

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

FISCAL NOTE

L.R. No.: 4956H.02C
 Bill No.: HCS for HB 2254
 Subject: Crimes and Punishment; Criminal Procedure; Courts; Attorneys
 Type: Original
 Date: March 16, 2026

Bill Summary: This proposal establishes provisions relating to postconviction relief to set aside a sentence of death.

FISCAL SUMMARY

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND

FUND AFFECTED	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
General Revenue*	\$0 or (Unknown)	\$0 or (Unknown)	\$0 or (Unknown)
Total Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue	\$0 or (Unknown)	\$0 or (Unknown)	\$0 or (Unknown)

*OSCA’s potential increase in costs assumed to be less than \$250,000 annually.

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
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

FISCAL ANALYSIS

ASSUMPTION

Officials from the **Missouri Office of Prosecution Services** did not respond to **Oversight's** request for fiscal impact for this proposal.

§547.370 – Postconviction Relief to Set Aside a Death Sentence

Officials from the **Office of the State Courts Administrator (OSCA)** state HCS HB 2254 may have some impact but there is no way to quantify that amount currently. Any significant changes will be reflected in future budget requests.

Oversight notes OSCA assumes this proposal may have some impact on their organization although it can't be quantified at this time. As OSCA is unable to provide additional information regarding the potential impact, Oversight assumes the proposed legislation will have a \$0 or (Unknown) cost to the General Revenue Fund. For fiscal note purposes, Oversight also assumes the impact will be under \$250,000 annually. If this assumption is incorrect, this would alter the fiscal impact as presented in this fiscal note. If additional information is received, Oversight will review it to determine if an updated fiscal note should be prepared and seek approval to publish a new fiscal note.

In response to a previous version, officials from the **Office of Attorney General (AGO)** assumed any potential litigation costs arising from this proposal can be absorbed with existing resources. The AGO may seek additional appropriations if the proposal results in a significant increase in litigation or investigation costs.

Oversight does not have any information to the contrary. Therefore, Oversight assumes the AGO will be able to perform any additional duties required by this proposal with current staff and resources and will reflect no fiscal impact to the AGO for fiscal note purposes.

In response to a previous version, officials from the **Office of the State Public Defender** 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 only reflects the responses that we have received from state agencies and political subdivisions; however, county circuit court 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
GENERAL REVENUE			
<u>Cost – OSCA (§547.370) Potential increase in court costs p.3</u>	\$0 or <u>(Unknown)</u>	\$0 or <u>(Unknown)</u>	\$0 or <u>(Unknown)</u>
ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE	\$0 or <u>(Unknown)</u>	\$0 or <u>(Unknown)</u>	\$0 or <u>(Unknown)</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

Current law requires the court to find on the record whether the movant of a motion to set aside a sentence of death is indigent. This bill specifies that, whenever the death penalty is imposed in a case, the circuit court must, at the time it imposes sentence and judgment, find on the record whether the defendant is indigent. The bill requires the court to, without delay, appoint counsel for the defendant to represent the defendant in his or her motion for postconviction relief. If the court finds that the defendant is not indigent, the court may enter an order denying appointment of counsel. The bill requires one of the two appointed counsel to have at least three years of litigation experience in the field of postconviction review and to have been a member of the Missouri Bar for at least five years. The bill allows the circuit court to appoint other counsel upon a good cause showing. Appointed counsel is prohibited from representing the defendant in the defendant's direct appeal.

The bill also provides that the State will comply with any additional requirements of Federal law, as specified in the bill.

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

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SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Attorney General's Office
Office of the State Courts Administrator
Office of the State Public Defender



Julie Morff
Director
March 16, 2026



Jessica Harris
Assistant Director
March 16, 2026