

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

FISCAL NOTE

L.R. No.: 4417H.01I
 Bill No.: HJR 147
 Subject: Constitutional Amendments; Taxation and Revenue - Property; Disabilities
 Type: Original
 Date: January 23, 2026

Bill Summary: This proposal proposes a constitutional amendment establishing funding for pensions for the blind.

FISCAL SUMMARY

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND

FUND AFFECTED	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
General Revenue*	\$0 or (More than \$9,000,000)	\$0 or (\$41,619,745)	\$0 or (\$41,619,745)
Total Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue	\$0 or (More than \$9,000,000)	\$0 or (\$41,619,745)	\$0 or (\$41,619,745)

*The potential fiscal impact of “(More than \$9,000,000)” would be realized only if a special election were called by the Governor to submit this joint resolution to voters.

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON OTHER STATE FUNDS

FUND AFFECTED	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
Blind Pension Fund (1621)	\$0	\$0*	\$0*
Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>Other</u> State Funds	\$0	\$0*	\$0*

*Oversight notes the appropriation from GR and revenue loss from property tax nets to \$0 (pending voter approval).

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

*The potential fiscal impact to local election authorities (reimbursed by the state) would be realized only if a special election were called by the Governor to submit this joint resolution to voters.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

ASSUMPTION

Officials from the **Office of the Secretary of the State (SOS)** assume, each year, a number of joint resolutions that would refer to a vote of the people a constitutional amendment and bills that would refer to a vote of the people the statutory issue in the legislation may be considered by the General Assembly.

Unless a special election is called for the purpose, joint resolutions proposing a constitutional amendment are submitted to a vote of the people at the next general election. Article XII section 2(b) of the Missouri Constitution authorizes the governor to order a special election for constitutional amendments referred to the people. If a special election is called to submit a joint resolution to a vote of the people, Section 115.063.2, RSMo., requires the state to pay the costs. The cost of a special election has been estimated to be \$9 million based on the cost of past primary and general election reimbursements.

The Secretary of State's office is required to pay for publishing in local newspapers the full text of each statewide ballot measure as directed by Article XII, Section 2(b) of the Missouri Constitution and Section 116.230-116.290, RSMo. Funding for this item is adjusted each year depending upon the election cycle. A new decision item is requested in odd numbered fiscal years and the amount requested is dependent upon the estimated number of ballot measures that will be approved by the General Assembly and the initiative petitions certified for the ballot. In FY 2014, the General Assembly changed the appropriation so that it was no longer an estimated appropriation.

For the FY27 publication cycle, the SOS estimates publication costs at \$515,000 per ballot measure. This amount is an average and will be subject to change based on the number of petitions received, length of those petitions, and rates charged by newspaper publishers. In a year where many lengthy measures must be published, the Secretary of State's Office may need to budget up to \$10,000,000 to ensure sufficient funding is available to meet its constitutional obligations for the election cycle.

The Secretary of State's office will continue to assume, for the purposes of this fiscal note, that it should have the full appropriation authority it needs to meet the publishing requirements. Because these requirements are mandatory, the SOS reserves the right to request funding to meet the cost of their publishing requirements if the Governor and the General Assembly again change the amount or continue to not designate it as an estimated appropriation.

Oversight has reflected, in this fiscal note, the state potentially reimbursing local political subdivisions the cost of having this joint resolution voted on during a special election in fiscal year 2027. This reflects the decision made by the Joint Committee on Legislative Research that the cost of the elections should be shown in the fiscal note. Per the SOS, the cost is estimated at \$9 million based on past costs as well as the anticipation of significant increases in future

election-related expenses. The next scheduled statewide general election is in November 2026 (FY 2027). It is assumed the subject within this proposal could be on this ballot; however, it could also be on a special election called for by the Governor (a different date). Therefore, Oversight will reflect a potential election cost reimbursement to local political subdivisions in FY 2027.

Officials from the **Office of Administration - Budget and Planning (B&P)** note this proposal would be subject to voter approval at the November 2026 general election. B&P assumes that if voter approved, this proposal would not become effective until January 1, 2027.

This proposal would end the \$0.03 per \$100 statewide property tax levy for the Blind Pension Trust Fund. This proposal would instead require the General Assembly to make an appropriation to the fund, with such appropriation being no less than the amount appropriated during FY27.

B&P notes that if voter approved, this proposal would become effective for tax year 2027. Property taxes are collected in December of each year, therefore, while this proposal would end the state property tax for tax year 2027, the revenue impact would not occur until FY28.

In FY25, the Blind Pension Trust Fund collected \$41,619,745 in property tax revenue. Therefore, B&P estimates that this proposal will reduce revenues to the Blind Pension Trust Fund of \$41,619,745. However, that amount would be offset by an appropriation from General Revenue to the Blind Pension Trust Fund. Ultimately this proposal would increase costs to General Revenue of \$41,619,745 while the Blind Pension Trust Fund would have a net \$0 impact.

Officials from the **Department of Social Services** 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 this agency.

Oversight notes officials from B&P assume the proposal will have a direct fiscal impact on state revenues. Oversight does not have any information to the contrary. Therefore, Oversight will reflect B&P's estimated impact in the fiscal note.

<u>FISCAL IMPACT – State Government</u>	FY 2027 (10 Mo.)	FY 2028	FY 2029
GENERAL REVENUE			
<u>Transfer Out – SOS - Reimbursement of local election authority election costs if a special election is called by the Governor</u>	\$0 or (More than \$9,000,000)	\$0	\$0
<u>Potential Transfer Out – Appropriation for Blind Pension Fund, if approved by voters</u>	\$0	\$0 or (\$41,619,745)	\$0 or (\$41,619,745)
ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE	\$0 or (More than \$9,000,000)	\$0 or (\$41,619,745)	\$0 or (\$41,619,745)
BLIND PENSION FUND			
<u>Potential Transfer In – From GR, appropriation for Blind Pension Fund, if approved by voters</u>	\$0	\$0 or \$41,619,745	\$0 or \$41,619,745
<u>Potential Revenue Loss – Loss of property tax revenue, if approved by voters</u>	\$0	\$0 or (\$41,619,745)	\$0 or (\$41,619,745)
ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON BLIND PENSION FUND	\$0	\$0	\$0

<u>FISCAL IMPACT – Local Government</u>	FY 2027 (10 Mo.)	FY 2028	FY 2029
LOCAL POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS			
<u>Transfer In</u> - Local Election Authorities - Reimbursement of election costs by the State for a special election	\$0 or More than \$9,000,000	\$0	\$0
<u>Costs</u> - Local Election Authorities - Cost of a special election if called for by the Governor	\$0 or (More than \$9,000,000)	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>

FISCAL IMPACT – Small Business

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

FISCAL DESCRIPTION

Currently, Missouri imposes a state property tax for the purpose of funding the Blind Pension Fund.

Upon voter approval, this constitutional amendment removes this tax and requires the General Assembly to provide an annual appropriation for the purpose of funding the Blind Pension Fund. This appropriated amount each year must be at least the same amount the General Assembly appropriated to fund the Blind Pension Fund during the 2026-2027 fiscal year.

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

Office of Administration - Budget and Planning
 Department of Social Services
 Office of the Secretary of State



Julie Morff
 Director
 January 23, 2026



Jessica Harris
 Assistant Director
 January 23, 2026