

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH  
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

**FISCAL NOTE**

L.R. No.: 2351H.01I  
Bill No.: HB 978  
Subject: Crimes And Punishment; Criminal Procedure; Motor Vehicles  
Type: Original  
Date: February 17, 2025

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Bill Summary: This proposal establishes the offense of unlawful tracking of a motor vehicle.

**FISCAL SUMMARY**

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND</b>			
<b>FUND AFFECTED</b>	<b>FY 2026</b>	<b>FY 2027</b>	<b>FY 2028</b>
<b>Total Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON OTHER STATE 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>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>
<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.

<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>Unknown</b>	<b>Unknown</b>	<b>Unknown</b>

\*Unknown fine revenue to school districts assumed to be less than \$250,000 annually.

## FISCAL ANALYSIS

### ASSUMPTION

#### §565.260 – Unlawful tracking of a motor vehicle

Officials from the **Office of the State Public Defender (SPD)** state per the National Public Defense Workload Study, the new charge contemplated by this change to §565.260 would take approximately fourteen hours of SPD work for reasonably effective representation. If one hundred cases were filed under this section in a fiscal year, representation would result in a need for an additional attorney. Because the number of cases that will be filed under this statute is unknown, the exact additional number of attorneys necessary is unknown. Each case would also result in unknown increased costs in the need for core staff, travel and litigation expenses.

**Oversight** assumes this proposal will not create the number of new cases required to request additional FTE for the SPD and that the SPD can absorb the additional caseload required by this proposal with current staff and resources. Therefore, Oversight will reflect no fiscal impact to the SPD for fiscal note purposes. However, if multiple bills pass which require additional staffing and duties, the SPD may request funding through the appropriation process.

In response to similar legislation from the prior session (HB 1570), officials from the **Missouri Office of Prosecution Services (MOPS)** assumed the proposal will have no measurable fiscal impact on MOPS. The enactment of a new crime (§565.260) creates additional responsibilities for county prosecutors and the circuit attorney which may, in turn, result in additional costs, which are difficult to determine.

**Oversight** notes that violations of §565.260 is a class B misdemeanor which carries a fine not to exceed \$1,000 in addition to any individual county/municipal fees and court costs. Oversight also notes per Article IX Section 7 of the Missouri Constitution fines and penalties collected by counties are distributed to school districts. Fines vary widely from year to year and are distributed to the school district where the violation occurred. Oversight will reflect a positive Unknown fiscal impact to local school districts for fines and penalties collected. Any impact to various state and local funds from court fees is assumed to be minimal and will not be presented for fiscal note purposes. For simplicity, Oversight will not reflect the possibility that fine revenue paid to school districts may act as a subtraction in the foundation formula.

Below are examples of some of the state and local funds which court costs are distributed:

<b>Fee/Fund Name</b>	<b>Fee Amount</b>
Basic Civil Legal Services Fund	\$8.00
Clerk Fee	\$15.00 (\$12 State/\$3 County)
County Fee	\$25.00
State Court Automation Fund	\$7.00
Crime Victims' Compensation Fund	\$7.50
DNA Profiling Analysis Fund	\$15.00
Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) Fund	\$1.00
Motorcycle Safety Trust Fund	\$1.00
Brain Injury Fund	\$2.00
Independent Living Center Fund	\$1.00
Sheriff's Fee	\$10.00 (County)
Prosecuting Attorney and Circuit Attorney Training Fund	\$4.00
Prosecuting Attorney Training Fund	\$1.00 (\$0.50 State/\$0.50 County)
Spinal Cord Injury Fund	\$2.00

Officials from the **Department of Mental Health**, the **Department of Public Safety - Missouri Highway Patrol**, the **Department of Social Services**, the **Missouri Department of Conservation**, the **Phelps County Sheriff**, the **Kansas City Police Department**, the **St. Louis County Police Department** and the **Office of the State Courts Administrator** 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** only reflects the responses received from state agencies and political subdivisions; however, other local law enforcement 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
	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>

<u>FISCAL IMPACT – Local Government</u>	FY 2026 (10 Mo.)	FY 2027	FY 2028
<b>LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS</b>			
<u>Revenue – Schools - (\$565.260) Fine revenue p. 3</u>	<u>Unknown</u>	<u>Unknown</u>	<u>Unknown</u>
<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS</b>	<u>Unknown</u>	<u>Unknown</u>	<u>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 offense of unlawful tracking of a motor vehicle, which a person commits if the person knowingly installs, conceals, or otherwise places an electronic tracking device on a motor vehicle without the consent of all owners of the vehicle. There are several exceptions to the offense, as described in the bill, including, but not limited to, for the purposes of a criminal investigation, at the discretion of a parent or legal guardian, or if the vehicle is being repossessed.

The offense of unlawful tracking of a motor vehicle is a class B misdemeanor. (§565.260)

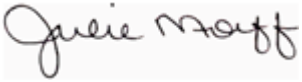
This legislation is not federally mandated, would not duplicate any other program and would not require additional capital improvements or rental space.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Department of Mental Health  
 Department of Public Safety – Missouri Highway Patrol  
 Department of Social Services  
 Missouri Department of Conservation  
 Office of the State Public Defender  
 Phelps County Sheriff  
 Kansas City Police Department

L.R. No. 2351H.011  
Bill No. HB 978  
Page 6 of 6  
February 17, 2025

St. Louis County Police Department  
Missouri Office of Prosecution Services  
Office of the State Courts Administrator



Julie Morff  
Director  
February 17, 2025



Jessica Harris  
Assistant Director  
February 17, 2025