

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH  
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

**FISCAL NOTE**

L.R. No.: 2312H.01I  
Bill No.: HB 986  
Subject: Public Health; Department of Health and Senior Services  
Type: Original  
Date: March 30, 2025

---

Bill Summary: This proposal modifies provisions relating to the list of diseases required to be reported to the Department of Health and Senior Services.

**FISCAL SUMMARY**

| <b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND</b>  |                    |                    |                    |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| FUND AFFECTED  | FY 2026            | FY 2027            | FY 2028            |
| General  | (\$378,699)        | (\$407,514)        | (\$414,716)        |
|  |                    |                    |                    |
| <b>Total Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue</b> | <b>(\$378,699)</b> | <b>(\$407,514)</b> | <b>(\$414,716)</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.

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

| <b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FULL TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE)</b> |                |                |                |
|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| <b>FUND AFFECTED</b>                                      | <b>FY 2026</b> | <b>FY 2027</b> | <b>FY 2028</b> |
| General Revenue   | 3 FTE          | 3 FTE          | 3 FTE          |
|   |                |                |                |
| <b>Total Estimated Net Effect on FTE</b>                  | <b>3 FTE</b>   | <b>3 FTE</b>   | <b>3 FTE</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.

| <b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL FUNDS</b> |                |                |                |
|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| <b>FUND AFFECTED</b>                       | <b>FY 2026</b> | <b>FY 2027</b> | <b>FY 2028</b> |
|  |                |                |                |
|  |                |                |                |
| <b>Local Government</b>                    | <b>\$0</b>     | <b>\$0</b>     | <b>\$0</b>     |

## FISCAL ANALYSIS

### ASSUMPTION

#### § 192.020 - The list of diseases required to be reported to the Department of Health and Senior Services

Officials from the **Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS)** state § 192.020.2 adds 2 tick-borne diseases, alpha-gal syndrome (AGS) and Lyme disease, to the list of diseases that must be reported to the Department. Section 192.020.3 requires the submission of an annual report related to the reporting and incidence of the diseases listed in 192.020.2 to the Center for Disease Control (CDC).

Lyme disease is already on the list of reportable conditions and all suspected cases of Lyme Disease are required to be reported to DHSS or the Local Public Health Agency (LPHA) within three (3) days as outlined in Missouri 19 CSR 20.20.020. This addition will not have a fiscal impact. The lone star tick is a well-known vector for tickborne illnesses in the U.S. including ehrlichiosis and tularemia. Missouri is among the states with the highest rates of ehrlichiosis and tularemia cases. Consequently, it is not unexpected that Missouri is among the states with the highest prevalence persons who test positive and who have AGS. The volume of reported positive laboratory results from the various laboratories that perform the test is substantial and is expected to exceed 3,000 reports of positive laboratory results each year in Missouri. If AGS were to be reportable in Missouri, all positive test results for the alpha-gal antibody test would be required to be reported to DHSS. Each positive laboratory report would have to be investigated to determine if the individual patient has compatible symptoms of alpha-gal. The investigation would likely include contacting each medical provider and/or medical facility to obtain additional information regarding the patient, and possibly contacting the individual as well. It is not uncommon for persons being evaluated for AGS to see multiple providers. The follow up needed would be very labor intensive and require additional epidemiologists to complete the investigations. Once completed, there would still be significant limitations in the surveillance data and subsequent findings of the analysis given the range and variation in possible symptoms of AGS, and the limitations of the currently available antibody tests for AGS.

Investigating these reports, as well as analyzing the data to complete the CDC report would require three (3) new FTE, Associate Epidemiologists at an annual salary of \$75,936, with one in St. Louis, one in Kansas City, and one in Jefferson City. This cost estimate is based on the expected number of positive laboratory reports received and investigated annually. The expected number of reports received is an assumption based on aggregate laboratory data from 2022, national publications on the topic, experiences from another states, and current data for other tick-borne communicable diseases in Missouri.

The Program does not have the resources to absorb these costs.

**Oversight** does not have information to the contrary and therefore, Oversight will reflect the estimates as provided by the DHSS.

Officials from the **Newton County Health Department** 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.

**Oversight** only reflects the responses received from state agencies and political subdivisions; however, other local public health agencies and hospitals 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<br>(10 Mo.)       | FY 2027                   | FY 2028                   |
|---|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
|   |                           |                           |                           |
| <b>GENERAL REVENUE</b>                                  |                           |                           |                           |
|   |                           |                           |                           |
| <u>Costs – DHSS (§ 192.020) p. 3</u>                    |                           |                           |                           |
| Personal service  | (\$189,840)               | (\$232,364)               | (\$237,011)               |
| Fringe benefits   | (\$115,568)               | (\$140,508)               | (\$142,370)               |
| Equipment and expense                                   | (\$73,291)                | (\$34,642)                | (\$35,335)                |
| Total <u>Costs</u> - DHSS                               | <u>(\$378,699)</u>        | <u>(\$407,514)</u>        | <u>(\$414,716)</u>        |
| FTE Changes   | 3 FTE                     | 3 FTE                     | 3 FTE                     |
|   |                           |                           |                           |
| <b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON<br/>GENERAL REVENUE</b>      | <b><u>(\$378,699)</u></b> | <b><u>(\$407,514)</u></b> | <b><u>(\$414,716)</u></b> |
|   |                           |                           |                           |
| Estimated Net FTE Change on the<br>General Revenue Fund | 3 FTE                     | 3 FTE                     | 3 FTE                     |
|   |                           |                           |                           |

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

FISCAL IMPACT – Small Business

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

FISCAL DESCRIPTION

This bill adds alpha-gal syndrome and Lyme disease to the list of diseases that must be reported to the Department of Health and Senior Services. Additionally, the bill requires the Department to submit an annual report to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that summarizes its findings on the incidence of the diseases on the Department's list. (§ 192.020)

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

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Department of Health and Senior Services  
Newton County Health Department



Julie Morff  
Director  
March 30, 2025



Jessica Harris  
Assistant Director  
March 30, 2025