

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

FISCAL NOTE

L.R. No.: 0277-03
Bill No.: HCS for HB 363
Subject: Ethics; Political Subdivisions
Type: Original
Date: March 12, 2019

Bill Summary: This proposal changes the law relating to the prohibition on expenditure of public funds to support or oppose candidates and certain measures.

FISCAL SUMMARY

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
Total Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON OTHER STATE FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
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 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>All</u> Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FULL TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE)			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
Total Estimated Net Effect on FTE	0	0	0

☐ Estimated Net Effect (expenditures or reduced revenues) expected to exceed \$100,000 in any of the three fiscal years after implementation of the act.

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
Local Government	(Unknown)	(Unknown)	(Unknown)

FISCAL ANALYSIS

ASSUMPTION

Officials from the **Missouri Ethics Commission** assume the proposal will have no fiscal impact on their organization. However, if the Commission receives a significant increase in complaints additional staff would be required to provide the proper oversight.

Officials from the **Office of State Courts Administrator** and **Office of the Secretary of State** both assume the proposal will have no fiscal impact on their organization.

Officials from the **City of Kansas City** assume the proposal could have a negative fiscal impact in an indeterminate amount on the City of Kansas City, Missouri, because it could increase litigation against Kansas City and limit Kansas City's ability to comment on ballot measures that could have a negative fiscal impact on Kansas City.

Oversight notes there is no way to determine the amount of potential judgements of civil penalties by the courts. Therefore, Oversight will assume the proposal will have a negative unknown fiscal impact to political subdivisions.

Officials from the **Monroe County Assessor** and **Ray County Clerk** both assume the proposal will have no fiscal impact on their organization.

Oversight notes that the Missouri Ethics Commission, Office of State Courts Administrator, and Office of the Secretary of State have stated the proposal would not have a direct fiscal impact on their organization. Oversight does not have any information to the contrary. Therefore, Oversight will reflect a zero impact on the fiscal note.

Oversight only reflects the responses that we have received from state agencies and political subdivisions; however, other political subdivisions were requested to respond to this proposed legislation but did not. For a general listing of political subdivisions included in our database, please refer to www.legislativeoversight.mo.gov.

<u>FISCAL IMPACT - State Government</u>	FY 2020 (10 Mo.)	FY 2021	FY 2022
	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>

FISCAL IMPACT - Local Government

FY 2020
(10 Mo.)

FY 2021

FY 2022

POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS

Cost - increased litigation

(Unknown)

(Unknown)

(Unknown)

**NET EFFECT ON POLITICAL
SUBDIVISIONS**

(Unknown)

(Unknown)

(Unknown)

FISCAL IMPACT - Small Business

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

FISCAL DESCRIPTION

This bill prohibits the contribution or expenditure of public funds, including public resources or specified property, by any officer, board member, director, administrator, employee, or agent of any political subdivision to advocate, support, or oppose any ballot measure or candidate for public office.

The bill does not prohibit these individuals from making public appearances or from issuing press releases concerning any such ballot measure. The bill does allow the use of legislative liaisons by political subdivisions and special districts to communicate information to the General Assembly about their policies and procedures.

If a contribution or expenditure of public funds to any person results in the use of any part of such funds to advocate, support, or oppose any ballot measure or candidate for public office, the contribution or expenditure is in violation of the bill.

Any resident of a political subdivision who wishes to challenge a contribution or expenditure of public funds may bring an action in any circuit court of the political subdivision in which any alleged violation occurred. The political subdivision and the officer, board member, director, administrator, employee, or agent who allegedly violated this section shall be named as party defendants. The petition shall set forth the contribution, expenditure, or contribution and expenditure at issue and the facts that gave rise to a violation and shall pray leave to produce such proof. The court shall consider the petition and evidence, hear arguments, and in its decision determine whether a violation of this section occurred. If the court decides the contribution or expenditure of public funds was a violation, then the court may award attorney fees and the political subdivision shall be subject to a civil penalty in an amount 10 times the amount of the

FISCAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

contribution or expenditure or \$1,000 whichever is greater or, if the violation involved only use of public resources, then a civil fine not to exceed \$1000, for those offenses that are committed by specified administrators or board members.

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

Missouri Ethics Commission
Office of State Courts Administrator
Office of the Secretary of State
City of Kansas City
Monroe County Assessor
Ray County Clerk



Kyle Rieman
Director
March 12, 2019

Ross Strobe
Assistant Director
March 12, 2019