

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

FISCAL NOTE

L.R. No.: 4758H.03P
 Bill No.: Perfected HCS for HB 1948
 Subject: Children's Division; Children and Minors; Family Law; Administration, Office of;
 Boards, Commissions, Committees, and Councils
 Type: Original
 Date: February 26, 2026

Bill Summary: This proposal establishes provisions relating to the "Missouri Fathership Project".

FISCAL SUMMARY

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND

| FUND AFFECTED | FY 2027 | FY 2028 | FY 2029 |
|--|--|--|--|
| General Revenue* | (Unknown, could exceed \$146,837) | (Unknown, could exceed \$171,863) | (Unknown, could exceed \$173,517) |
| Total Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue | (Unknown, could exceed \$146,837) | (Unknown, could exceed \$171,863) | (Unknown, could exceed \$173,517) |

*Costs include FTE for DSS and grants. Oversight assumes the appropriation for grant funds could exceed \$250,000 annually.

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON OTHER STATE FUNDS

| FUND AFFECTED | FY 2027 | FY 2028 | FY 2029 |
|---|------------|------------|------------|
| Missouri Fathership Project Grant* | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>Other</u> State Funds | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |

*Transfers and distributions net to zero.
 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 | \$0 |

FISCAL ANALYSIS

ASSUMPTION

§§9.411 and 210.1150 – Missouri Fathership Project (as amended by House Amendment 1)

Officials from the **Department of Social Services (DSS) - Division of Legal Services (DLS)** state they 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.

Oversight has no information to the contrary. Oversight assumes DSS would not need additional rental space for 1 FTE. Therefore, Oversight will reflect the fiscal impact of this proposal as provided by DSS less rental space costs. Oversight assumes the appropriation for grant funds could exceed \$250,000 annually and that the appropriations, income and expenditures of the grant program will net to \$0.

Officials from the **Department of Revenue (DOR)** state House Amendment 1 would allow a father participating in the project outlined in HB 1948 to be eligible for a temporary driving privilege or a return of their license. This conflicts with Section 454.1003-454.1013, which provides the statutory authority for the Director of the Family Support Division or a Court to suspend a driver's license and requires an order from either to remove the suspension. The DOR assumes it will continue to only remove a suspension when ordered to do so by a court or the Family Services Division and as such this legislation will result in a minimal impact that the department will absorb.

In response to the previous version, officials from **Office of the State Courts Administrator** 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 this agency.

Oversight notes House Amendment No. 1 provides that any father participating in the Missouri Fathership Project who has been making regular support payments or complying with a court-ordered visitation and custody order shall be eligible for limited driving privileges or the return of the participant's license and not be subject to the suspension of hunting and fishing license or professional or occupational license.

Officials from the **Office of Administration, Department of Commerce and Insurance, Department of Natural Resources, Missouri Department of Conservation, 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.

| <u>FISCAL IMPACT – State Government</u> | FY 2027 (10 Mo.) | FY 2028 | FY 2029 |
|---|---|---|---|
| GENERAL REVENUE | | | |
| <u>Cost – DSS (§§9.411 and 210.1150) p.3</u> | | | |
| Personal service | (\$87,601) | (\$106,173) | (\$107,234) |
| Fringe benefits | (\$48,847) | (\$59,039) | (\$59,466) |
| Equipment and expense | (\$10,389) | (\$6,651) | (\$6,818) |
| Total Costs - DSS | (\$146,837) | (\$171,863) | (\$173,517) |
| FTE Change - DSS | 1 FTE | 1 FTE | 1 FTE |
| <u>Transfer Out – (§210.1150) Appropriation to the Missouri Fathership Project Grant Fund p.3</u> | \$0 or <u>(Unknown)</u> | \$0 or <u>(Unknown)</u> | \$0 or <u>(Unknown)</u> |
| ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE | (Unknown, could exceed <u>\$146,837</u>) | (Unknown, could exceed <u>\$171,863</u>) | (Unknown, could exceed <u>\$173,517</u>) |
| Estimated Net FTE Change on General Revenue | 1 FTE | 1 FTE | 1 FTE |
| MISSOURI FATHERSHIP PROJECT GRANT FUND | | | |
| <u>Transfer In – (§210.1150) Appropriation from General Revenue p.3</u> | Unknown | Unknown | Unknown |
| <u>Income – (§210.1150) Gifts, contributions, grants and bequests p.3</u> | Unknown | Unknown | Unknown |
| <u>Cost – DSS (§210.1150) Administrative costs and distributions p.3</u> | <u>(Unknown)</u> | <u>(Unknown)</u> | <u>(Unknown)</u> |

| <u>FISCAL IMPACT – State Government</u> | FY 2027 (10 Mo.) | FY 2028 | FY 2029 |
|---|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON THE MISSOURI FATHERSHIP PROJECT GRANT FUND | <u>\$0</u> | <u>\$0</u> | <u>\$0</u> |

| <u>FISCAL IMPACT – Local Government</u> | FY 2027 (10 Mo.) | FY 2028 | FY 2029 |
|---|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | <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

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

Subject to Federal approval and state appropriations, the bill establishes within the Department of Social Services the "Missouri Fathership Project", to promote fatherhood engagement and empower fathers to become successful in fatherhood engagement.

The bill establishes the "Missouri Fathership 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 Fathership Project specialists, who are to serve as a point of contact for fathers who want to reestablish and strengthen relationships with their children. When participating in the Project and meeting the requirements specified in the bill, fathers are eligible for limited driving privileges and are not subject to suspension or revocation of hunting and fishing licenses, as well as professional or occupational licenses.

The bill specifies the duties of Fathership 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 Fathership 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 Commerce and Insurance
Department of Natural Resources
Department of Revenue
Department of Social Services
Missouri Department of Conservation
Office of Administration
Office of the State Courts Administrator
Office of the State Treasurer



Julie Morff
Director
February 26, 2026



Jessica Harris
Assistant Director
February 26, 2026