

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

FISCAL NOTE

L.R. No.: 0474H.011
 Bill No.: HB 116
 Subject: Education, Elementary and Secondary; Department of Elementary and Secondary Education; Internet and E-Mail; Children and Minors
 Type: Original
 Date: February 10, 2025

Bill Summary: This proposal establishes the Media Literacy and Critical Thinking Act.

FISCAL SUMMARY

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028
General Revenue*	(\$250,358)	(\$237,418)	(\$238,392)
Total Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue	(\$250,358)	(\$237,418)	(\$238,392)

*Oversight notes the costs to DESE for workgroups, stipends, and hiring of consultants to establish and implement the Media Literacy and Critical Thinking Pilot Program will exceed the \$250,000 threshold.

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.

FUND AFFECTED	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028
Local Government	\$0	\$0 or (Unknown)	\$0 or (Unknown)

FISCAL ANALYSIS

ASSUMPTION

Oversight requested additional information from **Department of Elementary and Secondary Education** regarding the fiscal impact of the legislation; however, we were unable to receive a response by the time this fiscal note was completed.

Officials from the **Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE)** state based on the requirements outlined in HB 116, DESE Office of College and Career Readiness (OCCR) estimates that two years may not be an adequate amount of time to fulfill the required summary report for accurate data collection. It's conceivable that the development of this could be a four-year process: setting up the program and recruiting school districts, 1 year. Training and implementation - 1 year. Full implementation - 1 year. Data and report writing - 1 year. DESE is presenting this fiscal note for this four-year process with a total cost of \$71,859.

Oversight notes the cost above (\$71,859) was not included in the supporting documentation provided by Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Therefore, Oversight has not included it in this fiscal note. Oversight has presented this fiscal note on the best current information that we have. Upon the receipt of additional information, Oversight will review to determine if an updated fiscal note should be prepared and seek the necessary approval to publish a new fiscal note.

Section 161.355.1-4: Introduction and Guidelines

Officials from the **DESE** assume this section of 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.

Section 161.355.5-6: Establishment of Expectations and Implementation of Pilot Program

DESE assumes prior to implementation of the pilot program, an advisory team of library media specialists and/or other educators who work closely with media literacy instruction (one from each of the state's nine RPDC regions, to include librarians and/or other educators who work with elementary, middle, and high school libraries and/or classrooms and represent rural, suburban, and urban districts) will meet in Jefferson City for two consecutive days.

In the fall of 2025 (FY2026) they will determine expectations for districts participating in the pilot program. Estimated cost: \$12,939.75. -\$5,400.00 stipends (\$300/day for each of the nine advisory team members over two days), \$2,700.00 lodging (\$150/night for each of the nine advisory team members over two nights), \$1,473.75 mileage (actual cost will depend on mileage each of the nine advisory team members reports in driving to and from Jefferson City), \$864.00

meal allowances (covers five meals at \$48 for nine advisory team members for two days (\$48 x 9 x 2), \$2,502.00 substitute payments (covers one substitute per each of the nine advisory team members at \$139 per substitute per day for two days).

During the spring of 2026 (FY2026), a one-day meeting in Jefferson City with the seven participating districts will provide guidance prior to the districts' implementation of the pilot program during the following school year. Each district shall send two representatives: one superintendent or principal and one librarian or classroom teacher who works closely with media literacy instruction. Estimated cost: \$5,218.75 - \$2,100.00 lodging (\$150/night for each of the 14 participants for one night), \$1,473.75 mileage (actual cost will depend on mileage each of the 14 participants reports in driving to and from Jefferson City), \$672.00 meal allowances (covers two meals at \$48 for each of the 14 participants: breakfast and lunch), \$973.00 substitute payments (covers one substitute per each of the seven librarians/classroom teachers at \$139 per substitute for one day).

During the spring of 2027 (FY2027), a meeting in Jefferson City with the seven participating districts will provide an opportunity for the districts to share successes and find solutions to difficulties incurred during the first year of implementation. Each district shall send two representatives: one superintendent or principal and one librarian or classroom teacher who works closely with media literacy instruction. Estimated cost: \$5,218.75 - \$2,100.00 lodging (\$150/night for each of the 14 participants for one night). \$1473.75 mileage (actual cost will depend on mileage each of the 14 participants reports in driving to and from Jefferson City), \$672.00 meal allowances (covers two meals at \$48 for each of the 14 participants: breakfast and lunch), \$973.00 substitute payments (covers one substitute per each of the seven librarians/classroom teachers at \$139 per substitute for one day).

Section 161.355.7: Samples of Learning Activities, Resources, and Training

DESE assumes during the spring of 2028 (FY2028), a meeting with the seven participating districts in Jefferson City will provide an opportunity for the districts to share their experiences with the pilot and their recommendations for media literacy instruction. Each district shall send two representatives: one superintendent or principal and one librarian or classroom teacher who works closely with media literacy instruction. Estimated cost: \$6,191.75 - \$2,100.00 lodging (\$150/night for each of the 14 participants for one night), \$1,473.75 mileage (actual cost will depend on mileage each of the 14 participants reports in driving to and from Jefferson City), \$672.00 meal allowances (covers two meals at \$48 for each of the 14 participants: breakfast and lunch), \$1,946.00 substitute payments (covers one substitute per each of the seven librarians/classroom teachers at \$139 per substitute for two days).

Section 161.355 would also require stipends for the two representatives from each pilot school attending whole work group meetings in the spring of 2026, 2027, and 2028 at an estimated cost of \$4,200.

Section 161.355.8: Pilot Districts' Written Reports to DESE

Officials from the **DESE** assume this section of 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.

Section 161.355.9: Draft of PK-12 Media Literacy and Critical Thinking State Standards - DESE Report to General Assembly

DESE assumes during the summer or fall of 2028 (FY2029), two teams of 18 educators each (team for preschool-grade 5 and team for grades 6-12) will meet for three days in Jefferson City to draft media literacy and critical thinking state standards. Each team will consist of representatives who work closely with media literacy instruction from each of the state's nine RPDC regions, to include librarians and/or other educators who work with elementary, middle, and high school libraries and/or classrooms and represent rural, suburban, and urban districts. Estimated cost: \$42,291.00 - \$16,200.00 lodging (\$150/night for each of the 36 participants for three nights), \$5,895.00 mileage (actual cost will depend on mileage each of the 36 participants reports in driving to and from Jefferson City), \$5,184.00 meal allowances (covers eight meals at \$48 for each of the 36 participants, \$15,012.00 substitute payments (covers one substitute per each of the 36 participants at \$139 per substitute for three days).

Section 161.355.10-12: State Standards Review, Termination of Pilot Program, and Section Expires

Officials from the **DESE** assume this section of 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.

Bill as Whole

DESE assumes for all sections requiring work and support, DESE estimates the need of two Media Literacy Consultants which would be contracted with the Regional Professional Development Centers (RPDC). Because media literacy instruction is a significant part of the work of school librarians (see Missouri Association of School Librarians Instructional Standards), DESE guidance of this work would fall mainly to the Director of Secondary Literacy, who, as part of that position, oversees school library K-12 instructional work. Because the project proposed in HB 116 will require supervision and guidance beyond the current capacity of Office of Literacy staffing, it is recommended that DESE add two fulltime Media Literacy Consultants through appropriate Regional Professional Development Centers depending on pilot school location to support the program implementation by providing targeted professional development and program guidance within each of the school buildings in the

participating districts under the direction of DESE’s Director of Secondary Literacy. These positions would run from beginning to end of the project, July 2025 through June 2029. **(\$228,000.00/year** covering salary, benefits, travel expenses for the Media Literacy Consultant).

Oversight does not have any information to the contrary. Therefore, Oversight will reflect the estimated impact by DESE in the fiscal note.

In response to similar legislation HB 1513 officials from the **Henry County R-1 School District** assume the proposal will have no fiscal impact on their organization.

Oversight notes this proposal presents a pilot program to be implemented during the 2026-27 and 2027-28 school years which will include five to seven diverse school districts. Oversight assumes there may be costs to implement the Media Literacy and Critical Thinking pilot program for school districts; therefore, Oversight will reflect a \$0 or unknown cost in the fiscal note.

Oversight notes the program is to terminate on June 30, 2028.

Oversight received one response from school districts related to this proposal. Oversight has presented this fiscal note on the best current information available. Upon the receipt of additional responses, Oversight will review to determine if an updated fiscal note should be prepared and seek the necessary approval to publish a new fiscal note.

Oversight only reflects the responses received from state agencies and political subdivisions; however, numerous school districts 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			
<u>Costs</u> - DESE – RPDC Media Consultant Contractors (2) - §161.355 p. 5	(\$228,000)	(\$228,000)	(\$228,000)
<u>Costs</u> – Workgroup Meetings - §161.355 p.3-5	(\$18,158)	(\$5,218)	(\$6,192)
<u>Costs</u> – Stipends for teachers to attend workgroups §161.355 p. 4	(\$4,200)	(\$4,200)	(\$4,200)
ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE	(\$250,358)	(\$237,418)	(\$238,392)

<u>FISCAL IMPACT – Local Government</u>	FY 2026 (10 Mo.)	FY 2027	FY 2028
SCHOOL DISTRICTS			
Costs - to implement the Media Literacy and Critical Thinking pilot program - §161.355 p.3-5	\$0	\$0 or (Unknown)	\$0 or (Unknown)
ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON SCHOOL DISTRICTS	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0 or (Unknown)</u>	<u>\$0 or (Unknown)</u>

FISCAL IMPACT – Small Business

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

FISCAL DESCRIPTION

This bill establishes the "Media Literacy and Critical Thinking Act". The bill defines "media literacy" to include concepts such as but not limited to: an individual's ability to access, analyze, evaluate, and participate with all forms of media, including news in print and social media content, and recognize bias and stereotypes in media, as well as Internet safety.

This bill requires the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to establish a "Media Literacy and Critical Thinking" Pilot Program for the 2026-27 and 2027-28 school years. Between five and seven diverse schools will be selected by DESE to participate in the Pilot Program as specified in the bill.

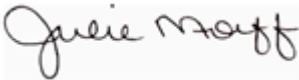
The Program will address media literacy, develop strategies for student learning in classroom curricula, and demonstrate various literacy strategies used. Pilot Program schools must provide a report to DESE before August 1, 2028, and before January 1, 2029, DESE must compile and submit a summary report to the General Assembly. The Pilot Program terminates June 30, 2028.

This section expires December 31, 2028.

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 Elementary and Secondary Education
Henry County R-1 School District



Julie Morff
Director
February 10, 2025



Jessica Harris
Assistant Director
February 10, 2025