

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

FISCAL NOTE

L.R. No.: 4544H.011
Bill No.: HB 1792
Subject: Elementary and Secondary Education; Department of Elementary and Secondary Education; Internet and E-Mail; Children and Minors
Type: Original
Date: February 22, 2026

Bill Summary: This proposal establishes the Media Literacy and Critical Thinking Act.

FISCAL SUMMARY

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND

FUND AFFECTED	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
General Revenue*	(\$253,449)	(\$143,924)	(\$147,388)
Total Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue	(\$253,449)	(\$143,924)	(\$147,388)

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
General Revenue	1 FTE	1 FTE	1 FTE
Total Estimated Net Effect on FTE	1 FTE	1 FTE	1 FTE

- 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 or (Unknown)	\$0 or (Unknown)

FISCAL ANALYSIS

ASSUMPTION

§161.355 – Media Literacy and Critical Thinking Act

Officials from **Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE)** state:

§161.355.5-6: Establishment of Expectations and Implementation of Pilot Program

Prior to implementation of the pilot program, an advisory team of library media specialists and/or other educators who work closely with media literacy instruction (one from each of the state's nine RPDC regions, to include librarians and/or other educators who work with elementary, middle, and high school libraries and/or classrooms and represent rural, suburban, and urban districts) will meet in Jefferson City for two consecutive days in the fall of 2026 (FY2027) to determine expectations for districts participating in the pilot program. Estimated cost: \$13,555. -\$5,400.00 stipends (\$300/day for each of the nine advisory team members over two days), \$2,700.00 lodging (\$150/night for each of the nine advisory team members over two nights), \$1,575 mileage (actual cost will depend on mileage each of the nine advisory team members reports in driving to and from Jefferson City), \$1,080.00 meal allowances (covers five meals at \$60 for nine advisory team members for two days (\$60 x 9 x 2)), \$2,898.00 substitute payments (covers one substitute per each of the nine advisory team members at \$161 per substitute per day for two days).

During the spring of 2027, a one-day meeting in Jefferson City with the seven participating districts will provide guidance prior to the districts' implementation of the pilot program during the following school year. Each district shall send two representatives: one superintendent or principal and one librarian or classroom teacher who works closely with media literacy instruction. Estimated cost: \$6,517.00 - \$2,100.00 lodging (\$150/night for each of the 14 participants for one night), \$2,450.00 mileage (actual cost will depend on mileage each of the 14 participants reports in driving to and from Jefferson City), \$840.00 meal allowances (covers two meals at \$60 for each of the 14 participants: breakfast and lunch), \$1,127.00 substitute payments (covers one substitute per each of the seven librarians/classroom teachers at \$161 per substitute for one day). During the spring of 2028, a meeting in Jefferson City with the seven participating districts will provide an opportunity for the districts to share successes and find solutions to difficulties incurred during the first year of implementation. Each district shall send two representatives: one superintendent or principal and one librarian or classroom teacher who works closely with media literacy instruction. Estimated cost: \$6,517 - \$2,100.00 lodging (\$150/night for each of the 14 participants for one night). \$2,450 mileage (actual cost will depend on mileage each of the 14 participants reports in driving to and from Jefferson City), \$840.00 meal allowances (covers two meals at \$60 for each of the 14 participants: breakfast and lunch), \$1,127.00 substitute payments (covers one substitute per each of the seven librarians/classroom teachers at \$161 per substitute for one day).

§161.355.7: Samples of Learning Activities, Resources, and Training

DESE assumes during the spring of 2028 (FY2028), during the spring of 2029, a meeting with the seven participating districts in Jefferson City will provide an opportunity for the districts to share their experiences with the pilot and their recommendations for media literacy instruction. Each district shall send two representatives: one superintendent or principal and one librarian or classroom teacher who works closely with media literacy instruction. Estimated cost: \$7,644 - \$2,100.00 lodging (\$150/night for each of the 14 participants for one night), \$2,450.00 mileage (actual cost will depend on mileage each of the 14 participants reports in driving to and from Jefferson City), \$840.00 meal allowances (covers two meals at \$60 for each of the 14 participants: breakfast and lunch), \$2,254.00 substitute payments (covers one substitute per each of the seven librarians/classroom teachers at \$161 per substitute for two days).

§161.353 would also require stipends for the two representatives from each pilot school attending whole work group meetings in the spring of 2027, 2028, and 2029. -\$4,200 each year (\$300/day for each of the representatives 300 X 3).

§161.355.8: Pilot Districts' Written Reports to DESE

Officials from the **DESE** assume this section of 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.

§161.355.9: Draft of PK-12 Media Literacy and Critical Thinking State Standards - DESE Report to General Assembly

DESE assumes during the summer or fall of 2029, two teams of 18 educators each (team for preschool-grade 5 and team for grades 6-12) will meet for three days in Jefferson City to draft media literacy and critical thinking state standards. Each team will consist of representatives who work closely with media literacy instruction from each of the state's nine RPDC regions, to include librarians and/or other educators who work with elementary, middle, and high school libraries and/or classrooms and represent rural, suburban, and urban districts. Estimated cost: \$46,368.00 - \$16,200.00 lodging (\$150/night for each of the 36 participants for three nights), \$6,300.00 mileage (actual cost will depend on mileage each of the 36 participants reports in driving to and from Jefferson City), \$6,480.00 meal allowances (covers eight meals at \$60 for each of the 36 participants, \$17,388.00 substitute payments (covers one substitute per each of the 36 participants at \$161 per substitute for three days).

§161.355.10-12: State Standards Review, Termination of Pilot Program, and Section Expires

Officials from the **DESE** assume this section of 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.

Responses regarding the proposed legislation as a whole

DESE assumes for all sections requiring work and support **DESE** estimates the need for one Media Literacy Consultants which would be contracted with the Regional Professional Development Centers (RPDC). Because media literacy instruction is a significant part of the work of school librarians (see Missouri Association of School Librarians Instructional Standards), **DESE** guidance of this work would fall mainly to the Director of Secondary Literacy, who, as part of that position, oversees school library K-12 instructional work. Because the project proposed in HB 1792 will require supervision and guidance beyond the current capacity of Office of Literacy staffing, it is recommended that **DESE** add one fulltime Media Literacy Consultants through appropriate Regional Professional Development Centers depending on pilot school location to support the program implementation by providing targeted professional development and program guidance within each of the school buildings in the participating districts under the direction of **DESE**'s Director of Secondary Literacy. This position would run from the beginning to end of the project, July 2026 through June 2030. (\$115,000.00/year covering salary, benefits, travel expenses for the Media Literacy Consultant). In addition to the RPDC consultant, an assistant director FTE would be required to support the implementation of the multi-year pilot program and the data collection involved (\$71,887/year covering salary, benefits, travel expenses).

Oversight does not have any information to the contrary. Therefore, Oversight will reflect the estimated impact by **DESE** in the fiscal note.

Oversight assumes consultant cost for participating schools will only be applicable to the first year prior to the pilot programs start date in order to ensure professional development for the five to seven participating school districts. Therefore, Oversight will reflect the impact for RPDC consultants in FY27 on the fiscal note.

Oversight notes this proposal presents a pilot program to be implemented during the 2027-28 and 2028-29 school years which will include five to seven diverse school districts. Oversight assumes there may be costs to implement the Media Literacy and Critical Thinking pilot program for school districts; therefore, Oversight will reflect a \$0 or unknown cost in the fiscal note.

Oversight notes the program is to terminate on June 30, 2029.

Officials from the **High Point R-III School District** assume the proposal will have a fiscal impact on their organization. However, they did not further elaborate on how the impact would be realized for their organization.

In response to similar legislation, HB 1513 (2025), officials from the **Henry County R-1 School District** assume the proposal will have no fiscal impact on their organization.

Oversight only reflects the responses that we have received from state agencies and political subdivisions; however, other school districts 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 – DESE (§161.355) p.5</u>			
Personal Service	(\$59,906)	(\$73,325)	(\$74,791)
Fringe Benefits	(\$37,707)	(\$45,827)	(\$46,417)
Expense & Equipment	(\$16,564)	(\$14,055)	(\$14,336)
<u>Total Costs – DESE</u>	<u>(\$114,177)</u>	<u>(\$133,207)</u>	<u>(\$135,544)</u>
FTE Change – DESE	1 FTE	1 FTE	1 FTE
<u>Cost - DESE (§161.355) RPDC Media Consultant Contractors p. 5</u>	(\$115,000)	(\$0)	(\$0)
<u>Cost – DESE (§161.355.5) Workgroup Meetings p.3</u>	(\$20,072)	(\$6,517)	(\$)
<u>Cost – DESE (§161.355.7) Workgroup Meetings p.4</u>	(\$0)	(\$0)	(\$7,644)
<u>Cost – DESE (§161.355.7) Stipends for teachers to attend workgroups p. 4</u>	(\$4,200)	(\$4,200)	(\$4,200)
ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE	<u>(\$253,449)</u>	<u>(\$143,924)</u>	<u>(\$147,388)</u>
Estimated Net FTE Change on General Revenue	1 FTE	1 FTE	1 FTE

<u>FISCAL IMPACT – Local Government</u>	FY 2027 (10 Mo.)	FY 2028	FY 2029
LOCAL POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS			
<u>Cost – School Districts (\$161.355)</u> Implement the Media Literacy and Critical Thinking pilot program p.3-5	\$0	\$0 or (Unknown)	\$0 or (Unknown)
ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS	\$0	\$0 or (Unknown)	\$0 or (Unknown)

FISCAL IMPACT – Small Business

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

FISCAL DESCRIPTION

This bill establishes the "Media Literacy and Critical Thinking Act". The bill defines "media literacy" to include concepts such as, but not limited to: an individual's ability to access, analyze, evaluate, and participate with all forms of media, including news in print and social media content, and recognize bias and stereotypes in media, as well as Internet safety.

This bill requires the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to establish a "Media Literacy and Critical Thinking" Pilot Program for the 2027-28 and 2028-29 school years. Between five and seven diverse schools will be selected by DESE to participate in the Pilot Program as specified in the bill.

The Program will address media literacy, develop strategies for student learning in classroom curricula, and demonstrate various literacy strategies used.

Pilot Program schools must provide a report to DESE before August 1, 2029, and before January 1, 2030, DESE must compile and submit a summary report to the General Assembly.

The Pilot Program terminates June 30, 2029. This section expires December 31, 2029.

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 Elementary and Secondary Education
High Point R-III School District
Henry County R-I School District



Julie Morff
Director
February 22, 2026



Jessica Harris
Assistant Director
February 22, 2026