

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH  
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

**FISCAL NOTE**

L.R. No.: 0686-01  
Bill No.: HB 225  
Subject: Elderly; Revenue Dept.; Taxation and Revenue - General; Taxation and Revenue - Income  
Type: Original  
Date: January 30, 2007

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Bill Summary: Would increase the pension exemption and exempt Social Security benefits from state income tax for taxpayers 65 years of age or older.

**FISCAL SUMMARY**

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND</b>			
<b>FUND AFFECTED</b>	<b>FY 2008</b>	<b>FY 2009</b>	<b>FY 2010</b>
General Revenue	(Approximately \$120,120,215)	(Approximately \$122,129,524)	(Approximately \$126,133,245)
<b>Total Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue Fund</b>	<b>(Approximately \$120,120,215)</b>	<b>(Approximately \$122,129,524)</b>	<b>(Approximately \$126,133,245)</b>

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON OTHER STATE FUNDS</b>			
<b>FUND AFFECTED</b>	<b>FY 2008</b>	<b>FY 2009</b>	<b>FY 2010</b>
<b>Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>Other</u> State Funds</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

Numbers within parentheses: ( ) indicate costs or losses.  
This fiscal note contains 6 pages.

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FEDERAL FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010
<b>Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>All</u> Federal Funds</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FULL TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE)			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010
General Revenue	3.0	3.0	3.0
<b>Total Estimated Net Effect on FTE</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>3.0</b>

☐ Estimated Total Net Effect on All funds expected to exceed \$100,000 savings or (cost).

☒ Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue Fund expected to exceed \$100,000 (cost).

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010
<b>Local Government</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

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## **FISCAL ANALYSIS**

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### ASSUMPTION

Officials from the **Department of Revenue** (DOR) assume this proposal would allow a deduction of social security benefits included in the Federal Adjusted Gross Income of a taxpayer, and would modify the exemption for pensions, annuities, and retirement allowances. This deduction would require Taxation to add a line to the Form MO-A.

Personal Tax would require 2 Temporary Tax Employee for key-entry, 1 Tax Processing Tech I for every 19,000 returns to be verified by Quality Review, and 1 Tax Processing Tech I for every 2,400 pieces of correspondence. They will also require 2 Temporary Tax Employees for key-entry of 1040P & PTC forms, and 1 Tax Processing Tech I for every additional 5,000 verified returns plus correspondence on the 1040P/PTC forms.

Customer Services would require 1 Tax Collection Technician I for every 15,000 calls a year on the income tax hot line due to lack of documentation and 1 Tax Collection Technician I for every 24,000 calls a year to delinquency/collections due to lack of documentation. They will also need 1 Tax Processing Technician I for every additional 4,800 contacts in the field offices. DOR anticipates most customers will contact the department via phone, therefore, will only request 1 FTE for each of the larger field offices including Kansas City, St. Louis, and Springfield.

In summary, DOR submitted a cost estimate for eight FTE additional staff, and related equipment and expense with a total of \$337,796 for FY 2008, \$361,811 for FY 2009, and \$370,981 for FY 2010. The DOR estimate for a similar proposal in the previous session included only three new FTE. In response to a similar proposal in the previous session (HB 1941, LR 4411-03), DOR assumed the need for three additional FTE Tax Processing Tech I plus four tax season temporary employees.

**Oversight** will use the previous DOR assumption, and will further assume that DOR would be able to implement the proposal with existing IT staff. If multiple provisions are enacted requiring additional staffing or if unanticipated costs are incurred, DOR could request resources through the budget process.

ASSUMPTION (continued)

**Oversight** has, for fiscal note purposes only, changed the starting salary for the additional staff to correspond to the second step above minimum for comparable positions in the state's merit system pay grid. This decision reflects a study of actual starting salaries for new state employees for a six month period and the policy of the Oversight Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Legislative Research. In addition, Oversight has reduced certain equipment and expense items in accordance with Office of Administration budget guidelines. Oversight assumes that the relatively small number of additional staff can be located in existing office space.

Officials from the **University of Missouri, Economic and Policy Analysis Research Center** (EPARC) assume the proposal would permit senior citizens to deduct certain retirement benefits from their taxable income, and would increase the pension exemption to eighteen thousand dollars per year. EPARC estimated that net general revenue collections would be reduced by \$120 million if the proposal was implemented.

**Oversight** will utilize the EPARC estimate for the initial reduction in annual tax collections. Oversight has analyzed cost of living increases for social security benefits; over the past five years benefits have increased an average 2.72 percent. Therefore, Oversight will assume a 2.72% annual increase in lost revenues due to anticipated Social Security cost of living increases.

Oversight is not able to estimate the potential for revenue reductions as a result of additional taxpayers filing returns who would not have filed a tax return under existing conditions, and Oversight is not able to determine the potential for revenue reductions due to the impact of this proposal on the existing Circuit Breaker and Homestead Exemption provisions.

Although they did not respond to our request for information, officials from the **Office of Administration, Division of Budget and Planning** (BAP) assumed a similar proposal would add no cost to their organization.

**This proposal would reduce Total State Revenue.**

<u>FISCAL IMPACT - State</u>	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010
<u>Government</u>	(10 Mo.)		
<b>GENERAL REVENUE</b>			

Costs - Department of Revenue

Personal Service (3 FTE)	(\$53,460)	(\$66,077)	(\$68,059)
Fringe Benefits	(\$23,554)	(\$29,113)	(\$29,987)
Tax Season Temporaries	(\$26,650)	(\$32,780)	(\$33,599)
Expense and Equipment	<u>(\$16,551)</u>	<u>(\$1,554)</u>	<u>(\$1,600)</u>
<u>Total Costs - DOR</u>	<u>(\$120,215)</u>	<u>(\$129,524)</u>	<u>(\$133,245)</u>

Loss - Department of Revenue

Revenue reduction due to a deduction for social security benefits for taxpayers 65 years of age or older.	<u>(Approximately \$120,000,000)</u>	<u>(Approximately \$122,000,000)</u>	<u>(Approximately \$126,000,000)</u>
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**ESTIMATED NET EFFECT TO THE GENERAL REVENUE FUND**

<u>(Approximately \$120,120,215)</u>	<u>(Approximately \$122,129,524)</u>	<u>(Approximately \$126,133,245)</u>
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Estimated Net FTE Change for General Revenue Fund

3.0 FTE	3.0 FTE	3.0 FTE
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FISCAL IMPACT - Local Government

<u>FY 2008</u>	<u>FY 2009</u>	<u>FY 2010</u>
<u>(10 Mo.)</u>		

<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
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FISCAL IMPACT - Small Business

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

### FISCAL DESCRIPTION

The proposal would permit senior citizens to deduct certain retirement benefits from their taxable income, and would increase the pension exemption to eighteen thousand dollars per year.

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

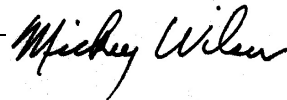
### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Department of Revenue  
University of Missouri  
Economic Policy and Research Center

### NOT RESPONDING

**Office of Administration**  
**Division of Budget and Planning**

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Mickey Wilson, CPA  
Director  
January 30, 2007