

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

FISCAL NOTE

L.R. No.: 0415H.02C
Bill No.: HCS for HB 108
Subject: Elementary And Secondary Education, Dept. Of; Teachers
Type: Original
Date: March 29, 2021

Bill Summary: This proposal requires school districts to provide instruction in cursive writing.

FISCAL SUMMARY

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
Total Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON OTHER STATE FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
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 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>All</u> Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FULL TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE)			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
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 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
Local Government	(Less than \$2,739,933)	(Less than \$2,739,933)	(Less than \$2,739,933)

FISCAL ANALYSIS

ASSUMPTION

Officials from the **Department of Elementary and Secondary Education** assume the proposal will have no fiscal impact on their organization. **Oversight** does not have any information to the contrary. Therefore, Oversight will reflect a zero impact in the fiscal note for this agency.

Oversight received a limited number of responses from school districts related to the fiscal impact of this proposal. Oversight has presented this fiscal note on the best current information available. 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.

Oversight only reflects the responses that we have received from state agencies and political subdivisions; however, other school districts were requested to respond to this proposed legislation but did not. A general listing of political subdivisions included in our database is available upon request.

Section 162.052 School Board Petition

Oversight does not anticipate a fiscal impact from this provision.

Section 170.025 Cursive Writing

In response to a previous version, officials from the **Bowling Green R-1 School District** stated this proposal is redundant. This is already a communications arts standard in our state that requires students in 2nd and 3rd grade to write legibly (print, cursive).

In response to a previous version, officials from the **Fordland R-III School District**, **High Point R-III School District** and the **Shell Knob 78 School District** each assumed the proposal would have no fiscal impact on their respective organizations.

In response to a similar proposal, HB 54 (2019), the **Springfield Public Schools** said it would cost \$85,000 in materials, assessments and teacher time.

Oversight notes the [English Language Arts Missouri Learning Standards](#) for K-5 include a standard for Grade 2 and Grade 3 to “write legibly (print, cursive)”.

Based on the cost estimate provided by the Springfield Public Schools and the district’s 4th and 5th grade enrollment numbers, **Oversight** estimates a per student cost of approximately \$21 (\$85,000/4,087).

The statewide total enrollment for Grade 4 and Grade 5 is 130,473. Assuming a per student cost of \$21, **Oversight** estimates the cost to implement this proposal at \$2,739,933. However, Oversight notes some districts indicated there would be no fiscal impact from this proposal; therefore, Oversight will show a cost of less than \$2,739,933.

Oversight received a limited number of responses from school districts related to the fiscal impact of this proposal. Oversight has presented this fiscal note on the best current information available. 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.

Oversight only reflects the responses that we have received from state agencies and political subdivisions; however, other school districts were requested to respond to this proposed legislation but did not. A general listing of political subdivisions included in our database is available upon request.

Section 170.341 Elective Social Studies Course

In response to a similar proposal, SB 323 (2021), officials from **Affton 101 School District** assumed there could be a fiscal impact to the organization.

In response to a similar proposal, SB 323 (2021), officials from the **High Point R-III School District** assumed the proposal would have no fiscal impact on their organization.

In response to the similar HB 267 (2019), officials from the **Springfield Public Schools** assumed the proposal would have no fiscal impact on their organization.

In response to the similar HB 267 (2019), officials from **Wellsville-Middletown R-1 School District** stated public schools already have the ability to teach any religious text in a neutral manner, on a factual and historical basis.

Oversight notes that this proposal is permissive and appears to be consistent with what is already allowed under current law; therefore, Oversight does not anticipate a fiscal impact from this proposal.

Section 171.025 Display Nation Motto

In response to a similar proposal, HB 577 (2019), officials from **Francis Howell School District** assumed there would be minimal cost (less than \$500) for the district to create the displays called for in the proposal.

In response to a similar proposal, HB 577 (2019), officials from **Maries County R-1 School District** assumed the fiscal impact of this bill would be determined by the method of display but

it would be zero dollars to the districts if Missouri Vocational Enterprises (MVE) would make them and supply one to each building. If additional displays are needed, the District could purchase them from MVE.

In response to a similar proposal, HB 577 (2019), officials from **Wellsville-Middletown R-1 School District** assumed the fiscal impact will be minor.

In response to a similar proposal, HB 577 (2019), officials from **Springfield Public Schools** assume the proposal could cost \$5,000 to hang in each classroom in 50 buildings.

Oversight assumes districts can choose the type of display used to meet the requirements of this proposal including but not limited to a mounted plaque or student art work. Oversight notes some school districts indicated a cost to meet the requirements of this proposal. However, Oversight assumes the one-time cost would be minimal and could be absorbed with existing resources. Therefore, Oversight will not show a fiscal impact from this provision.

Rule Promulgation

In response to a previous version, officials from the **Joint Committee on Administrative Rules** assumed this proposal is not anticipated to cause a fiscal impact beyond its current appropriation.

In response to a previous version, officials from the **Office of the Secretary of State** notes many bills considered by the General Assembly include provisions allowing or requiring agencies to submit rules and regulations to implement the act. The Secretary of State's office is provided with core funding to handle a certain amount of normal activity resulting from each year's legislative session. The fiscal impact for this fiscal note to Secretary of State's office for Administrative Rules is less than \$5,000. The Secretary of State's office recognizes that this is a small amount and does not expect that additional funding would be required to meet these costs. However, they also recognize that many such bills may be passed by the General Assembly in a given year and that collectively the costs may be in excess of what their office can sustain with their core budget. Therefore, they reserve the right to request funding for the cost of supporting administrative rules requirements should the need arise based on a review of the finally approved bills signed by the governor.

<u>FISCAL IMPACT – State Government</u>	FY 2022 (10 Mo.)	FY 2023	FY 2024
	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>

<u>FISCAL IMPACT – Local Government</u>	FY 2022 (10 Mo.)	FY 2023	FY 2024
SCHOOL DISTRICTS			
<u>Costs</u> - materials, assessments and teacher time to implement cursive writing - §170.025 - pg. 4	(Less than \$2,739,933)	(Less than \$2,739,933)	(Less than \$2,739,933)
ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON SCHOOL DISTRICTS	(Less than \$2,739,933)	(Less than \$2,739,933)	(Less than \$2,739,933)

FISCAL IMPACT – Small Business

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

FISCAL DESCRIPTION

The bill allows registered voters to file a petition with the school board to add agenda items to any monthly school board meeting. Requirements for the petition language is outlined in the bill, and no request may be submitted more than once every six months. Any agenda item added in this manner, shall be taken up by the board following the board procedure for such items. (Section 162.052, RSMo).

This bill requires school districts to provide instruction incursive writing by the end of the fifth grade, including a proficiency test of competency in reading and writing cursive (Section 170.025).

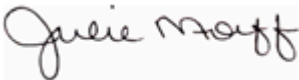
This bill allows a school district to offer an elective social studies unit on the Hebrew Scriptures, the Old Testament of the Bible, or the New Testament of the Bible. The course will include the contents, history, literary style and structure, and influences on American history. No requirement shall be made by the district on the text translation students must use. This bill requires that any course offered shall follow applicable laws maintaining religious neutrality, and shall not endorse, favor, promote, or show hostility to any particular religion, nonreligious faith or religious perspective (Section 170.341).

This bill requires that schools, beginning in the 2022-23 school year and continuing thereafter, display the national motto of the United States, "In God We Trust" in a prominent location, as defined in the bill (Section 171.025).

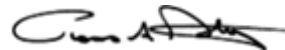
This legislation is not federally mandated, would not duplicate any other program and would not require additional capital improvements or rental space.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
Office of the Secretary of State
Joint Committee on Administrative Rules
Bowling Green R-1 School District
Fordland R-III School District
High Point R-III School District
Shell Knob 78 School District
Springfield Public Schools
Affton 101 School District
Wellsville-Middletown R-1 School District



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March 29, 2021



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