

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH  
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

**FISCAL NOTE**

L.R. No.: 4258H.011  
Bill No.: HB 1772  
Subject: Children and Minors; Family Law; Adoption  
Type: Original  
Date: February 2, 2026

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Bill Summary: This proposal modifies provisions relating to subsidies for adopted children.

**FISCAL SUMMARY**

**ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND**

FUND AFFECTED	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
General Revenue	(\$1,841,250)	(\$2,209,500)	(\$2,209,500)
<b>Total Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue</b>	<b>(\$1,841,250)</b>	<b>(\$2,209,500)</b>	<b>(\$2,209,500)</b>

**ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON OTHER STATE FUNDS**

FUND AFFECTED	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
<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 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
<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 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
<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 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
<b>Local Government</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

## FISCAL ANALYSIS

### ASSUMPTION

#### §453.073 - Subsidies for Adopted Children

Officials from the **Department of Social Services (DSS)** state, beginning January 1, 2027, and a for a period of five years thereafter, the children's division must make the grants provided for under subsection 1 of section 453.073 available to be paid toward the legal expenses incurred by the prospective adoptive parent or parents upon the successful completion of such adoption proceedings including, but not limited to, attorney's fees, filing fees, publication fees, and fees associated with the submission of a certificate of decree of adoption to amend the minor child's birth records. Such grant must be specified in a written agreement entered into by the children's division and the prospective adoptive parent or parents. Such grant will not exceed \$2,500 for uncontested adoptions and \$4,000 for contested adoptions, billed at the rate of \$175 per hour of legal services provided by an attorney licensed to practice law in the state of Missouri, together with actual expenses incurred in prosecuting the petition for adoption. A separate grant for guardian ad litem (GAL) fees must be made available and will not exceed \$500 billed at the rate of \$175 per hour of legal services provided by an attorney licensed to practice law in the state of Missouri.

The proposed legislation would increase both uncontested/contested non-recurring legal fees (Nonrelated Legal Guardian (NRLG)) by \$1,500.00 each. Currently, NRLG rates are \$1,500 (uncontested) and \$3,000 (contested). This includes the GAL fees.

The proposed increase to \$2,500 (uncontested) and \$4,000 (contested) would result in a flat increase of \$1,000. This flat increase of \$1,000 plus the \$500 separate grant for the GAL fees is a potential total increase of \$1,500 for each child's finalized adoption.

To estimate the impact of the proposed rate increases, CD used FY23-FY25 NRLG payment detail from FACES. CD multiplied the FY23-FY25 average total count of Department Client Numbers (DCN) of children (1,473) by \$1,500. This resulted in an additional NRLG cost of \$2,209,500 (1,473 \* \$1,500).

CD Anticipates \$2,209,500 would be required to implement this legislation. Please note, CD is only allowed to seek reimbursement from Title IV-E program for adoption or guardianship NRLG costs up to \$2,000. Anything above \$2,000 per episode is fund recouped to be state funded.

**Oversight** does not have information to the contrary and therefore, Oversight will reflect the estimates as provided by the DSS. Oversight notes there is no emergency clause, and as these are general revenue funds, Oversight assumes a first-year cost of \$1,841,250.

Officials from the **Department of Mental Health, Office of the State Courts Administrator** and **Missouri Office of Prosecution Services** 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.

**Oversight** only reflects the responses that we have received from state agencies and political subdivisions; however, other circuit clerks 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
<b>GENERAL REVENUE</b>			
<u>Cost – DSS (§453.073) Adoption/ guardianship NRLG costs p.3</u>	(\$1,841,250)	(\$2,209,500)	(\$2,209,500)
<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE</b>	<b>(\$1,841,250)</b>	<b>(\$2,209,500)</b>	<b>(\$2,209,500)</b>

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

FISCAL IMPACT – Small Business

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

FISCAL DESCRIPTION

Currently, the Children's Division of the Department of Social Services is authorized to grant a subsidy to certain children in the custody of the division for the child's care. This applies to a child who is five years of age or older, or who belongs to a racial or ethnic minority, or who is in need of medical, dental, educational, mental, or other related health services, and for whom an adoptive home is not readily available. This includes maintenance, childcare, respite, the reimbursement of nonrecurring adoption expenses, and MO HealthNet coverage.

This bill requires the Division, beginning January 1, 2027, and for five years thereafter, to make the grants provided under current law available to be paid toward the legal expenses incurred by a prospective adoptive parent upon the successful completion of adoption proceedings.

The grant must be specified in a written agreement entered into by the Division and the adoptive parent or parents and cannot exceed \$2,500 for uncontested adoptions and \$4,000 for contested adoptions. A separate grant for guardian ad litem fees must be made available and cannot exceed \$500. Both grants are billed at the rate of \$175 per hour of legal services provided by an attorney licensed in this state.

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 Social Services  
Missouri Office of Prosecution Services  
Office of the State Courts Administrator

Julie Morff  
Director



Jessica Harris  
Assistant Director  
February 2, 2026