COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

FISCAL NOTE

L.R. No.: 4758H.02I
Bill No.: HB 1948
Subject: Children's Division; Children and Minors; Family Law; Office of Administration; Boards, Commissions, Committees, and Councils
Type: Original
Date: January 26, 2026

Bill Summary: This proposal establishes provisions relating to fatherhood engagement.

FISCAL SUMMARY

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND

FUND AFFECTED	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
General Revenue	Could exceed ($354,154)	Could exceed ($394,910)	Could exceed ($398,668)
Total Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue	**Could exceed ($354,154)**	**Could exceed ($394,910)**	**Could exceed ($398,668)**

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON OTHER STATE FUNDS

FUND AFFECTED	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
Total Estimated Net Effect on Other 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 All Federal Funds	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FULL TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE)

FUND AFFECTED	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
General Revenue	3 FTE	3 FTE	3 FTE
Total Estimated Net Effect on FTE	**3 FTE**	**3 FTE**	**3 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**	**$0**

FISCAL ANALYSIS

ASSUMPTION

§§9.411 and 210.1150 – Fatherhood Engagement Project

Officials from the **Department of Social Services (DSS)** state this proposal duplicates existing programs. The following programs are appropriated in HB 11 to encourage responsible fatherhood and encourage healthy relationships. Some of these programs require parents to pay child support as part of the program.

House Bill Section	Provider	Program
11.170	Total Man	Dads Achieving Destiny Successfully
11.170	Area Resource for Community and Human Services (ARCHS) / Fathers and Families	Fatherhood and Families Program
11.185	Powerhouse, Connections to Success, Good Dads, Community Partnership of Southeast Missouri, and a region will be competitively bid	Healthy Marriages and Fatherhood
11.185	Community Partnership of Southeast MO	Empowering Dads to Gain Employment
11.185	Big Brothers Big Sisters Southeast Missouri	Fatherhood Prevention
11.185	Powerhouse	Fatherhood in Columbia
11.185	St. Joseph Youth Alliance	Providing Opportunities for Work, Education, and Responsibilities (Power)
11.280	Good Dads	Good Dads

Officials from the DSS - Division of Legal Services (DLS) will be required to assist in the grant process as well as in executing contracts with grantees. Since the quantity scale of the grants is unknown, the quantity of legal work is similarly unknown. DSS-DLS is requesting one (1) legal counsel ($105,121 annually) to assist with the grants process.

Additionally, the activities set forth in the proposed legislation may not qualify for federal funding. If they do not, general revenue will be needed to fund these activities. This cost, with or without federal funding, is unknown but potentially significant depending on how much the General Assembly appropriates for the program.

Officials from the DSS – Office of Workforce and Community Initiatives (OWCI) state this legislation establishes the "Missouri Fatherhood Engagement Project Grant Program" within the Missouri Fatherhood Engagement Project.

It is anticipated this will require two (2) Program Specialists ($62,515 each, annually).

Oversight notes the following appropriations in TAFP HB 11 (2025) related to Fatherhood initiatives from the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Federal Fund:

11.170 - For men to develop supportive relationships with their kids and families - $250,000
11.170 – For reducing the rates of absentee fathers - $2,000,000
11.185 - For a healthy marriage and fatherhood initiative - $1,250,000
11.170 - For responsible fatherhood services and healthy marriage activities - $500,000
11.280 - For a healthy marriage and fatherhood initiative - $2,000,000
Total appropriations for initiatives = $6,000,000

Oversight is uncertain if the proposed activities would qualify for the federal funding currently used for similar purposes. Therefore, Oversight will show a $0 or unknown cost to general revenue to fund grants for the proposed activities (if appropriated). Oversight assumes this cost could exceed $250,000.

Oversight reached out to DSS officials and inquired about the 2 FTE requested. Officials indicated that as they prepare to implement the Big Beautiful Bill (HR 1), the duties that will be performed by the Program Specialists were transitioned to a different team and DSS does not have the flexibility to handle the additional workload with this existing staff as HR 1 provisions are implemented.

The Program Specialists duties are to:

- Provide State oversight and Technical/Training assistance to Grantees
- Help with the oversight of formation of the Grant Application and the Application Process
- Formation of the Annual Report for the Fatherhood Engagement Grant
- Collection of Data for the Annual Report and,
- Depending on the amount appropriated, the bills language was vague and there could be over 100 contracts to provide support for. If the amount was divided between 2 Program Specialists each would have 50 contractors they are responsible for.

Oversight assumes DSS would not need additional rental space for 3 FTE.

Officials from the **Office of Administration, Office of the State Courts Administrator** and **Office of the State Treasurer** 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.

FISCAL IMPACT – State Government	FY 2027 (10 Mo.)	FY 2028	FY 2029
GENERAL REVENUE			
Cost - DSS (§§9.411 and 210.1150) To provide grants to facilitate involvement of fathers in the community p.4	$0 or (Unknown)	$0 or (Unknown)	$0 or (Unknown)
Cost – DSS (§§9.411 and 210.1150)			
Personal service	($191,794)	($232,454)	($234,778)
Fringe benefits	($117,979)	($142,501)	($143,436)
Equip. and expense	($44,381)	($19,955)	($20,453)
Total Costs - DSS	($354,154)	($394,910)	($398,668)
FTE Change - DSS	3 FTE	3 FTE	3 FTE
ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE	**Could exceed ($354,154)**	**Could exceed ($394,910)**	**Could exceed ($398,668)**
Estimated Net FTE Change on General Revenue	3 FTE	3 FTE	3 FTE

FISCAL IMPACT – Local Government	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

This bill designates the month of June as "Fatherhood Engagement Month" in Missouri, encouraging events and activities to raise awareness about the importance of fathers being a part of their children's lives.

Additionally, the bill establishes within the Department of Social Services' Family Support Division the "Missouri Fatherhood Engagement Project", to promote fatherhood engagement and empower fathers to become successful in fatherhood engagement.

The bill establishes the "Missouri Fatherhood Engagement Project Grant Program" which is a program and accompanying fund for family-focused community agencies, faith-based agencies, family advocacy programs, and nonprofit organizations to apply for in order to hire, train, and facilitate fatherhood engagement project specialists, who are to serve as a point of contact for fathers who want to reestablish and strengthen relationships with their children.

The bill specifies the duties of fatherhood engagement project specialists, including, but not limited to, being dispatched to engage with a father who does not comply with a court-ordered case plan, at which point a court or the Division is required to issue a referral to a partnering entity utilizing services from a fatherhood engagement project specialist.

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

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Department of Social Services
Office of Administration
Office of the State Courts Administrator
Office of the State Treasurer

Julie Morff
Director
January 26, 2026

Jessica Harris
Assistant Director
January 26, 2026