

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH  
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

**FISCAL NOTE**

L.R. No.: 1294H.03P  
Bill No.: Perfected HCS for HB Nos. 408, 306 & 854  
Subject: Education, Elementary and Secondary; Department of Elementary and Secondary  
Education; Children and Minors; Teachers; Telecommunications  
Type: Original  
Date: April 1, 2025

---

Bill Summary: This proposal prohibits student use of telecommunications devices during regularly scheduled instructional activities.

**FISCAL SUMMARY**

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND</b>			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028
General Revenue	(\$97,524)	(\$19,992)	(\$20,492)
<b>Total Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue</b>	<b>(\$97,524)</b>	<b>(\$19,992)</b>	<b>(\$20,492)</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.

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

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FULL TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE)			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028
<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.

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028
<b>Local Government*</b>	<b>Unknown or (Unknown)</b>	<b>Unknown or (Unknown)</b>	<b>Unknown or (Unknown)</b>

\***Oversight** assumes there is potential administrative, training, and various other costs to local education agencies to implement the provisions of this proposal. Oversight assumes the fiscal impact could be significant.

\* **Oversight** assumes there could be costs for school districts to implement proposal, court costs, attorney fees, and damages if a parent brings a civil action against a district. However, there would be a potential collection of court fees and attorney's fees if the school district prevails.

## **FISCAL ANALYSIS**

### **ASSUMPTION**

Due to time constraints, **Oversight** was unable to receive some agency responses in a timely manner and performed limited analysis. Oversight has presented this fiscal note on the best current information that we have or on information regarding a similar bill(s). Upon the receipt of agency 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.

### **Section 162.207 – Electronic Personal Communication Devices**

In response to the previous version, officials from the **Department of Elementary and Secondary Education** 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 on the fiscal note.

In response to the previous version, officials from the **Washington School District** assumed the impact of this bill could be \$3,000 annually for administrative training, additional time for discipline, and communication costs for families. They would also caution that approval of this bill takes away local control of the district's Board of Education, parent rights, and procedures that each school should be putting in place.

**Oversight** assumes any additional costs to schools as a result of the proposal would be immaterial and will not reflect them in the fiscal note.

**Oversight** received a limited number of responses from public schools related to the fiscal impact of 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, other school districts, colleges and universities 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.

### **House amendment 1**

**Oversight** assumes this amendment will have no fiscal impact on the underlying bill.

House amendment 2

Section 160.664 – School Safety Incidents

In response to similar legislation, SS for SCS for SB 68 (2025), officials from the **Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE)** stated Section 160.664 will require changes/additions to the current data collection system. DESE Office of Data System Management (ODSM) assumes these duties can be absorbed. However, if multiple pieces of legislation are passed which require additional duties in this area DESE may need to seek additional FTE through the appropriations process.

**Oversight** does not have any information to the contrary. Therefore, Oversight will reflect a zero impact in the fiscal note for this agency.

In response to similar legislation, SS for SCS for SB 68 (2025), officials from **Office of Administration – Information Technology (OA-ITSD)** stated DESE is a consolidated agency under OA-ITSD. It is assumed that all new IT project/systems will be bid out because all ITSD resources are at full capacity.

Section 160.664 will require changes/additions to the data collection system. DESE Office of Data System Management (ODSM) and DESE Data Governance will define all data elements needed to be captured and provide those to ITSD. These will be used to establish the database table(s) and fields. DESE ODSM will also collect any historical information in a standard data layout, that aligns with the database/fields they define, compile all data from all districts and charters.

OA-ITSD stated the project would take 928.80 hours at a contract rate of \$105 for a total cost of **\$97,524** in FY 2026 with on-going support costs of **\$19,992** in FY 2027, and **\$20,492** in FY 2028.

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

Section 162.207 - Student Electronic Personal Communication Device Usage

In response to similar legislation, HB 854 (2025), officials from the **Department of Elementary and Secondary Education** assumed 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 for this section.

**Oversight** assumes the proposal will have no fiscal impact on school districts. However, Oversight received zero responses from school districts related to the fiscal impact of 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, 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.

#### Rule Promulgation

In response to similar legislation, SS for SCS for SB 68 (2025), officials from the **Joint Committee on Administrative Rules** assumed this proposal is not anticipated to cause a fiscal impact beyond its current appropriation.

In response to similar legislation, SS for SCS for SB 68 (2025), officials from the **Office of the Secretary of State (SOS)** noted many bills considered by the General Assembly include provisions allowing or requiring agencies to submit rules and regulations to implement the act. The SOS is provided with core funding to handle a certain amount of normal activity resulting from each year's legislative session. The fiscal impact for this fiscal note to the SOS for Administrative Rules is less than \$5,000. The SOS recognizes that this is a small amount and does not expect that additional funding would be required to meet these costs. However, the SOS also recognizes that many such bills may be passed by the General Assembly in a given year and that collectively the costs may be in excess of what the office can sustain with its core budget. Therefore, the SOS reserves the right to request funding for the cost of supporting administrative rules requirements should the need arise based on a review of the finally approved bills signed by the governor

#### House Amendment 3

##### Section 167.167 - Prohibiting zero-tolerance policies/practices of discipline in public schools

In response to similar legislation, HB 454 (2025), officials from **Department of Elementary and Secondary Education** assumed the proposal will have no fiscal impact on their respective organization. Oversight does not have any information to the contrary. Therefore, Oversight will reflect a zero impact on the fiscal note.

**Oversight** does not anticipate a fiscal impact to schools as a result of this proposal, therefore, Oversight will reflect a zero impact in the fiscal note.

#### House Amendment 4

##### §§160.1052 - 160.1055 – Missouri Educators and Parental Empowerment and Rights Act

In response to similar legislation, HCS for HB Nos. 1287 & 744 (2025), officials from the **Department of Elementary and Secondary Education**, the **Missouri House of Representatives**, and the **Missouri Senate** each assumed the proposal will have no fiscal impact

on their organizations. **Oversight** does not have any information to the contrary. Therefore, Oversight will reflect a zero impact in the fiscal note.

In response to similar legislation, HCS for HB Nos. 1287 & 744 (25), officials from **Washington School District** assumed this bill could cost \$200K-\$500K annually for the addition of administrative and secretarial work/positions to ensure the compliance requests are being met. In addition, there would be a significant change in language and procedures that would need to be updated with items such a safety language throughout all buildings from their current "I love you guys" national standard protocol to the language in the bill of "lockdown/lockout". While the majority of the requests in this bill are items that they are already transparent about; however, the compliance procedures would cause stress and strain on their system and their current staffing.

**Oversight** assumes the following will have a fiscal impact on local school districts and charter schools:

Section 160.1055.1 states each local educational agency shall develop policies and procedures for such LEA to follow to accommodate and assist parents and teachers in the exercise of the rights described in sections 160.1052 to 160.1055.

Section 160.1055.6 (1) states each LEA shall provide a physical or electronic copy of sections 160.1052 to 160.1055 to each parent, teacher, and student at the beginning of each school year.

Section 160.1055.9 (1) states a local educational agency may, at such LEA's discretion and with school board or governing board approval, incorporate evidence-based training for teachers and counselors on strategies to guide students toward personal resilience.

Section 160.1055.10 states each local educational agency shall ensure that teachers and staff are trained in methods to maintain order, encourage compliance, and foster respect, using an approach grounded in traditional values and personal responsibility.

Section 160.1055.12 states each LEA's governing board shall adopt such policies and procedures required by this section for the 2026-27 school year and all subsequent school years.

**Oversight** assumes there could be administrative costs and employee training costs to implement the provisions of this section. Oversight will show a range of impact of \$0 (could absorb costs) or an unknown cost to LEAs.

**Oversight** notes Section 160.1053 shall be known as the Parent Bill of Rights. Oversight assumes there could be training costs and administrative costs related to notifications and printing. Oversight is uncertain if these costs could be absorbed by school districts. Therefore, Oversight will a zero (no additional costs or costs can be absorbed) or unknown costs to LEAs in the fiscal note.

**Oversight** notes Section 160.1054 shall be known as the Educators' Bill of Rights.

§160.1054.2(2) states “The right to be free from physical abuse from a parent and to be protected from oral, written, or electronically generated threats of harm. Such abuse is grounds for the prohibition of the physical presence of the perpetrator of such abuse on the LEA's property and at the LEA's events and may result in other legal actions taken by such teacher”. Oversight assumes there could be legal costs to school districts to provide legal defense. Therefore, Oversight will reflect a zero (no litigation) or an unknown cost to LEAs in the fiscal note.

#### House Amendment 5

#### Section §160.775 – Missouri Childhood Hero Act

In response to similar legislation, HB 655 (2025), officials from the **Office of the State Courts Administrator, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, and Department of Social Services** each assumed the proposal will have no fiscal impact on their 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 similar legislation, HB 655 (2025), officials from the **Office of Attorney General (AGO)** assumed any potential litigation costs arising from this proposal can be absorbed with existing resources. However, the AGO may seek additional appropriations if the proposal results in a significant increase in litigation or investigation.

**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.

In response to similar legislation, HB 655 (2025), officials from **Concordia R-II School District** assumed annual cost (direct and indirect) is \$6,000. Training, implementation, and evaluation of this change to the bullying legislation is another unfunded mandate that places undue hardship on public schools in regards to bullying and anti-bullying programs.

**Oversight** assumes there could be costs for school districts to implement the proposal as well as court costs, attorney fees, and damages if a parent brings a civil action against a district. Oversight will show a range of impact of \$0 to an unknown cost.

**Oversight** notes that Section 160.775.9 (2) states that if a school district or charter school, or an employee of such district or charter school, prevails in an action brought against such school district or charter school described in subdivision (1) of this subsection, the court shall award court costs and attorney's fees to such prevailing school district, charter school, or employee. For purposes of the fiscal note, Oversight will reflect a potential revenue gain to school districts in the fiscal note.

House Amendment 1 to House amendment 5

**Oversight** assumes this amendment will have no fiscal impact on the underlying bill.

Bill as a whole

Officials from the **Department of Social Services** and the **Missouri House of Representatives** both 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 for these agencies.

<u>FISCAL IMPACT – State Government</u>	FY 2026 (10 Mo.)	FY 2027	FY 2028
<b>GENERAL REVENUE</b>			
<u>Costs</u> – DESE/ITSD – programming §160.664 p.4	(\$97,524)	(\$19,992)	(\$20,492)
<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE</b>	<b>(\$97,524)</b>	<b>(\$19,992)</b>	<b>(\$20,492)</b>

<u>FISCAL IMPACT – Local Government</u>	FY 2026 (10 Mo.)	FY 2027	FY 2028
<b>LOCAL EDUCATION AGENCIES</b>			
<u>Revenue</u> – potential collection of court fees and attorney’s fees if the school district prevails §160.775.9 (2) p.7	\$0 or Unknown	\$0 or Unknown	\$0 or Unknown
<u>Costs</u> – for implementation costs, court costs, attorney fees and damages §160.775 p.7	\$0 or (Unknown)	\$0 or (Unknown)	\$0 or (Unknown)
<u>Costs</u> – administrative/training costs to develop policies and procedures - §160.1055 p.5	\$0 or (Unknown)	\$0 or (Unknown)	\$0 or (Unknown)
<u>Costs</u> – administrative/training costs for Parent Bill of Rights - §160.1053 p.6	\$0 or (Unknown)	\$0 or (Unknown)	\$0 or (Unknown)
<u>Costs</u> – Legal defense under Educators' Bill of Rights – §160.1054 p.6	\$0 or (Unknown)	\$0 or (Unknown)	\$0 or (Unknown)



<u>FISCAL IMPACT – Local Government</u>	FY 2026 (10 Mo.)	FY 2027	FY 2028
<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL EDUCATION AGENCIES</b>	<b>Unknown or (Unknown)</b>	<b>Unknown or (Unknown)</b>	<b>Unknown or (Unknown)</b>

FISCAL IMPACT – Small Business

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

FISCAL DESCRIPTION

This proposal creates provisions relating to safe school environments.

This proposal enacts the Missouri Educators and Parental Empowerment and Rights Act.

This bill modifies provisions relating to school anti-bullying policies.

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  
Washington School District  
Concordia R-II School District  
Attorney General's Office  
Office of the Secretary of State  
Joint Committee on Administrative Rules  
Office of the State Courts Administrator  
Department of Social Services  
Missouri House of Representatives  
Missouri Senate



Julie Morff  
Director  
April 1, 2025



Jessica Harris  
Assistant Director  
April 1, 2025