

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

FISCAL NOTE

L.R. No.: 5237H.03C
 Bill No.: HCS for HB Nos. 2097 & 1905
 Subject: Elementary and Secondary Education; Department of Elementary and Secondary Education; Agriculture
 Type: Original
 Date: January 29, 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 (\$126,700)	\$0 to (\$119,000)	\$0 to (\$119,000)
Total Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue	\$0 to (\$126,700)	\$0 to (\$119,000)	\$0 to (\$119,000)

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). The commodity groups would then assist the RPDC in training elementary teachers across the state to implement the program.

Upon further inquiry, DESE noted that the training of teachers across the state can be handled by the RPDC working in conjunction with the agriculture commodity groups who are already present in many areas across the state.

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

Officials from the **Missouri Department of Agriculture** assume 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.

In response to a previous version, (HB 2097), officials from the **High Point R-III School District** assumed the proposal will have fiscal impact on their organization but did not provide any additional information.

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 participate 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 notes, based on information provided by DESE in the previous version, if districts elect to hire an AG teacher, they can also expect an expense for a teacher. The average Missouri teacher salary without benefits and retirement on a standard 10-month contract is \$55,000. An Ag teacher on an extended 12-month contract would average \$66,000/year.

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			
Cost – DESE (§178.530) Contractor/ Professional development p.3	\$0 to (\$119,000)	\$0 to (\$119,000)	\$0 to (\$119,000)
Cost – DESE (§178.530) Commodity association meeting p.3	\$0 to (\$7,700)	\$0	\$0
ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE	\$0 to (\$126,700)	\$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
 Missouri Department of Agriculture
 Joplin School District

L.R. No. 5237H.03C
Bill No. HCS for HB Nos. 2097 & 1905
Page 6 of 6
January 29, 2026

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



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January 29, 2026



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