

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

FISCAL NOTE

L.R. No.: 0215H.02C
Bill No.: HCS for HB 401
Subject: Crimes and Punishment; Courts; Children and Minors
Type: Original
Date: April 24, 2025

Bill Summary: This proposal modifies the time limitations for prosecutions for abuse or neglect of a child.

FISCAL SUMMARY

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028
General Revenue*	(Unknown)	(Unknown)	(Unknown)
Total Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue	(Unknown)	(Unknown)	(Unknown)

*Oversight does not anticipate the incarceration costs to exceed \$250,000.

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

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FULL TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE)			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028
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 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028
Local Government	\$0	\$0	\$0

FISCAL ANALYSIS

ASSUMPTION

§556.035 – Time limitations for prosecutions for abuse or neglect of a child

Officials from the **Department of Corrections (DOC)** state Section 556.035 extends the statute of limitations for prosecutions of abuse or neglect of a child, allowing it to be commenced within 20 years of the commission of the offense. The department has no way of knowing how many more individuals will be charged and convicted of abuse or neglect of a child due to this change. As such, the department is unable to project the impact to the prison population. However, it is assumed the legislation would increase the number of individuals incarcerated. Therefore, this legislation will have an unknown fiscal impact on the department.

Officials from the **Office of the State Public Defender (SPD)** state the fiscal impact is unknown but could be significant based upon the number of allegations resulting in prosecutions made up to twenty years after the date of the alleged offense.

Oversight assumes 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.

In response to a previous version, officials from the **Office of Attorney General (AGO)** assumed any potential litigation costs arising from this proposal can be absorbed with existing resources. The AGO may seek additional appropriations if the proposal results in a significant increase in litigation or investigation costs.

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 Mental Health**, the **Department of Public Safety - Missouri Highway Patrol**, the **Department of Social Services**, the **Missouri Office of Prosecution Services**, the **Office of the State Courts Administrator**, the **Phelps County Sheriff's Department**, the **Branson Police Department**, and the **Kansas City 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.

In response to a previous version, officials from the **St. Louis County Police Department** assumed 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.

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 2026 (10 Mo.)	FY 2027	FY 2028
GENERAL REVENUE			
Cost – DOC (§556.035) Increased incarceration costs	(Unknown)	(Unknown)	(Unknown)
ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE	(Unknown)	(Unknown)	(Unknown)

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

FISCAL IMPACT – Small Business

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

FISCAL DESCRIPTION

ABUSE OR NEGLECT OF A CHILD (Section 556.035)

This bill states prosecutions for abuse or neglect of a child under eighteen years of age must be commenced within twenty years of the commission of the offense.

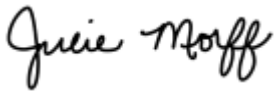
This legislation is not federally mandated, would not duplicate any other program and would not require additional capital improvements or rental space.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Attorney General's Office
 Department of Corrections
 Department of Mental Health
 Department of Public Safety - Missouri Highway Patrol
 Department of Social Services
 Missouri Office of Prosecution Services

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Office of the State Courts Administrator
Office of the State Public Defender
Phelps County Sheriff's Department
Branson Police Department
Kansas City Police Department
St. Louis County Police Department

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Julie Morff".

Julie Morff
Director
April 24, 2025

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jessica Harris".

Jessica Harris
Assistant Director
April 24, 2025