property tax bill. It should be noted that a qualified veteran receiving this tax credit would not be allowed to qualify for any other property tax credit program including the Senior Property Tax credit (PTC).

DOR is only involved with residential property tax through the PTC program. It should be noted that if a veteran is paying real property tax, they may currently be eligible to claim the Senior Property Tax Credit (PTC) based on their income. Currently a person can claim the PTC if:

- A. They are 65 years or older
- B. 100% Disabled Veteran as a result of military service
- C. 100% Disabled or
- D. 60 years of age or older and receiving surviving spouse benefits

The PTC has income limits for qualification. If the veteran meets the income requirements and are receiving the PTC; no longer owing property tax would exempt them from receiving this credit in the future. The credit for homeowners starts at \$1,550 and phases downward based on their increasing income. No longer being eligible for the PTC or being eligible for a lesser amount, would result in a savings to general revenue.

The TY 2024 data shows that 1,235 disabled veterans were homeowners who claimed \$942,907 in PTC credits. It should be noted that a person who is claiming the PTC must check one of the boxes indicating they qualify for the credit. If a taxpayer is over the age of 65 and a disabled veteran, they may have checked the over 65 box, as it is the first one listed on the form. Therefore, the number of disabled veterans claiming the PTC could be higher. This proposal could result in a savings to general revenue of up to \$942,907 if all counties participate in offering this tax credit.

DOR is not involved in property tax except for the redemption of the PTC tax credit; therefore, this will not fiscally impact DOR. The only administrative impact is that DOR may have fewer PTC forms to process.

Officials from the **State Tax Commission (STC)** assume this proposal has a negative fiscal impact on taxing jurisdictions, like school, ambulance, and fire districts reliant on property taxes for revenue. According to the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs, Missouri currently has 20,407 veterans who have a 100% service-connected disability and receive benefits from the federal government. According to US Census data, 78.1% of veterans are homeowners in Missouri, meaning the exemption could apply to 15,938 veterans. It is assumed that a high percentage would qualify for the tax credit, and STC calculated the fiscal impact as if all would qualify.

According to US Census housing data, the 1-year median home value in Missouri is 254,400. This equates to an assessed value of \$48,336 per home and \$770,379,168 (15,938 x \$48,336) of assessed value that qualifies for the exemption. Residential real property accounted for \$82,783,490,689 of assessed value and approximately brought in \$5,496,107,919 of property taxes for taxing jurisdictions across the state. STC calculates that this proposal could cost \$51,146,515 ($[\$5,496,107,919 \times \$770,379,168] / \$82,783,490,689$) spread out across taxing jurisdictions around the state.

Officials from the **City of Kansas City** assume the proposed legislation has a negative fiscal impact of an indeterminate amount.

Officials from the **Newton County Health Department** assume this would create a negative fiscal situation for the Newton County Health Department in the amount of property taxes not collected due to the provisions of this bill.

Officials from the **St Louis City Assessor** assume the following:

Missouri homes occupied by veterans	10%
Veteran home ownership rate	78%
Median value of veteran's homes in MO	\$160,000
% of MO veterans with a 100% service-connected disability rating	4.00%
MO Veteran Population in City of St. Louis	17,000
# of veterans w/disability x veteran home ownership rate	530
Taxes on typical veteran's home (\$160k value)	\$2,489
Blind Pension fund as % of taxes collected	0.3403%
% of taxes collected (excludes Blind Pension Fund)	99.6597%

Total RE taxes exempted under legislation (excludes blind pension fund)

\$1,315,545 (All taxing jurisdictions)

\$263,109 (City portion)

Total taxes affected by legislation (Real and Personal)

(\$1,315,545) Loss to all taxing jurisdictions
(\$263,109) Loss to City of St. Louis
(\$19,733) Loss to Collector of Revenue Fund
(\$8,222) Loss to Assessment Fund

*It is assumed 100% of taxes will be exempted for all qualifying under the legislation.

Officials from the **County Employees Retirement Fund (CERF)** assume there is insufficient data to quantify its exact impact. This proposal may result in an unknown fiscal impact to the County Employees' Retirement Fund.

Officials from the **Adair County SB 40 DD Board** assume a reduction in funding from personal and/or real property taxes would have a direct and significant impact on the essential supports provided by the Adair County SB40 Developmental Disability Board. SB40 funding enables the board's local system to assess community needs and sustain a coordinated network of services that currently support approximately 465 individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families across Adair County.

These locally funded services include access to employment supports, service coordination, inclusive community opportunities, and critical resources that promote independence, stability, and quality of life. Property-tax revenue is a foundational component of this system, allowing Adair County SB40 to respond to individual needs while ensuring services remain accessible and community-based. Beyond the individuals served, these supports strengthen families, reduce reliance on more costly crisis services, and contribute to a more inclusive and resilient community overall.

Any changes to property-tax funding must be carefully evaluated in light of these impacts. If reductions to personal and/or real property taxes are pursued, it is essential that a sustainable and equitable replacement funding mechanism be established. Without such a replacement, the ability of Adair County SB40 to meet its statutory mission and continue providing vital supports to individuals with disabilities and their families would be significantly compromised, with broader consequences for the community as a whole.

Officials from **Boone County SB 40 (Boone County Family Resources)** assume a reduction in funding from personal property and real property taxes would have profound consequences for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD), limiting access to the essential supports they depend on. County Boards—also known as Senate Bill 40 organizations—such as Boone County Family Resources (BCFR) play a vital role in assessing local needs and cultivating a strong network of high-quality services for more than 2,400 Boone County residents with developmental disabilities and their families.

In Boone County alone, BCFR receives approximately \$4.5 million annually from personal property taxes, representing 28% of the board's operating budget. Eliminating this revenue source would immediately and substantially reduce the funding available for critical services, creating a significant negative impact on Boone Countians with developmental disabilities.

Officials from the **Department of Social Services, Branson Police Department, Kansas City Police Department**, and the **St. Louis County Police Department** 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 is uncertain how many taxing districts would initiate approval of the proposed tax credit. Therefore, Oversight will show a range of impact of \$0 (not adopted by county) up to the

loss in revenue estimated by the Office of Administration - Budget and Planning to local political subdivisions beginning in FY 2028.

Oversight assumes there could be costs to implement and monitor individual credits for local taxing entities to approve the property tax credit. Oversight will show a range of impact of \$0 (not adopted by county) to an unknown cost to local political subdivisions for implementation.

Oversight only reflects the responses that we have received from state agencies and political subdivisions; however, other local political subdivisions 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.

<u>FISCAL IMPACT – State Government</u>	FY 2027 (10 Mo.)	FY 2028	FY 2029
GENERAL REVENUE			
<u>Revenue Gain – DOR (§137.1052)</u> Veterans no longer claiming the Senior Property Tax Credit, if adopted by county p.5	\$0	\$0 or Up to \$942,907	\$0 or Up to \$942,907
ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE	\$0	\$0 or Up to \$942,907	\$0 or Up to \$942,907

<u>FISCAL IMPACT – Local Government</u>	FY 2027 (10 Mo.)	FY 2028	FY 2029
LOCAL POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS			
<u>Cost – Counties (§137.1052)</u> To implement and monitor, if adopted by county p.7-8	\$0	\$0 or (Unknown)	\$0 or (Unknown)
<u>Loss – (§137.1052)</u> Property tax credit to qualifying disabled veterans, if adopted by county p.4	\$0	\$0 or (Up to \$189,199,612)	\$0 or (Up to \$189,199,612)
ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS	\$0	\$0 or (Could exceed \$189,199,612)	\$0 or (Could exceed \$189,199,612)

FISCAL IMPACT – Small Business

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

FISCAL DESCRIPTION

This act establishes the "Missouri Disabled Veteran Homestead Tax Credit Act".

This act authorizes a county to grant a property tax credit on real property used as a homestead by a veteran with a 100% permanent disability rating. The tax credit shall apply to all property tax levies imposed on the taxpayer's residence, excluding the state levy imposed for the Blind Pension Fund.

To qualify for a property tax credit, the taxpayer's qualified residence shall not have a market value exceeding \$500,000 exclusive of any portion of the property used for commercial purposes.

A property tax credit authorized by this act shall transfer to the taxpayer's surviving spouse as long as the spouse holds the legal or beneficial title to the residence, permanently resides at the residence, and does not remarry.

To grant property tax credits authorized by the act, a county shall opt in to the provisions of the act by an affirmative majority vote of the governing body of the county. The governing body may at any time rescind the property tax credit program by an affirmative vote.

The total amount of property tax credits authorized pursuant to this act shall be considered tax revenue actually received by the county and political subdivisions.

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 Administration - Budget and Planning
Department of Revenue
State Tax Commission
Department of Social Services
City of Kansas City
St. Louis City Assessor's Office
Newton County Health Department
County Employees Retirement Fund
Boone County SB 40 (Boone County Family Resources)
Adair County SB 40 DD Board
Branson Police Department
Kansas City Police Department
St. Louis County Police Department



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