

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

FISCAL NOTE

L.R. No.: 5632H.011
 Bill No.: HJR 121
 Subject: Constitutional Amendments; General Assembly
 Type: Original
 Date: February 16, 2026

Bill Summary: This proposal modifies term limits for members of the General Assembly and the number of members of the House of Representatives.

FISCAL SUMMARY

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND

FUND AFFECTED	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	Fully Implemented (FY 2034)
General Revenue*	\$0 or (More than \$9,000,000)	\$0	\$0	\$0 or Up to \$11,245,577
Total Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue	\$0 or (More than \$9,000,000)	\$0	\$0	\$0 or Up to \$11,245,577

*The potential fiscal impact of “(More than \$9,000,000)” would be realized only if a special election were called by the Governor to submit this joint resolution to voters. The savings for fiscal years starting with FY 2033 would only be realized if the joint resolution is approved by voters (reflected as “\$0 or”).

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON OTHER STATE FUNDS

FUND AFFECTED	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	Fully Implemented (FY 2034)
Total Estimated Net Effect on Other State Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Numbers within parentheses: () indicate costs or losses.

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FEDERAL FUNDS

FUND AFFECTED	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	Fully Implemented (FY 2034)
Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>All</u> Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FULL TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE)

FUND AFFECTED	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	Fully Implemented (FY 2034)
General Revenue*	0 FTE	0 FTE	0 FTE	0 or (120 FTE)
Total Estimated Net Effect on FTE	0 FTE	0 FTE	0 FTE	0 or (120 FTE)

*The potential reduction of 60 House members plus a corresponding reduction of 60 House Legislative Assistants (if approved by voters).

- 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	Fully Implemented (FY 2034)
Local Government	\$0*	\$0	\$0	\$0

*The potential fiscal impact to local election authorities (reimbursed by the state) would be realized only if a special election were called by the Governor to submit this joint resolution to voters.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

ASSUMPTION

HJR – General Assembly

Officials from the **Office of the Secretary of the State (SOS)** assume, each year, a number of joint resolutions that would refer to a vote of the people a constitutional amendment and bills that would refer to a vote of the people the statutory issue in the legislation may be considered by the General Assembly.

Unless a special election is called for the purpose, joint resolutions proposing a constitutional amendment are submitted to a vote of the people at the next general election. Article XII section 2(b) of the Missouri Constitution authorizes the governor to order a special election for constitutional amendments referred to the people. If a special election is called to submit a joint resolution to a vote of the people, Section 115.063.2, RSMo., requires the state to pay the costs. The cost of a special election has been estimated to be \$9 million based on the cost of past primary and general election reimbursements.

The Secretary of State's office is required to pay for publishing in local newspapers the full text of each statewide ballot measure as directed by Article XII, Section 2(b) of the Missouri Constitution and Section 116.230-116.290, RSMo. Funding for this item is adjusted each year depending upon the election cycle. A new decision item is requested in odd numbered fiscal years and the amount requested is dependent upon the estimated number of ballot measures that will be approved by the General Assembly and the initiative petitions certified for the ballot. In FY 2014, the General Assembly changed the appropriation so that it was no longer an estimated appropriation.

For the FY27 publication cycle, the SOS estimates publication costs at \$515,000 per ballot measure. This amount is an average and will be subject to change based on the number of petitions received, length of those petitions, and rates charged by newspaper publishers. In a year where many lengthy measures must be published, the Secretary of State's Office may need to budget up to \$10,000,000 to ensure sufficient funding is available to meet its constitutional obligations for the election cycle.

The Secretary of State's office will continue to assume, for the purposes of this fiscal note, that it should have the full appropriation authority it needs to meet the publishing requirements. Because these requirements are mandatory, the SOS reserves the right to request funding to meet the cost of their publishing requirements if the Governor and the General Assembly again change the amount or continue to not designate it as an estimated appropriation.

Oversight has reflected, in this fiscal note, the state potentially reimbursing local political subdivisions the cost of having this joint resolution voted on during a special election in fiscal year 2027. This reflects the decision made by the Joint Committee on Legislative Research that

the cost of the elections should be shown in the fiscal note. Per the SOS, the cost is estimated at \$9 million based on past costs as well as the anticipation of significant increases in future election-related expenses. The next scheduled statewide general election is in November 2026 (FY 2027). It is assumed the subject within this proposal could be on this ballot; however, it could also be on a special election called for by the Governor (a different date). Therefore, Oversight will reflect a potential election cost reimbursement to local political subdivisions in FY 2027.

Officials from the **Missouri House of Representatives (MHR)** assume if approved, this would reduce Missouri House of Representatives membership from 163 to 103 starting with the legislative session in the middle of Fiscal Year 2033.

Year 1 impact would be an impact to only half of the fiscal year.
Impact FY 2033: (\$3,461,706.09)

Additional cost savings would be realized in Year 2, the first full year of the change in membership. Impact FY 2034: (\$2,673,483.11)

Total General Revenue savings of (\$6,135,189.20) (excluding fringe benefits).

Oversight assumes the following potential savings to General Revenue from a reduction in the Missouri House of Representatives of 60 members, along with a corresponding reduction of 60 Legislative Assistants. Oversight will range this potential savings from \$0 (joint resolution is defeated by voters) to a possible reduction of 120 FTE (60 MHR members as well as 60 Legislative Assistants) and a savings of approximately \$11,245,577. This change would begin in January 2033 (FY 2033). The first full fiscal year with this change would be FY 2034.

Member Salary: \$41,770 x 60	=	\$2,878,835
Member fringe benefits	=	\$2,240,043
Per Diems: \$142.40 x 76 days x 60	=	\$649,344
Mileage (avg.): \$3,549.42 x 60	=	\$212,965
Member Expense \$9,000 x 60	=	\$540,000
Legislative Assistant \$37,688 x 60	=	\$2,597,500
LA fringe benefits	=	<u>\$2,126,890</u>
TOTAL		\$11,245,577

Oversight notes there may be other indirect savings as well, including potentially fewer other staff needed with this sizable reduction in House members, and/or potential savings from capitol building improvements.

Officials from the **Missouri Senate** 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.

<u>FISCAL IMPACT</u> – State Government	FY 2027 (10 Mo.)	FY 2028	FY 2029	Fully Implemented (FY 2034)
GENERAL REVENUE				
<u>Transfer Out -SOS</u> reimbursement of local election authority election costs if a special election is called by the Governor p.3	\$0 or (More than \$9,000,000)	\$0	\$0	\$0
<u>Savings – MHR</u> Members reduced from 163 to 103 if approved by voters p.4	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0 or \$11,245,577
ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE	\$0 or (More than \$9,000,000)	\$0	\$0	\$0 or \$11,245,577
Estimated Net FTE Impact on General Revenue	0 FTE	0 FTE	0 FTE	(120 FTE)

<u>FISCAL IMPACT</u> <u>- Local</u> <u>Government</u>	FY 2027 (10 Mo.)	FY 2028	FY 2029	Fully Implemented (FY 2034)
LOCAL POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS				
<u>Transfer In - Local Election Authorities - Reimbursement of election costs by the State for a special election p.3</u>	\$0 or More than \$9,000,000			
<u>Cost - Local Election Authorities - Cost of a special election if called for by the Governor p.3</u>	\$0 or (More than \$9,000,000)	\$0	\$0	\$0
ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS	<u>\$0</u>	<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

Upon voter approval, beginning with the 2030 decennial census, this resolution changes the number of members in the Missouri House of Representatives from 163 to 103.

Currently, no member of the General Assembly may serve more than eight years total in any one house of the General Assembly, nor more than 16 years total in both houses of the General Assembly.

Upon voter approval, this constitutional amendment removes the prohibition on a member serving more than eight years total in any one house of the General Assembly, beginning January 1, 2032.

Also beginning January 1, 2032, this constitutional amendment would prohibit any member of the House of Representatives from serving as Speaker or Speaker Pro Tem of the House for more than three consecutive terms, and any member of the Senate from serving as President Pro Tem of the Senate for more than two consecutive terms.

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

Office of the Secretary of State
Missouri Senate
Missouri House of Representatives



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