

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

FISCAL NOTE

L.R. No.: 3875H.02I
 Bill No.: HB 1770
 Subject: Crimes and Punishment; Courts; Children and Minors
 Type: Original
 Date: February 23, 2026

Bill Summary: This proposal modifies the time limitations for prosecutions for abuse or neglect of a child.

FISCAL SUMMARY

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND

FUND AFFECTED	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
General Revenue*	(Unknown)	(Unknown)	(Unknown)
Total Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue	(Unknown)	(Unknown)	(Unknown)

*DOC notes that current capacity will be met by July 2029 (FY 2030) or potentially much sooner. Therefore, Oversight has made the decision to reflect the marginal cost of incarceration up to an unknown cost if DOC needs to add staff and/or rehabilitate, expand or construct additional capacity. Oversight assumes the unknown cost has the potential to exceed \$250,000.

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON OTHER STATE FUNDS

FUND AFFECTED	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>Other</u> State Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0

Numbers within parentheses: () indicate costs or losses.

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FEDERAL FUNDS

FUND AFFECTED	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>All</u> Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FULL TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE)

FUND AFFECTED	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
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 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
Local Government	\$0	\$0	\$0

FISCAL ANALYSIS

ASSUMPTION

§556.035 – Prosecutions for Abuse or Neglect of a Child

Officials from the **Department of Corrections (DOC)** state this proposal modifies the time limitations for prosecutions for abuse or neglect of a child.

Section 556.035 modifies the statute of limitations for 568.060 for prosecutions of abuse or neglect of a child, allowing it to be commenced within ten years from the victim's eighteenth birthday. The department has no way of knowing how many more individuals will be charged and convicted of abuse or neglect of a child due to this change. However, it is assumed the legislation would increase the number of individuals incarcerated.

The department is unable to project the impact to the prison population and assumes an unknown fiscal cost. This impact would be calculated with the marginal cost of incarceration (times number of offenders) to unknown, depending on the underlying offender population. If DOC exceeds the current capacity, additional capacity will need to be constructed.

The department will assume a marginal cost (multiplied by number of offenders) for any projected increase or decrease in the incarcerated population. Marginal cost is \$30.47 per day or an annual cost of \$11,123 per offender which includes costs such as medical, food, wages and operational E&E. The unknown amount is a result of the uncertainty in the growth of the underlying offender population. The impact of any new legislation combined with the growth of the underlying population could result in the tiered approach below in order to meet the population demands.

1. Fully staffing the current capacity (27,368) which is habitable, but DOC does not have the staffing resources for all bed space.
2. Rehabilitating current space that is not currently habitable and obtaining staffing resources for that space (requires capital improvements).
3. Expanding new capacity by adding housing units or wings to existing prisons and obtaining staffing resources for that space (requires capital improvements).
4. Constructing a new prison and obtaining staffing resources. Based on current construction projects in other Midwest states, the department estimates the cost of constructing a new 1,500-bed maximum security prison at approximately \$825 million to \$900 million plus annual operating costs of approximately \$50 million (requires capital improvements).

The department's population projections indicate current physical capacity will be met by July 2029; however recent trends indicate that capacity could be met much sooner. Should new construction be the result of the increasing offender population, the full cost per day per offender

would be used which is \$106.96 or an annual cost of \$39,040. This includes all items in the marginal cost calculation plus fringe, personal service, utilities, etc.

DOC's cost of probation or parole is determined by the number of P&P Officer II positions that are needed to cover its caseload. The DOC average district caseload across the state is 51 offender cases per officer. An increase/decrease of 51 cases would result in a cost/cost avoidance equal to the salary, fringe, and equipment and expenses of one P&P Officer II. Increases/decreases smaller than 51 offender cases are assumed to be absorbable.

In instances where the proposed legislation would only affect a specific caseload, such as sex offenders, the DOC will use the average caseload figure for that specific type of offender to calculate cost increases/decreases.

* If this impact statement has changed from statements submitted in previous years, it could be due to an increase/decrease in the number of offenders, a change in the cost per day for institutional offenders, and/or an increase in staff salaries.

Oversight does not have any information contrary to that provided by DOC. Therefore, Oversight will reflect DOC's impact for fiscal note purposes.

Officials from the **Office of the State Public Defender (SPD)** state the fiscal impact is unknown but could be significant based upon the number of allegations resulting in prosecutions made up to twenty years after the date of the alleged offense.

Oversight assumes 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.

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 Mental Health, Department of Public Safety - Missouri Highway Patrol, Department of Social Services, Office of the State Courts Administrator, Phelps County Sheriff, Blue Springs Police Department, Branson Police Department, Kansas City Police Department, and St. Louis County Police Department** each assume the proposal will have no fiscal impact on their respective organizations.

In response to similar legislation, HCS for HB 401 (2025), officials from the **Missouri Office of Prosecution Services** 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 in the fiscal note for these agencies.

Oversight only reflects the responses that we have received from state agencies and political subdivisions; however, other local law enforcement were requested to respond to this proposed legislation but did not. 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. A general listing of political subdivisions included in our database is available upon request.

<u>FISCAL IMPACT – State Government</u>	FY 2027 (10 Mo.)	FY 2028	FY 2029
GENERAL REVENUE			
<u>Cost – DOC (§556.035) Increased incarceration costs p.3</u>	(Unknown)	(Unknown)	(Unknown)
ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE	(Unknown)	(Unknown)	(Unknown)

<u>FISCAL IMPACT – Local Government</u>	FY 2027 (10 Mo.)	FY 2028	FY 2029
	\$0	\$0	\$0

FISCAL IMPACT – Small Business

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

FISCAL DESCRIPTION

PROSECUTIONS FOR ABUSE OR NEGLECT OF A CHILD (Section 556.035)

This bill requires prosecutions for abuse or neglect of a child be commenced within 10 years of the victim's 18th birthday.

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

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Attorney General's Office
Department of Mental Health
Department of Corrections
Department of Public Safety - Missouri Highway Patrol
Department of Social Services
Office of the State Courts Administrator
Office of the State Public Defender
Missouri Office of Prosecution Services
Phelps County Sheriff
Blue Springs Police Department
Branson Police Department
Kansas City Police Department
St. Louis County Police Department



Julie Morff
Director
February 23, 2026



Jessica Harris
Assistant Director
February 23, 2026