

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

FISCAL NOTE

L.R. No.: 0699H.011
Bill No.: HB 182
Subject: Courts; Fees
Type: Original
Date: February 4, 2025

Bill Summary: This proposal modifies provisions relating to fees and expenses for an interpreter or translator in certain proceedings.

FISCAL SUMMARY

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028
General Revenue*	(\$270,471)	(\$324,565)	(\$324,565)
Total Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue	(\$270,471)	(\$324,565)	(\$324,565)

*OSCA expenses for an interpreter or translator.

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

Officials from the **Missouri Office of Prosecution Services (MOPS)** did not respond to **Oversight's** request for a statement of fiscal impact. As a result, Oversight did not receive MOPS response in a timely manner. Oversight has presented this fiscal note on the best current information that we have or on information regarding a similar bill(s). Upon receipt of the agency's response, Oversight will review to determine if an updated fiscal note should be prepared and seek the necessary approval to publish a new fiscal note.

§476.806 – Modifies provisions relating to fees and expenses for an interpreter/translator

Officials from the **Office of the State Courts Administrator (OSCA)** state pursuant to the most recent census data, 6.3 % of the Missouri population speaks a language other than English at home, and of those, 2.1 % have limited English proficiency.

OSCA assumes that with approximately 981,299 civil cases with a minimum of two hours for an interpreter per case, the cost is projected to be \$324,565 annually to the General Revenue Fund. (981,299 *6.3%*2.1%*\$125 interpreter rate/hr *2 = \$324,565)

Oversight notes the Missouri Economic Research and Information Center (MERIC) tracks language diversity to inform the public, businesses, agencies, organizations, and other stakeholders of the unique language diversity across Missouri. The U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey asks if a person speaks a language other than English at home, what language they speak, and how well they speak English to create statistics about language and the ability to speak English.

In a report issued by the Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development, reporting on Missouri Language Diversity (Many Languages of Missouri, February 2024), data from the American Community Survey 5-Year estimates for 2018-2022 state 94% of Missouri residents speak only English. The remaining 6% have a primary language other than English but include those fluent in English as well as those with have a limited proficiency in English.

In addition, information provided by the Migration Policy Institute for 2022 provides that for Missouri's population age 5 and older, 6.4% of the population speak a language other than English at home. Of those that are foreign born, 37.3% speak English less than "very well".

Therefore, for fiscal note purposes, **Oversight** will use the estimates provided by OSCA.

Officials from the **Office of Attorney General (AGO)** assume 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 Elementary and Secondary Education**, the **Department of Corrections** and the **Office of the State Public Defender** 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.

Officials from the **Department of Social Services** defer to the **Office of the State Courts Administrator** for the potential fiscal impact of this proposal.

<u>FISCAL IMPACT – State Government</u>	FY 2026 (10 Mo.)	FY 2027	FY 2028
GENERAL REVENUE FUND			
<u>Costs – OSCA (\$476.806) – interpreter services for civil cases</u>	(\$270,471)	(\$324,565)	(\$324,565)
ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON THE GENERAL REVENUE FUND	<u>(\$270,471)</u>	<u>(\$324,565)</u>	<u>(\$324,565)</u>

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

FISCAL IMPACT – Small Business

This could positively impact small businesses that specialize in providing interpreter services. (\$476.806)

FISCAL DESCRIPTION

Currently, an interpreter's or translator's fees and expenses in a criminal proceeding are payable by the State from funds appropriated for that purpose. This bill allows such fees and expenses in any civil, juvenile, or criminal proceeding to be paid by the State from the appropriated funds. (§476.806)

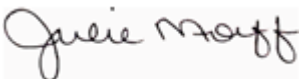
This legislation is not federally mandated, would not duplicate any other program and would not require additional capital improvements or rental space.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Attorney General's Office
Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
Department of Corrections
Department of Social Services
Office of the State Public Defender
Office of the State Courts Administrator

NOT RESPONDING

Missouri Office of Prosecution Services



Julie Morff
Director
February 4, 2025



Jessica Harris
Assistant Director
February 4, 2025