

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

FISCAL NOTE

L.R. No.: 4351H.03I
Bill No.: HB 2219
Subject: Crimes and Punishment; Consumer Protection; Internet and E-Mail
Type: Original
Date: February 7, 2024

Bill Summary: This proposal modifies the offense of unlawful posting of certain information over the internet.

FISCAL SUMMARY

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027
General Revenue	(\$8,074)	(\$19,766)	(\$20,161)
Total Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue	(\$8,074)	(\$19,766)	(\$20,161)

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON OTHER STATE FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027
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 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027
Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>All</u> Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FULL TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE)			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027
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 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027
Local Government	\$0	\$0	\$0

FISCAL ANALYSIS

ASSUMPTION

§565.240 – Unlawful posting of information

Officials from the **Department of Corrections (DOC)** state this proposal modifies the offense of unlawful posting of certain information over the internet. Section 565.240 modifies penalties for the offense of unlawful posting of certain information over the internet as described in subdivision 1 of subsection 1 and creates a new penalty for the offense as described in subdivision 2 of subsection 1. Penalties for the offense in subdivision 1 are changed from a class C misdemeanor to a class E felony, from a class E felony to a class D felony, and from a class D felony to a class C felony. The penalty for the offense in subdivision 2 is a new class E felony.

There were no new misdemeanor convictions or new felony court commitments or new felony probation cases under section 565.240 in FY 2023. Therefore, the department estimates no impact from the changes to penalties associated with the offense in subdivision 1.

As the offense in subdivision 2 is a new crime, there is little direct data on which to base an estimate, and as such, the department estimates an impact comparable to the creation of a new class E felony.

For each new nonviolent class E felony, the department estimates one person could be sentenced to prison and two to probation. The average sentence for a nonviolent class E felony offense is 3.4 years, of which 2.1 years will be served in prison with 1.4 years to first release. The remaining 1.3 years will be on parole. Probation sentences will be 3 years.

The cumulative impact on the department is estimated to be 2 additional offenders in prison and 7 additional offenders on field supervision by FY 2027.

Change in prison admissions and probation openings with legislation-Class E Felony (nonviolent)

	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029	FY2030	FY2031	FY2032	FY2033	FY2034
New Admissions										
Current Law	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
After Legislation	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Probation										
Current Law	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
After Legislation	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Change (After Legislation - Current Law)										
Admissions	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Probations	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Cumulative Populations										
Prison	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Parole			1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Probation	2	4	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
Impact										
Prison Population	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Field Population	2	4	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7
Population Change	3	6	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9

	# to prison	Cost per year	Total Costs for prison	Change in probation & parole officers	Total cost for probation and parole	# to probation & parole	Grand Total - Prison and Probation (includes 2% inflation)
Year 1	1	(\$9,689)	(\$8,074)	0	\$0	2	(\$8,074)
Year 2	2	(\$9,689)	(\$19,766)	0	\$0	4	(\$19,766)
Year 3	2	(\$9,689)	(\$20,161)	0	\$0	7	(\$20,161)
Year 4	2	(\$9,689)	(\$20,564)	0	\$0	7	(\$20,564)
Year 5	2	(\$9,689)	(\$20,975)	0	\$0	7	(\$20,975)
Year 6	2	(\$9,689)	(\$21,395)	0	\$0	7	(\$21,395)
Year 7	2	(\$9,689)	(\$21,823)	0	\$0	7	(\$21,823)
Year 8	2	(\$9,689)	(\$22,259)	0	\$0	7	(\$22,259)
Year 9	2	(\$9,689)	(\$22,704)	0	\$0	7	(\$22,704)
Year 10	2	(\$9,689)	(\$23,159)	0	\$0	7	(\$23,159)

If the projected impact of legislation is less than 1,500 offenders added to or subtracted from the department’s institutional caseload, the marginal cost of incarceration will be utilized. This cost of incarceration is \$26.545 per day or an annual cost of \$9,689 per offender and includes such costs as medical, food, and operational E&E. However, if the projected impact of legislation is 1,500 or more offenders added or removed to the department’s institutional caseload, the full cost of incarceration will be used, which includes fixed costs. This cost is \$99.90 per day or an annual cost of \$36,464 per offender and includes personal services, all institutional E&E, medical and mental health, fringe, and miscellaneous expenses. None of these costs include construction to increase institutional capacity.

DOC’s cost of probation or parole is determined by the number of P&P Officer II positions that are needed to cover its caseload. The DOC average district caseload across the state is 51 offender cases per officer. An increase/decrease of 51 cases would result in a cost/cost avoidance equal to the salary, fringe, and equipment and expenses of one P&P Officer II. Increases/decreases smaller than 51 offender cases are assumed to be absorbable.

In instances where the proposed legislation would only affect a specific caseload, such as sex offenders, the DOC will use the average caseload figure for that specific type of offender to calculate cost increases/decreases.

Oversight does not have any information contrary to that provided by DOC. Therefore, Oversight will reflect DOC’s impact for fiscal note purposes.

Oversight could not find any felony convictions under Section 565.240 for the past 5 fiscal years.

Officials from the **Office of the State Public Defender (SPD)** state per the recently released National Public Defense Workload Study, the new charge contemplated by the change to Section 565.240 would take approximately thirty-five hours of SPD work for reasonably effective representation. If one hundred cases were filed under this section in a fiscal year, representation would result in a need for an additional one to two attorneys. Because the number of cases that will be filed under this statute is unknown, the exact additional number of attorneys necessary is unknown. Each case would also result in unknown increased costs in the need for core staff, travel, and litigation expenses.

Oversight assumes this proposal will create a minimal number of new cases and that the SPD can absorb the additional caseload required by this proposal with current staff and resources. Therefore, Oversight will reflect no fiscal impact to the SPD for fiscal note purposes. However, if multiple bills pass which require additional staffing and duties, the SPD may request funding through the appropriation process.

Officials from the **Office of Attorney General (AGO)** assume any potential litigation costs arising from this proposal can be absorbed with existing resources. However, the AGO may seek additional appropriations if the proposal results in a significant increase in litigation or investigation.

Oversight does not have any information to the contrary. Therefore, Oversight assumes the AGO will be able to perform any additional duties required by this proposal with current staff and resources and will reflect no fiscal impact to the AGO for fiscal note purposes.

Officials from the **Department of Natural Resources**, the **Department of Public Safety – (Capitol Police and Missouri Highway Patrol)**, the **Department of Social Services**, the **Missouri Department of Conservation**, the **Missouri Office of Prosecution Services**, the **Office of the State Courts Administrator**, the **Phelps County Sheriff's Department**, the **Kansas City Police Department**, and the **St. Louis County Police Department** each assume the proposal will have no fiscal impact on their respective organizations. **Oversight** does not have any information to the contrary. Therefore, Oversight will reflect a zero impact in the fiscal note for these agencies.

Oversight only reflects the responses received from state agencies and political subdivisions; however, other local law enforcement were requested to respond to this proposed legislation but did not. A listing of political subdivisions included in the Missouri Legislative Information System (MOLIS) database is available upon request.

<u>FISCAL IMPACT – State Government</u>	FY 2025 (10 Mo.)	FY 2026	FY 2027
GENERAL REVENUE			
<u>Costs – DOC (\$565.240) Increased incarceration costs</u>	<u>(\$8,074)</u>	<u>(\$19,766)</u>	<u>(\$20,161)</u>
ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE	<u>(\$8,074)</u>	<u>(\$19,766)</u>	<u>(\$20,161)</u>

<u>FISCAL IMPACT – Local Government</u>	FY 2025 (10 Mo.)	FY 2026	FY 2027
	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>

FISCAL IMPACT – Small Business

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

FISCAL DESCRIPTION

Currently, a person commits the offense of unlawful posting of information over the Internet when he or she knowingly posts personally identifiable information of any person on the Internet intending to cause great bodily harm or death, or threatening to cause great bodily harm or death to such person.

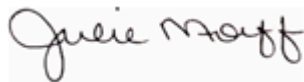
This bill allows for the offense of unlawful posting of information over the Internet if the information posted is posted to intimidate or harass a person or to obtain financial gain from such person.

The offense of unlawful posting of certain information over the Internet in these instances results in a class E felony.

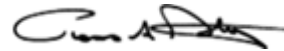
This legislation is not federally mandated, would not duplicate any other program and would not require additional capital improvements or rental space.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Attorney General's Office
Department of Corrections
Department of Natural Resources
Department of Public Safety
Department of Social Services
Missouri Department of Conservation
Missouri Office of Prosecution Services
Office of the State Courts Administrator
Office of the State Public Defender
Phelps County Sheriff's Department
Kansas City Police Department
St. Louis County Police Department



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