

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH  
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

**FISCAL NOTE**

L.R. No.: 0167H.02C  
 Bill No.: HCS for HB Nos. 177 & 469  
 Subject: Health Care; Health Care Professionals; Medicaid/MO HealthNet  
 Type: Original  
 Date: February 5, 2025

Bill Summary: This proposal provides for MO HealthNet coverage of hearing aids and cochlear implants.

**FISCAL SUMMARY**

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND</b>			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028
General Revenue	(\$12,500)	Up to (\$2,491,096)	Up to (\$663,254)
<b>Total Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue</b>	<b>(\$12,500)</b>	<b>Up to (\$2,491,096)</b>	<b>Up to (\$663,254)</b>

<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>
Federal*	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>All</u> Federal Funds</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

\* Income and expenses are estimated at \$7.9 million in FY26 and \$2.1 in FY27 and ongoing and net to \$0.

<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</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

## FISCAL ANALYSIS

### ASSUMPTION

#### § 208.152 - MO HealthNet coverage of hearing aids and cochlear implants

Officials from the **Department of Social Services (DSS), MO HealthNet Division (MHD)** identified 193,308 adults who are currently enrolled in MHD Fee-for-Service could be eligible for hearing aid services. Using data from the [CDC](#), MHD estimates that 7.1% (13,725) of those adults may utilize these services. The average cost of hearing aid services is \$210.73.

This legislation would also result in an impact to the Managed Care capitation rates of up to \$10 million. The cost of the actuarial study to evaluate this program change would be no more than \$25,000 in the first year.

Due to the timing of obtaining a State Plan Amendment (SPA) and waiver for this legislation, MHD assumes additional costs for hearing aid services will begin in FY27. MHD estimates 80% of the participants identified will obtain hearing aid services in the first year due to pent-up demand, and 20% in subsequent years. A 6.5% medical inflation rate was used for FY28.

FY26 Total: \$25,000 (GR: \$12,500; Federal: \$12,500)  
FY27 Total: Up to \$10,313,793 (GR: \$2,491,096; Federal: \$7,822,697)  
FY28 Total: Up to \$2,746,047 (GR: \$663,254; Federal: \$2,082,793)

**Oversight** does not have information to the contrary and therefore, Oversight will reflect the estimates as provided by the DSS.

Officials from the **Department of Mental Health** 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.

<u>FISCAL IMPACT – State Government</u>	FY 2026 (10 Mo.)	FY 2027	FY 2028
<b>GENERAL REVENUE</b>			
<u>Costs – DSS/MHD (§ 208.152) p. 3</u>		Up to...	Up to...
Actuarial study	(\$12,500)	\$0	\$0
Coverage of hearing devices	\$0	(\$2,491,096)	(\$663,254)
<u>Total Costs - DSS/MHD</u>	(\$12,500)	Up to (\$2,491,096)	Up to (\$663,254)
<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE</b>	<b>(\$12,500)</b>	<b>Up to (\$2,491,096)</b>	<b>Up to (\$663,254)</b>
<b>FEDERAL FUNDS</b>			
<u>Income – DSS/MHD (§ 208.152)</u> Program reimbursements for coverage of hearing devices p. 3	\$12,500	Up to \$7,822,697	Up to \$2,082,793
<u>Costs – DSS/MHD (§ 208.152) p. 3</u>		Up to...	Up to...
Actuarial study	(\$12,500)	\$0	\$0
Coverage of hearing devices	\$0	(\$7,822,697)	(\$2,082,793)
<u>Total Costs - DSS/MHD</u>	(\$12,500)	Up to (\$7,822,697)	Up to (\$2,082,793)
<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FEDERAL FUNDS</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

<u>FISCAL IMPACT – Local Government</u>	FY 2026 (10 Mo.)	FY 2027	FY 2028
	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

FISCAL IMPACT – Small Business

Small hearing aid businesses could see an increase in customers as a result of this proposal.

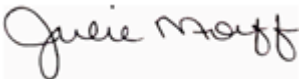
FISCAL DESCRIPTION

Currently, MO HealthNet payments made for eligible needy children, pregnant women, and blind persons include hearing aids. This bill authorizes MO HealthNet coverage of hearing aids and cochlear implants for all eligible needy persons as described in Chapter 208, RSMo. (§ 208.152)

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 Mental Health  
Department of Social Services



Julie Morff  
Director  
February 5, 2025



Jessica Harris  
Assistant Director  
February 5, 2025