

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH  
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

**FISCAL NOTE**

L.R. No.: 4851H.01I  
 Bill No.: HB 2207  
 Subject: Professional Registration and Licensing; Contracts and Contractors  
 Type: Original  
 Date: March 15, 2024

Bill Summary: This proposal establishes the Missouri Statewide Mechanical Contractor Licensing Act.

**FISCAL SUMMARY**

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND</b>			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027
<b>Total Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON OTHER STATE FUNDS</b>			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027
Professional Registration Fees Fund (0689)	(\$331,974)	\$0	\$0
Missouri Mechanical Contractor Licensing Fund	\$0	\$491,055	(\$316,911)
<b>Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>Other</u> State Funds</b>	<b>(\$331,974)</b>	<b>\$420,602</b>	<b>(\$289,298)</b>

Numbers within parentheses: () indicate costs or losses.

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

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FULL TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE)</b>			
<b>FUND AFFECTED</b>	<b>FY 2025</b>	<b>FY 2026</b>	<b>FY 2027</b>
Professional Registration Fees Fund	3 FTE	3 FTE	3 FTE
<b>Total Estimated Net Effect on FTE</b>	<b>3 FTE</b>	<b>3 FTE</b>	<b>3 FTE</b>

- 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.

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL FUNDS</b>			
<b>FUND AFFECTED</b>	<b>FY 2025</b>	<b>FY 2026</b>	<b>FY 2027</b>
<b>Local Government</b>	<b>\$0 or (Unknown)</b>	<b>\$0 or (Unknown)</b>	<b>\$0 or (Unknown)</b>

## FISCAL ANALYSIS

### ASSUMPTION

#### Section 324.950-324.983 - Missouri Statewide Mechanical Contractor Licensing Act

Officials from the **Department of Commerce and Insurance (DCI)** assume the following:

#### Licensee/Revenue

2,000	Estimated Licensees (US Labor census & Mechanical Engineers Association)
\$425.00	Initial License Fee
\$400.00	Renewal License Fee
Biennial	Renewal Cycle

- In the current language of this proposed legislation, Professional Registration assumes one license holder per corporation, firm, institution, organization, or company will register with the department.
- Projected revenue reflects fees collected for all categories of licensure.
- A 3% growth rate has been estimated (60 additional initial licensees).
- It is estimated that the collection of initial license fees will begin in FY 2026 and renewal fees will not be collected until FY 2027.
- If the number of licensees largely vary from the number estimated above, the licensure fees will be adjusted accordingly.

In summary, DCI assumes a revenue of \$850,000 (2,000 x \$425) in FY 2026 and \$25,500 (2,000 x 3% x \$425) in FY 2027 to the Missouri Mechanical Industry Licensing Fund to provide for the implementation of the changes in this proposal.

The following board-specific expenses are being calculated to determine the additional appropriation needed by the division to support the board and to assist in calculating the anticipated license and renewal fees.

#### Staffing

1 FTE Principal Assistant at \$82,000 annually needed to serve as the senior executive officer of the registration agency.

1 FTE Customer Service Representative at \$38,100 annually needed to provide technical support, process applications for licensure, and respond to inquiries related to the licensure law and/or rules and regulations.

1 FTE Non-Commissioned Investigator at \$49,600 annually needed to conduct investigations and inspections, serve notices, and gather information required by the board.

### Complaints and Investigations

It is estimated the board will receive approximately 27 complaints. The division does not anticipate receiving any complaints until FY 2025. It is estimated 15% of the complaints filed will require field investigations with 50% requiring overnight travel. A car is needed to conduct investigations and will need to be eventually replaced based upon usage. Therefore, the vehicle cost is considered an ongoing expense and appropriation need.

In summary, DCI assumes a cost of \$331,974 in FY 2025, \$358,945 in FY 2026 and \$342,411 in FY 2027 to provide for the implementation of the changes in this proposal.

**Oversight** will reflect the DCI estimated revenues and costs. Oversight will reflect the board-specific expenses to the Professional Registration Fees Fund. Oversight assumes the revenue collected from the licensure fees will be deposited into the Missouri Mechanical Contractor Licensing Fund and then will be transferred to the PR Fees Fund resulting in an estimated net effect of zero to the PR Fees Fund in FY 26 and FY 27. Oversight notes the PR Fees Fund (0689) balance at the end of February 2024 was \$759,698.

Officials from the **Department of Revenue (DOR)** assume this proposal establishes the Statewide Mechanical Contractors Licensing Act. In Section 324.965.4 this proposal states that if a local political subdivision fails to recognize the statewide license, they can be subject to an investigation. If during the investigation they continue to fail to recognize the statewide license, the Department of Commerce & Insurance (DCI) is to notify the Department of Revenue (DOR). DOR is to withhold any and all local distributions of sales tax until notified the local political subdivision is in compliance again.

DOR notes this would be a manual process completed by the local's tax team. DOR would need to manually key records during the time distribution is stopped. It should be noted that once DOR is notified that distribution can restart, the release of funds would not be until the following month during the distribution period. The Department assumes they can absorb this requirement with existing staff. Should the number of holds on distribution become justified to need new FTE, then we will seek them through the appropriations process.

**Oversight** notes DOR assumes they can absorb the cost of this proposal within existing staff. Oversight does not have any information to the contrary. Therefore, Oversight will reflect a zero impact in the fiscal note for their agency.

In response to a similar proposal from 2022 (HB 2050), officials from the **City of Kirksville** stated that if this proposal passes, it would impact the contractor testing requirements of the City. The decrease in revenues would be less than \$1,000 annually, however, the more significant impact would be the loss of oversight on projects completed by out-of-town contractors who fail to notify the City of work being completed and fail to follow the City's municipal code. The bill only requires one contractor be licensed in a firm, but does not specify that contractor be on the job site for all work completed. In addition, with the proposed State license valid for two years, contractors do not need to show proof of liability or worker's

compensation insurance when completing a project for a citizen. This could leave citizens vulnerable to losses.

**Oversight** assumes there could be a potential loss to local municipalities that currently license mechanical contractors as this legislation would require them to recognize a statewide license for the purposes of performing contracting work or obtaining permits to perform work within the political subdivision. Oversight assumes the Department of Revenue shall withhold any moneys the noncompliant political subdivision would otherwise be entitled to from local sales tax, until the director has received notice from the division that the political subdivision is in compliance with this section.

Officials from the **Office of the State Public Defender (SPD)** per the recently released National Public Defense Workload Study, the new charge contemplated by this change to Sections 324.950 to 324.983, which will impact SPD's child clients, would take approximately fourteen 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 attorney. 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. However, if the charge was classified as a class D misdemeanor no jail time would be authorized and the cases would not qualify for SPD representation.

**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 Administration - Administrative Hearing Commission**, the **Missouri Department of Agriculture**, the **Office of the State Treasurer** and the **Office of the State Treasurer and Kansas City** each assume the proposal will have no fiscal impact on their respective organizations.

In response to a similar proposal from 2022 (HB 500), officials from the **Office of the State Missouri Office of Prosecution Services** assume the proposal will have no fiscal impact on their organization.

**Oversight** notes that the above mentioned agencies have stated the proposal would not have a direct fiscal impact on their respective organizations. Oversight does not have any information to the contrary. Therefore, Oversight will reflect a zero impact on the fiscal note for these agencies.

**Oversight** only reflects the responses received from state agencies and political subdivisions; however, other cities and counties 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
<b>PR FEES FUND (0689)</b>			
<u>Transfer In</u> - from Missouri Mechanical Contractor Licensing	\$0	\$358,945	\$342,411
<u>Cost – DCI</u>			
Salaries	(\$141,417)	(\$173,094)	(\$176,556)
Fringe Benefits	(\$92,361)	(\$112,148)	(\$113,490)
Equipment and Expense	(\$57,466)	\$0	\$0
Other Fund Cost	(\$40,730)	(\$73,703)	(\$52,365)
<u>Total Cost – DCI</u>	<u>(\$331,974)</u>	<u>(\$358,945)</u>	<u>(\$342,411)</u>
FTE Change – DCI			
<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT TO THE PR FEES FUND</b>	<b><u>(\$331,974)</u></b>	<b><u>\$0</u></b>	<b><u>\$0</u></b>
Estimated Net FTE Change to the PR Fees	3 FTE	3 FTE	3 FTE
<b>MISSOURI MECHANICAL CONTRACTOR LICENSING FUND</b>			
<u>Revenue – DCI</u> Licensing Fee	\$0	\$850,000	\$25,500
<u>Transfer Out</u> - to PR Fee Fund (0689)	\$0	(\$358,945)	(\$342,411)
<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON THE MISSOURI</b>	<b><u>\$0</u></b>	<b><u>\$491,055</u></b>	<b><u>(\$316,911)</u></b>

<b>MECHANICAL CONTRACTOR LICENSING FUND</b>			
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<u>FISCAL IMPACT – Local Government</u>	FY 2025 (10 Mo.)	FY 2026	FY 2027
<b>LOCAL POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS</b>			
<u>Loss - Potential loss of licensing fees</u>	<u>\$0 or (Unknown)</u>	<u>\$0 or (Unknown)</u>	<u>\$0 or (Unknown)</u>
<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS</b>	<u>\$0 or (Unknown)</u>	<u>\$0 or (Unknown)</u>	<u>\$0 or (Unknown)</u>

FISCAL IMPACT – Small Business

This small business mechanical contractors would be impacted by this proposal

FISCAL DESCRIPTION

This act shall be known as the Missouri Statewide Mechanical Contractor Licensing Act. Under this act, the statewide mechanical contractor license for mechanical contractors shall be regulated by the Division of Professional Registration, within the Department of Commerce and Insurance. This act creates the Office of Mechanical Contractors within the Division to carry out the provisions of this act.

Applicants for a statewide mechanical contractor license shall meet certain criteria set forth in the act. A corporation, firm, institution, organization, or company seeking to engage in mechanical contracting shall have a least one statewide license holder in its employ. A mechanical contractor shall have one license holder responsible for offering field employees eight contact hours of industry training each year, and mechanical contractors shall be responsible for providing proof of such training to the Division upon request. In the event of a loss of a license holder, a mechanical contractor shall remain in good standing with the Division for six months after notifying the Division of such change. Within the six month period, a new license holder shall be registered with the Division. If no license holder is registered within such six month period, the Division shall declare the mechanical contractor inactive.

Political subdivisions may establish their own local mechanical contractor's license, but shall recognize a statewide mechanical contractor license in lieu of a local license for the purposes of

performing contracting work or obtaining permits to perform work within such political subdivision. No political subdivision may require the employees of a statewide licensed mechanical contractor or its subcontractors or manufacturers' representatives to obtain journeymen licenses, apprenticeship licenses, or occupational licenses that require passing any examination or any special requirements to assess proficiency. If a political subdivision does not recognize a statewide mechanical contractor license in lieu of a local license, a statewide mechanical contractor license holder may file a complaint with the Division, which may investigate such complaint. If the Division finds that the political subdivision failed to recognize a statewide mechanical contractor license, the Division shall notify the political subdivision of such violation and grant them 30 days to comply. If after 30 days the political subdivision does not comply, the Division shall notify the Director of the Department of Revenue, who shall withhold any moneys the political subdivision would otherwise be entitled to from local sales tax until the political subdivision is in compliance.

This act establishes the Missouri Mechanical Contractor Licensing Fund in the state treasury, which shall be expended for the administration of this act.

Mechanical contractor licenses shall expire on a renewal date established by the Division. The Division shall, prior to the renewal date, mail a renewal notice to the last known address of each person licensed under this act. Failure to provide the Division with the information required for renewal or to pay the required fee shall result in the license being declared inactive. The license shall remain inactive until the license holder applies for reinstatement and pays the required fees, so long as the application for reinstatement is received within two years of the renewal date. Any person operating as a mechanical contractor in a political subdivision that does not require a local license shall not be required to possess a statewide license to operate as a mechanical contractor in such political subdivision.

The Division may refuse to issue any license, and may cause a complaint to be filed with the Administrative Hearing Commission against any holder of a license for causes set forth in the act. Upon a finding by the Administrative Hearing Commission that grounds for disciplinary action are met, the Division may censure or place such a person on probation for a period not to exceed five years, or may suspend, for a period not to exceed three years, or revoke any license. Upon a judicial or administrative finding of a violation of this act, the Division may assess fines up to \$5,000.

Any person who knowingly violates the provisions of this act is guilty of a Class B misdemeanor.

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

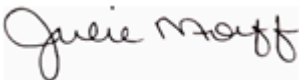
#### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Department of Commerce and Insurance

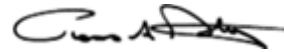


L.R. No. 4851H.011  
Bill No. HB 2207  
Page 9 of 9  
March 15, 2024

Department of Revenue  
Office of the State Treasurer  
Office of the State Courts Administrator  
Office of the State Public Defender  
Office of Prosecution Services  
Office of Administration  
Administrative Hearing Commission  
City of Kansas City  
City of Kirksville



Julie Morff  
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March 15, 2024



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