

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

FISCAL NOTE

LR No.: 1245-01
Bill No.: HB 380
Subject: Fire Protection Districts: Elections
Type: Original
Date: March 23, 2005

FISCAL SUMMARY

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008
Total Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON OTHER STATE FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008
Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>Other</u> State Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0

Numbers within parentheses: () indicate costs or losses.
This fiscal note contains 5 pages.

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FEDERAL FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008
Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>All</u> Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008
Local Government	(Unknown)	\$0 or (Unknown)	\$0

FISCAL ANALYSIS

ASSUMPTION

Officials of the **Department of Public Safety - Fire Safety Division** assume no fiscal impact to their office.

Officials of the **St. Louis County Board of Election Commission** assume they would have fiscal impact. Officials stated they would have costs from drawing up 23 fire districts. Officials estimate \$7,360 for personnel costs, \$21,760 from mapping costs, and \$57,742 for the mailing and printing new voter ID cards to an estimated ½ of the 502,110 registered voters in the 23 districts, all of which totals \$86,862. Officials stated costs would be passed on to the fire protection districts.

Officials of the **Creve Coeur Fire Protection District** assume cost would be related to drafting and formation of boundaries. Officials assume all costs would be passed back to their district..

Officials of the **Monarch Fire Protection District** assumes there would be costs associated with the drafting of boundaries to the district.

ASSUMPTION (continued)

Officials of the **West County EMS and Fire Protection District** assume there would be costs related to the drafting of boundaries, and assumes cost would be passed back to the district.

Officials of the **Lake St. Louis Fire Protection District** assumes there would be no cost in FY 2005. Officials assume there would be additional election costs in FY 2006 and 2007 due to the creation of wards. Officials assume there could be special elections if no citizen would register for a board position, because of the small pool of citizens eligible due to the creation of districts, then the County Executive is required to appoint a board member, which at the next municipal election that person would have to officially run for that seat.

<u>FISCAL IMPACT - State Government</u>	FY 2006 (10 Mo.)	FY 2007	FY 2008
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\$0

\$0

\$0

<u>FISCAL IMPACT - Local Government</u>	FY 2006 (10 Mo.)	FY 2007	FY 2008
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**CERTAIN COUNTIES FIRE
 PROTECTION DISTRICTS**

Cost to Fire Protection Districts

For cost of creating districts for board
 members/elections *

(Unknown)

\$0 or
(Unknown)

\$0

*** Costs in FY 2006 are for creating districts for board members and for potential additional election costs. Costs in FY 2007 are for potential election costs. If no one filed for a board position, the County Executive would appoint one, and at the next municipal election the appointed person would have to be elected. Wards would be established within six months after each decennial census.**

FISCAL IMPACT - Small Business

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

DESCRIPTION

This bill changes the laws regarding fire protection districts. In its main provisions, the bill:

- (1) Requires the election authority in St. Louis, St. Charles, Franklin, and Jefferson counties to establish fire protection district wards equivalent to the number of fire protection district board directors for the purpose of electing new directors. The wards must be established after proper notice and within 60 days of August 28, 2005, and within six months after each decennial census. If the election authority fails to establish wards within the deadline, the County Commission must establish the wards. The bill specifies the qualifications for directors, election procedures, and procedures for the filling of vacancies;
- (2) Provides that in St. Louis, St. Charles, Franklin, and Jefferson counties, after one year of employment, full-time salaried employees of the district will be subject to removal only for cause and after a hearing;
- (3) Prohibits public employers from requiring firefighters who graduate from taxpayer-supported fire academies in this state to attend and graduate from other firefighting academies as a condition of employment. Continuing firefighting education may be required; and
- (4) Prohibits employees of fire protection districts, municipal fire departments, or other public employers of firefighters from contributing money or electioneering for or against fire protection district or municipal tax ballot issues or fire protection district board and municipal office candidates.

Employees are prohibited from electioneering while on duty or in uniform and from using fire protection district equipment while electioneering. Firefighter contributions cannot be expended on ballot issues, except that firefighters may contribute to committees for or against candidates or ballot issues pursuant to Chapter 130, RSMo, regarding campaign finance disclosure. Violations of this section are class four election offenses and may result in forfeiture of employment.

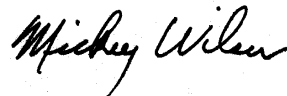
This legislation is not federally mandated, would not duplicate any other program and would not require additional capital improvements or rental space.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Department of Public Safety - Fire Safety
St. Louis County Board of Election Commission
Monarch Fire Protection District
Creve Coeur Fire Protection District
West County EMS and Fire Protection District
Lake St. Louis Fire Protection District

NOT RESPONDING

Mehlville Fire Protection District
Eureka Fire Protection District



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Director
March 23, 2005