

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

FISCAL NOTE

L.R. No.: 0517H.011
 Bill No.: HJR 6
 Subject: Taxation and Revenue - General; Taxation and Revenue - Property; Property, Real and Personal; Constitutional Amendments; Veterans
 Type: Original
 Date: March 24, 2025

Bill Summary: This resolution proposes an amendment to the constitution of Missouri relating to property tax exemptions.

FISCAL SUMMARY

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028
General Revenue	\$0 or (More than \$8,000,000)*	\$0	\$0 or Unknown, could exceed \$1,593,602
Total Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue	\$0 or (More than \$8,000,000)*	\$0	\$0 or Unknown, could exceed \$1,593,602

*The potential fiscal impact of “(More than \$8,000,000)” would be realized **only** if a special election were called by the Governor to submit this joint resolution to voters. All other impacts to state funds would be realized only if the joint resolution is approved by voters

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON OTHER STATE FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028
Blind Pension Fund (0621)	\$0	\$0	\$0 or (Unknown, could exceed (\$210,649))
Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>Other</u> State Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0 or (Unknown, could exceed (\$210,649))

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 or (Unknown, could exceed \$32,134,418)

*Potential costs and state reimbursements net to zero in FY 2025 if a special election is called.

****Oversight** notes this impact could be substantially reduced if taxing authorities are able to increase the levy to other taxpayers to make up for the loss of property tax revenue of disabled veterans resulting from this proposal

FISCAL ANALYSIS

ASSUMPTION

Officials from **Office of the Secretary of State** assume, each year, a number of joint resolutions that would refer to a vote of the people a constitutional amendment and bills that would refer to a vote of the people the statutory issue in the legislation may be considered by the General Assembly.

Unless a special election is called for the purpose, Joint Resolutions proposing a constitutional amendment are submitted to a vote of the people at the next general election. Article XII section 2(b) of the Missouri Constitution authorizes the governor to order a special election for constitutional amendments referred to the people. If a special election is called to submit a Joint Resolution to a vote of the people, section 115.063.2 RSMo requires the state to pay the costs. The cost of the special election has been estimated to be \$8 million based on the cost of the 2022 primary and general election reimbursements.

The Secretary of State's office is required to pay for publishing in local newspapers the full text of each statewide ballot measure as directed by Article XII, Section 2(b) of the Missouri Constitution and Section 116.230-116.290, RSMo. Funding for this item is adjusted each year depending upon the election cycle. A new decision item is requested in odd numbered fiscal years and the amount requested is dependent upon the estimated number of ballot measures that will be approved by the General Assembly and the initiative petitions certified for the ballot. In FY 2014, the General Assembly changed the appropriation so that it was no longer an estimated appropriation.

For the FY26 petitions cycle, the SOS estimates publication costs at \$60,000 per page. This amount is subject to change based on number of petitions received, length of those petitions and rates charged by newspaper publishers.

The Secretary of State's office will continue to assume, for the purposes of this fiscal note, that it should have the full appropriation authority it needs to meet the publishing requirements. Because these requirements are mandatory, the SOS reserves the right to request funding to meet the cost of the publishing requirements if the Governor and the General Assembly again change the amount or continue to not designate it as an estimated appropriation.

Oversight has reflected, in this fiscal note, the state potentially reimbursing local political subdivisions the cost of having this joint resolution voted on during a special election in fiscal year 2026. This reflects the decision made by the Joint Committee on Legislative Research that the cost of the elections should be shown in the fiscal note. The next scheduled statewide general election is in November 2026 (FY 2027). It is assumed the subject within this proposal could be on this ballot; however, it could also be on a special election called for by the Governor (a different date). Therefore, Oversight will reflect a potential election cost reimbursement to local political subdivisions in FY 2026.

Officials from the **Department of Revenue (DOR)** note if approved by voters at the November 2026, general election or at a special election called for this purpose, this proposal would allow for an exemption of real property tax for military disabled veterans. If this is not adopted by the voters, there will be no fiscal impact. If adopted, it is assumed that based on the certification date of this proposal, it would become effective January 1, 2027.

This proposal defines the eligible disabled veteran as a person with a 100% disability rate as established by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. Per the U.S. Census Bureau's 2023 ACS 5-year report there are 37,687 disabled veterans in Missouri with a rating of 70% or higher. Per past information from the Missouri Veterans Commission about 45% of the reported veterans are 100% disabled (16,959). For fiscal note purposes, DOR will assume these are the only veterans who may qualify for this exemption.

The Department is unable to determine the actual number of veterans that would own their own property. For fiscal notes purposes, DOR will assume all of these veterans own their own dwelling. According to information from the U.S. Census Bureau the average amount of property tax paid in Missouri for 2023 was \$1,629. According to information from the State Tax Commission there was \$7,966,864,617 collected from real property in 2023 with 2,688,014 real property parcels. The average amount of property tax paid in Missouri for 2023 was \$2,964. The Department notes that some veterans may have a property tax amount that is lower than this amount. This would exempt from state and local real property tax of \$27,626,211 (\$1,629 per person x 16,959 veterans) to \$50,266,476 (\$2,964 per person x 16,959 veterans).

The Missouri Blind Pension fund receives \$.03 for each \$100 valuation of taxable property in the state of Missouri. The Department is unable to determine the actual valuation of the taxable property owned by Missouri veterans, as there are no publications specifying assessed value of property owned by Missouri veterans.

The Department estimates that the Missouri Blind Pension Fund could decrease by a minimum to substantial amount, but DOR defers to the Department of Social Services for the calculation of the amount.

Additionally, DOR notes that if a military disabled veteran is exempt from paying real property tax, they would no longer be eligible to claim the Senior Property Tax Credit. Currently a person can claim the Senior Property Tax Credit if:

- A. They are 65 years or older
- B. 100% Disabled Veteran as a result of military service
- C. 100% Disabled or
- D. 60 years of age or older and receiving surviving spouse benefits

In TY 2022 - 2,390 taxpayers checked the disabled veteran box on the PTC form. They claimed 1,657,806 in property tax credits.

In TY 2023 – 2,205 taxpayers checked the disabled veteran box on the PTC form. They claimed \$1,529,397 in property tax credits.

Two-year average claimed by disabled veterans is \$1,593,602.

DOR notes that if a disabled veteran is also over the age of 65 years of age they may have just checked the 65+ box instead of the Veterans box so the amount that could be exempt could be higher.

DOR assumes this would result in a savings to General Revenue that Could Exceed \$1,593,602 annually from military veterans no longer owing real property tax and being ineligible for the property tax credit.

Given the election for this proposal is November 2026 (FY 2027) and the bill starts with property taxes on January 1, 2027; this proposal will have an impact starting in FY 2028 due to the filing deadline for the taxes being 12/31/2027 (FY 2028).

FY 2026	\$0
FY 2027	\$0
FY 2028	\$1,593,602 savings to GR and an Unknown loss to Blind Pension fund

This proposal will not have an administrative fiscal impact on the Department.

Officials from the **Office of Administration - Budget and Planning (B&P)** note this proposal would go to public vote in November 2026. For the purpose of this fiscal note, B&P assumes that the tax exemption would begin January 1, 2027, if voter approved. B&P notes that property taxes are due December 31st of each tax year. Therefore, while this will begin for tax year 2027, it will not impact revenues until FY28 (December 31, 2027).

This proposal would exempt, upon voter approval, veterans with 100% disability rating from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) from real property taxation on their homestead. In addition, this proposal would no longer require former prisoners of war (POWs) to have a total service-connected disability. Current law only exempts former POWs with total service-connected disabilities from real property tax on their homestead.

This proposal would also extend the exemption to a surviving spouse who has not moved or remarried. B&P does not have data on the number of surviving spouses that may qualify for this exemption.

General Revenue

During tax year 2023, there were 2,205 veterans that claimed the PTC as a disabled veteran, for total PTC claims of \$1,529,397. Under this proposal, some of these veterans would no longer be subject to real personal property taxes and thus would no longer claim the PTC beginning with tax year 2025. B&P notes that some veterans aged 65 and older may have elected to claim the PTC as a senior rather than as a disabled veteran and would no longer claim the PTC under this

proposal. Therefore, B&P estimates that this proposal could increase GR by up to \$1,529,397 annually beginning in FY28.

Blind Pension Trust Fund

Based on previous data from the Missouri Veterans Commission and current data published by the U.S. Census Bureau, B&P estimates that there were 17,141 veterans with a 100% service-connected disability rating from the VA during 2023, the most recent complete year available.

Additionally, based on data from the U.S. Census bureau, the average median housing value in Missouri was \$215,600 and the average median real estate taxes paid was \$1,887 in 2023. B&P notes however, that based on Section 137.115, RSMo, the assessed value for real property is 19% of the market value. Therefore, based on a market value of \$215,600, B&P estimates that the median assessed value would be \$40,964.

B&P notes that the Blind Pension Trust Fund has a property tax levy of \$0.03 per \$100 valuation. Based on the U.S. Census Bureau data, B&P estimates that the Blind Pension Trust Fund receives a median of \$12.29 per real property within Missouri (\$40,964 median assessed value x 0.0003 Blind Pension levy). Therefore, B&P estimates that this proposal could reduce funding to the Blind Pension Trust fund by up to \$210,649 (\$12.29 x 17,141 veterans).

Median Value	\$215,600
	x
Assessed %	19%
Assessed Value	\$40,964
	x
Blind Pension Trust Fund levy	(0.03/100)
Median Blind Pension Tax	\$12.29
	x
Qualifying veterans	17,141
Loss to Blind Pension Trust Fund	(\$210,649)

Local Property Tax Collections

Based on data from the U.S. Census bureau, the average median housing value in Missouri was \$215,600 and the average median real estate taxes paid was \$1,887 in 2023. Using this data, B&P estimates that the median property tax levy in Missouri is \$0.90 per \$100 market value. Subtracting the \$0.03 per \$100 valuation levy for the Blind Pension Trust Fund, B&P estimates that the median local real property tax levy is \$0.87 per \$100 market value. Therefore, B&P estimates that this provision could reduce local real property tax revenues by up to \$32,134,418 (\$215,600 median home value x \$0.87/\$100 x 17,141 veterans).

Median Home Value	\$215,600
Median Local Real Property Tax Levy	x (0.87/100)
Median Local Real Property Tax	1,874.71
Qualifying veterans	x 17,141
Local Real Estate Taxes Lost	(\$32,134,418)

Officials from the **State Tax Commission** have reviewed this proposal and determined an unknown fiscal impact. The U.S. Census Survey (2018) states the number of veterans in Missouri is 479,828 of which over 80,000 have service related disabilities. The Agency does not possess the specific data to determine the number of qualifying, eligible individuals or the real property held by said individuals under the proposed criteria which states: “all real property used as a homestead as defined by law of any citizen of this state who is a military veteran and who has a [total] one hundred percent disability.”

That being said, most of the cost of this proposal would be shifted to other property owners as the Hancock Amendment allows school districts to maintain a consistent stream of revenue. As exemptions are granted, those taxes lost due to the exemption could then be recouped from other property owners if taxing jurisdictions choose to raise their tax rates under Hancock. It would only result in lost revenues for a taxing jurisdiction if the taxing entity is at or near the tax rate last approved by voters.

Officials from the **Ferguson Municipal Public Library** assume this measure would reduce the Ferguson Municipal Public Library's operating revenue by an unknown amount, since the library has no way to assess how much Ferguson property is owned by disabled veterans and used as a homestead. The library, therefore, cannot predict what services or personnel would need to be cut in response.

Officials from the **City of Kansas City** assume the proposed legislation has a negative fiscal impact of an indeterminate amount.

Officials from the **Callaway County SB 40 Board** assume the proposed legislation has a negative fiscal impact of an indeterminate amount.

Officials from the **Lincoln County Assessor** assume there could be a possible tax burden shift to those that aren't exempted - recouping lost revenues.

Officials from the **Mid-Continent Public Library** assume it is unclear how any potential revenues lost from this exemption will be recouped if the replacement tax for those lost revenues is insufficient.

Officials from the **Department of Public Safety – Veterans Commission, Kansas City Police Dept., St. Louis County Police Dept, Phelps County Sheriff, Audrain County Health Department, Department of Social Services, Hume R-Viii School District, Rolling Hills Consolidated Library**, and the **Newton County Health 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 notes, per information on the State Tax Commission’s [website](#), an applicant must meet the following requirements to qualify for the property tax exemption as it exists in current law:

- be a former prisoner of war; and
- a veteran of any branch of the armed forces of the United States or this state who became one hundred percent disabled as a result of his or her military service; and
- must own and occupy the homestead as a primary residence.

Oversight notes the phrase “total service connected disability” exists in current law and for purposes of this fiscal note assumes it has the same meaning as noted above by the State Tax Commission.

Oversight notes the Blind Pension Fund (0621) is calculated as an annual tax of three cents on each one hundred dollars valuation of taxable property ($(\text{Total Assessed Value}/100) \times .03$). Because this proposal limits the assessed value portion of this equation, the Blind Pension Fund will experience a decrease in revenue relative to what it would have received under current law.

Oversight will reflect B&P’s estimated impact to the Blind Pension Fund in the fiscal note.

Oversight assumes this could reduce claims for the Property Tax Credit for individuals qualifying for the exemption. Oversight will show the savings to General Revenue provided by the Department of Revenue.

Oversight notes property tax revenues are designed to be revenue neutral from year to year. The tax levy is adjusted relative to the assessed value to produce roughly the same revenue from the prior year with an allowance for growth.

Oversight notes this proposal is contingent on a voter approved amendment to the Constitution. Oversight will show the impact as either \$0 (Constitutional amendment is not approved by voters AND/OR the local political subdivisions may be able to increase the levy to all other taxpayers to replace the lost property tax revenues from disabled veterans) or could exceed the figures estimated by DOR and B&P to the Blind Pension Fund and local political subdivisions beginning in FY 2028.

<u>FISCAL IMPACT – State Government</u>	FY 2026 (10 Mo.)	FY 2027	FY 2028
GENERAL REVENUE			
<u>Potential Revenue Gain – DOR – Veterans no longer claiming the Senior Property Tax Credit</u>	\$0	\$0	\$0 or Unknown, could exceed \$1,593,602
<u>Transfer Out - SOS - reimbursement of local election authority election costs if a special election is called by the Governor</u>	\$0 or (More than \$8,000,000)	\$0	\$0
ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE	\$0 or (More than \$8,000,000)	\$0	\$0 or Unknown, could exceed \$1,593,602
BLIND PENSION FUND			
<u>Potential Revenue Loss - no real property tax collected from veterans with a total service-connected disability if approved by voters</u>	\$0	\$0	\$0 or (Unknown, could exceed (\$210,649))
ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON BLIND PENSION FUND	\$0	\$0	\$0 or (Unknown, could exceed (\$210,649))

<u>FISCAL IMPACT – Local Government</u>	FY 2026 (10 Mo.)	FY 2027	FY 2028
LOCAL POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS			
<u>Costs – to implement and monitor if approved by voters</u>	\$0	\$0	\$0 or (Unknown)

<u>FISCAL IMPACT – Local Government</u>	FY 2026 (10 Mo.)	FY 2027	FY 2028
<u>Potential Revenue Loss</u> - no real property tax collected from veterans with a total service-connected disability* if approved by voters	\$0	\$0	\$0 or (Unknown, could exceed \$32,134,418)
<u>Transfer In</u> - Local Election Authorities - reimbursement of election costs by the State for a special election	\$0 or More than \$8,000,000	\$0	\$0
<u>Costs</u> - Local Election Authorities - cost of a special election if called for by the Governor	\$0 or (More than \$8,000,000)	\$0	\$0
ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS	\$0	\$0	\$0 or (Unknown, could exceed \$32,134,418)

***Oversight** notes this impact could be substantially reduced if taxing authorities are able to increase the levy to other taxpayers to make up for the loss of property tax revenue of disabled veterans resulting from this proposal.

FISCAL IMPACT – Small Business

Oversight assumes there could be an impact to small businesses owned by veterans with a total service-connected disability. Conversely, taxing jurisdictions may be able to increase the levy to all other property owners to make up for the lost revenue.

FISCAL DESCRIPTION

Oversight assumes there could be an impact to small businesses owned by veterans with a total service-connected disability. Conversely, taxing jurisdictions may be able to increase the levy to all other property owners to make up for the lost revenue.

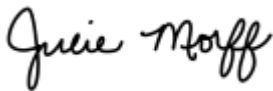
This legislation is not federally mandated, would not duplicate any other program and would not require additional capital improvements or rental space.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Office of the Secretary of State
 Department of Revenue
 Office of Administration - Budget and Planning
 State Tax Commission

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Ferguson Municipal Public Library
City of Kansas City
Callaway County SB 40 Board
Lincoln County Assessor
Mid-Continent Public Library
Department of Public Safety – Veterans Commission
Kansas City Police Dept.
St. Louis County Police Dept
Phelps County Sheriff
Audrain County Health Department
Department of Social Services
Hume R-Viii School District
Rolling Hills Consolidated Library
Newton County Health Department



Julie Morff
Director
March 24, 2025



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March 24, 2025