

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH  
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

**FISCAL NOTE**

L.R. No.: 0166H.02I  
Bill No.: HB 481  
Subject: Uniform Laws; Children and Minors; Family Law; Domestic Relations  
Type: Original  
Date: April 8, 2025

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Bill Summary: This proposal modifies and establishes provisions relating to the protection of children.

**FISCAL SUMMARY**

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND</b>			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028
General Revenue*	\$0 to (Unknown)	\$0 to (Unknown)	\$0 to (Unknown)
<b>Total Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue</b>	<b>\$0 to (Unknown)</b>	<b>\$0 to (Unknown)</b>	<b>\$0 to (Unknown)</b>

\*Potential unknown costs for OSCA not expected to exceed \$250,000 annually.

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON OTHER STATE FUNDS</b>			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028
<b>Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>Other</u> State Funds</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

Numbers within parentheses: () indicate costs or losses.

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FEDERAL FUNDS</b>			
<b>FUND AFFECTED</b>	<b>FY 2026</b>	<b>FY 2027</b>	<b>FY 2028</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 2026</b>	<b>FY 2027</b>	<b>FY 2028</b>
<b>Total Estimated Net Effect on FTE</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</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 2026</b>	<b>FY 2027</b>	<b>FY 2028</b>
<b>Local Government*</b>	<b>\$0 to (Unknown)</b>	<b>\$0 to (Unknown)</b>	<b>\$0 to (Unknown)</b>

\*Potential unknown costs for prosecutors not expected to exceed \$250,000 annually.

## **FISCAL ANALYSIS**

### **ASSUMPTION**

§§452.705, 452.730, 452.885, 452.1100, 452.1102, 452.1104, 452.1106, 452.1108, 452.1110, 452.1112, 452.1114, 452.1118, 452.1120, 452.1122 & 487.110 – Protection of children and Uniform Child Abduction Prevention Act

Officials from the **Office of State Courts Administrator (OSCA)** state HB 481 may have some impact but there is no way to quantify that amount currently. Any significant changes will be reflected in future budget requests.

**Oversight** notes OSCA assumes this proposal may have some impact on their organization although it can't be quantified at this time. As OSCA is unable to provide additional information regarding the potential impact, Oversight assumes the proposed legislation will have a \$0 to (Unknown) cost to the General Revenue Fund. For fiscal note purposes, Oversight also assumes the impact will be under \$250,000 annually. If this assumption is incorrect, this would alter the fiscal impact as presented in this fiscal note. If additional information is received, Oversight will review it to determine if an updated fiscal note should be prepared and seek approval to publish a new fiscal note.

Officials from the **Missouri Office of Prosecution Services (MOPS)** assume the proposal will have no measurable fiscal impact to MOPS. The creation of new duties in §452.1106.3 without funding will have a negative fiscal impact on local prosecutors' offices although the cost is difficult to determine.

**Oversight** has no information to the contrary. Oversight assumes local prosecutors' offices may be impacted as a result of the new duties in §452.1106.3. Therefore, Oversight will range costs from \$0 to (Unknown) and further assumes the unknown impact will be less than \$250,000 annually.

**Oversight** notes the following cases filed and disposed over the past 5 years involving children in domestic relations:

<b><u>CASES FILED</u></b>						
	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	5 yr. Avg
Domestic Relations:						
Child Protection Extension/Modification	-	2	-	-	1	1
Child Protection Order	8,899	8,208	7,590	7,584	8,705	8,197
Dissolution of Marriage with Children	9,325	9,470	10,725	10,418	10,839	10,155
Registration of Foreign Judgment- Custody	99	116	115	112	110	110
TOTAL	18,323	17,796	18,430	18,114	19,655	18,464
Source: Table 17 from OSCA's Annual Judicial & Statistical Report Supplemental						

<b><u>CASES DISPOSED</u></b>						
	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	5 yr. Avg
Domestic Relations:						
Child Protection Extension/Modification	-	-	-	-	1	0
Child Protection Order	8,774	8,139	7,393	7,341	8,564	8,042
Contempt (Includes IV-D)	331	475	488	683	680	527
Dissolution of Marriage with Children	9,675	10,175	10,667	9,789	11,006	10,262
Registration of Foreign Judgment- Custody	103	115	114	115	106	111
TOTAL	18,863	18,904	18,662	17,925	20,357	18,943
Source: Table 17 from OSCA's Annual Judicial & Statistical Report Supplemental						

### §§453.700 - 453.742 - Uniform Unregulated Child Custody Transfer Act

Officials from the **Office of the State Public Defender (SPD)** state per the National Public Defense Workload Study, the new charge contemplated by this change to §§453.710 and 453.714, 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 **Missouri Office of Prosecution Services (MOPS)** state no measurable fiscal impact to MOPS. The enactment of a new crime (§§453.710.4 and 453.714.2 – class B misdemeanors) creates additional responsibilities for county prosecutors and the circuit attorney which may in turn result in additional costs which are difficult to determine.

**Oversight** does not have any information to the contrary. Therefore, Oversight assumes MOPS 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 MOPS for fiscal note purposes.

### Rule Promulgation

Officials from the **Joint Committee on Administrative Rules** assume this proposal is not anticipated to cause a fiscal impact beyond its current appropriation.

Officials from the **Office of the Secretary of State (SOS)** note many bills considered by the General Assembly include provisions allowing or requiring agencies to submit rules and regulations to implement the act. The SOS 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 the SOS for Administrative Rules is less than \$5,000. The SOS recognizes that this is a small amount and does not expect that additional funding would be required to meet these costs. However, the SOS also recognizes 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 the office can sustain with its core budget. Therefore, the SOS reserves 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.

### Bill as a whole

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

**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 **Office of Administration - Administrative Hearing Commission**, the **Department of Commerce and Insurance**, the **Department of Elementary and Secondary Education**, the **Department of Mental Health**, the **Department of Labor and Industrial Relations**, the **Department of Revenue**, the **Department of Public Safety – Director's Office** and the **Missouri Highway Patrol**, the **Department of Social Services**, the **Office of Administration**, the **Phelps County Sheriff**, 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, various county officials, and other sheriffs and police departments 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 2026 (10 Mo.)	FY 2027	FY 2028
<b>GENERAL REVENUE FUND</b>			
<u>Costs</u> – OSCA (§§Various) – increased court costs related to protection of children	\$0 to (Unknown)	\$0 to (Unknown)	\$0 to (Unknown)
<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON THE GENERAL REVENUE FUND</b>	<b><u>\$0 to (Unknown)</u></b>	<b><u>\$0 to (Unknown)</u></b>	<b><u>\$0 to (Unknown)</u></b>

<u>FISCAL IMPACT – Local Government</u>	FY 2026 (10 Mo.)	FY 2027	FY 2028
<b>LOCAL GOVERNMENTS - PROSECUTORS</b>			
<u>Costs</u> – County Prosecutors (§452.1106) – increase in costs due to additional duties	\$0 to (Unknown)	\$0 to (Unknown)	\$0 to (Unknown)
<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS</b>	<b><u>\$0 to (Unknown)</u></b>	<b><u>\$0 to (Unknown)</u></b>	<b><u>\$0 to (Unknown)</u></b>

#### FISCAL IMPACT – Small Business

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

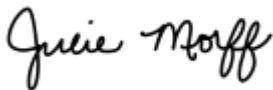
#### FISCAL DESCRIPTION

This proposal modifies provisions relating to the protection of children and includes the Uniform Child Abduction Prevention Act (§§452.1100 – 452.1122 and 487.110) and the Uniform Unregulated Child Custody Transfer Act (§§453.700 – 453.742).

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  
Office of Administration - Administrative Hearing Commission  
Department of Commerce and Insurance  
Department of Elementary and Secondary Education  
Department of Mental Health  
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations  
Department of Revenue  
Department of Public Safety –  
    Director's Office  
    Missouri Highway Patrol  
Department of Social Services  
Office of Administration  
Office of the Secretary of State  
Office of the State Public Defender  
Phelps County Sheriff  
Kansas City Police Department  
St. Louis County Police Department  
Joint Committee on Administrative Rules  
Missouri Office of Prosecution Services  
Office of the State Courts Administrator



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April 8, 2025



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April 8, 2025