

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

FISCAL NOTE

L.R. No.: 5237H.02I
 Bill No.: HB 2097
 Subject: Elementary and Secondary Education; Department of Elementary and Secondary Education; Agriculture
 Type: Original
 Date: January 14, 2026

Bill Summary: This proposal changes a pilot agricultural education program in elementary schools to a statewide program.

FISCAL SUMMARY

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND

FUND AFFECTED	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
General Revenue*	\$0 to (Could exceed \$295,132)	\$0 to (\$119,000)	\$0 to (\$119,000)
Total Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue	\$0 to (Could exceed \$295,132)	\$0 to (\$119,000)	\$0 to (\$119,000)

*Oversight notes this proposal would establish an agriculture education program. DESE would train teachers from school districts who elect to participate in the program and contract with RPDC's for continued education.

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 to (Unknown)	\$0 to (Unknown)	\$0 to (Unknown)

*Oversight notes school districts that elect to participate in the agriculture education program could require additional staff, or have additional costs associated with implementing a new program.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

ASSUMPTION

§178.530 – Program for Agricultural Education in Elementary Schools

Officials from **Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE)** assume §178.530 would expand an agricultural education pilot program to all elementary schools that elect to be in the program.

In order to implement the program as described, elementary teachers will need to receive training for the implementation. One approach would be to provide this instruction through the nine RPDCs. DESE estimates one contract with the RPDCs at an annual cost of \$119,000. This contract would include an initial meeting with 20 participants representing various commodity associations to review the program and finalize training at a cost of \$7,700 (hotel/meal/mileage reimbursement). In addition to this cost, elementary teachers whose districts elect to participate in the program will need to be trained. If all districts participate, DESE estimates this cost as follows:

-556 LEAs x 2 elementary teachers per LEA for one day training = \$773,952

-556 LEAs x 2 elementary teachers per LEA for two day training = \$1,547,904

OR if a teacher from each elementary school building participates:

-2319 elementary buildings X 1 teacher per building for one day training = \$1,614,024

-2319 elementary buildings X 1 teacher per building for two day training = \$3,228,048

If districts elect to hire an AG teacher, they can also expect an expense with the average Missouri teacher salary without benefits and retirement on a standard 10-month contract being \$55,000. An Ag teacher on an extended 12-month contract would average \$66,000/year.

Upon further inquiry, **DESE** provided the cost per teacher to train is \$696 for one day and \$1,392 for two days. **Oversight** will assume since this is a new statewide proposition that two days of training would not be unreasonable.

Based on information in DESE's 2024 – 2025 statistics on public schools' report there are 1,205 elementary schools in the state. Oversight will assume each elementary school that elects to participate will need one agricultural teacher. Oversight notes schools may elect to participate in this program. Oversight will assume a baseline of 10% utilization, which would be 121 (1,205 * 0.1) teachers that need training. However, Oversight notes the cost could exceed the 10% utilization. Therefore, Oversight will reflect a cost to DESE to train teachers as \$0 (no participation) to could exceed \$168,432 (121 * \$1,392).

In addition, **DESE** noted they suspect that after the initial year of training, the contracted RPDC staff could work through various existing professional education organizations to continue professional development, thus requiring less financial support. Therefore, **Oversight** will assume RPDC will be able to handle any continued training for teachers and will not show any continued cost for teacher training after FY 2027.

Officials from the **High Point R-III School District** assume the proposal will have fiscal impact on their organization.

In response to similar legislation, HB 1555 & 1026 (2025), officials from the **Joplin School District** assumed the proposal will have no fiscal impact on their organization.

In response to similar legislation, HB 1555 & 1026 (2025), officials from the **Maries Co. R-II School District**, a district that participated in the pilot program for two years, stated they did not have any real cost. The materials were provided by the pilot program. The only costs were the teachers' time during the school day.

In response to similar legislation, HB 1555 & 1026 (2025), officials from **Washington School District** assumed there is a financial impact for HB1026 of \$45,000 for the first year and every 3-5 years for a curriculum cycle- training for elementary staff \$7,000, and curriculum/course work \$45,000.

Oversight notes for the 2027-28 school year and all subsequent school years, the program may be implemented in elementary schools in which their school board elects to take part in the program. Oversight is unable to determine how many school districts would elect to take part and of those districts how many would hire additional staff such as an AG teacher. Therefore, Oversight will reflect zero (no participation) or Unknown cost to school districts.

Additionally, Oversight notes with the implementation of any new program, there may be varying costs to school districts based on specific needs for supplies, substitute teachers while training is conducted, and potential other costs to implement the program. Therefore, Oversight will reflect a \$0 or unknown cost to school districts in the fiscal note.

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 (§178.530) Contractor/ Professional development p.3</u>	\$0 to (\$119,000)	\$0 to (\$119,000)	\$0 to (\$119,000)
<u>Cost – DESE (§178.530) Professional development meeting p.3</u>	\$0 to (Could exceed \$168,432)	\$0	\$0
<u>Cost – DESE (§178.530) Commodity association meeting p.3</u>	<u>\$0 to (\$7,700)</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE	\$0 to (Could exceed \$295,132)	\$0 to (\$119,000)	\$0 to (\$119,000)

<u>FISCAL IMPACT – Local Government</u>	FY 2027 (10 Mo.)	FY 2028	FY 2029
LOCAL POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS			
<u>Cost – School Districts (§178.530) Hire additional staff p.3</u>	\$0 to (Unknown)	\$0 to (Unknown)	\$0 to (Unknown)
<u>Cost – School Districts (§178.530) Implement agriculture program p.3</u>	\$0 to (Unknown)	\$0 to (Unknown)	\$0 to (Unknown)
ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS	\$0 to (Unknown)	\$0 to (Unknown)	\$0 to (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 ends the current pilot program for agriculture education in elementary schools and authorizes that beginning in the 2027-28 school year the program can be implemented by the

Department of Elementary and Secondary Education statewide for all elementary schools that elect to participate. The bill removes the requirement for reporting to the House and Senate committees on agriculture and education and requires the report to be posted on the Department's website.

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
Joplin School District
Washington School District
Maries Co. R-II School District
High Point R-III School District



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January 14, 2026

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