

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

FISCAL NOTE

L.R. No.: 2104-01
Bill No.: HB 1209
Subject: Trees and Other Plants; Agriculture; Higher Education; Department of Natural Resources
Type: Original
Date: April 9, 2019

Bill Summary: This proposal establishes the Missouri Solar Pollinator Habitat Act.

FISCAL SUMMARY

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
General Revenue	(Unknown)	(Unknown)	(Unknown)
Total Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue	(Unknown)	(Unknown)	(Unknown)

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	\$0	\$0	\$0

FISCAL ANALYSIS

ASSUMPTION

Officials from the **Department of Natural Resources (DNR)** states the Department does not employ staff with expertise in pollinators. The Department would need to contract this work out and costs are unknown.

Oversight does not have any information to the contrary in regards to DNR's assumptions; therefore, Oversight will reflect an "Unknown" cost on the fiscal note for DNR.

Officials from the **Department of Agriculture (AGR)** assume the proposal will have no fiscal impact on their organization. AGR states the Department's only involvement in bees is limited to bee hive inspections for pests and diseases. Since the number of pollinators is much larger than the honey bee population, the Department is minimally involved in pollinator issues.

Officials from the **Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC)** assume the proposal would have no fiscal impact on their organization.

Oversight notes that MDC has 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 for MDC.

Oversight researched other states with solar pollinator habitat programs which required developing a scorecard similar to this proposal. The Maryland General Assembly passed a law in the 2017 legislation session (SB 1158). The fiscal note for this bill estimated an increase of \$6,500 per additional facility evaluated (over the life of the facility) for contractual services. That estimate includes costs for the initial designation and periodic follow-up visits to ensure maintenance of the pollinator habitat. The fiscal note did not mention how much it cost to develop the scorecard. Oversight notes this proposal does not require DNR to evaluate sites, only to develop and publish a scorecard. Oversight notes Virginia and Michigan have already published a scorecard. Both states utilized their respective state universities to create the scorecard. Oversight sent this proposal to the University of Missouri but has not received a response prior to submitting the fiscal note.

<u>FISCAL IMPACT - State Government</u>	FY 2020 (10 Mo.)	FY 2021	FY 2022
GENERAL REVENUE FUND			
<u>Cost - DNR - to contract out work to implement proposal</u>	<u>(Unknown)</u>	<u>(Unknown)</u>	<u>(Unknown)</u>
ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON THE GENERAL REVENUE FUND	<u>(Unknown)</u>	<u>(Unknown)</u>	<u>(Unknown)</u>
<u>FISCAL IMPACT - Local Government</u>	FY 2020 (10 Mo.)	FY 2021	FY 2022
	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
<u>FISCAL IMPACT - Small Business</u>			

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

FISCAL DESCRIPTION

This bill establishes the "Missouri Solar Pollinator Habitat Act," which requires the Department of Natural Resources, in consultation with other state and nongovernmental agencies, to publish a scorecard that sets out criteria for claiming that a solar site is pollinator-friendly or provides benefits to pollinators. The scorecard must be available on the department's website within six months of the effective date of the bill.

An owner of a solar site implementing site management practices specified in the bill may claim that the site is pollinator-friendly or provides benefits to pollinators if the site and its vegetation management plan adhere to the criteria set out in the scorecard. An owner making a claim that it is pollinator-friendly or provides benefits to pollinators must make available to the public and provide to the department and a nonprofit solar industry trade association a copy of its completed scorecard and vegetation management plan.

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 Natural Resources
Department of Agriculture
Missouri Department of Conservation



Kyle Rieman
Director
April 9, 2019

Ross Strobe
Assistant Director
April 9, 2019