

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

FISCAL NOTE

L.R. No.: 4789-03
Bill No.: HCS No. 2 for HB 1317
Subject: Children and Minors; Crimes and Punishment
Type: Original
Date: February 29, 2012

Bill Summary: This proposal expands the crime of child abuse to include abusive head trauma.

FISCAL SUMMARY

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015
General Revenue	(Less than \$100,000)	(Less than \$100,000)	(Less than \$100,000)
Total Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue Fund	(Less than \$100,000)	(Less than \$100,000)	(Less than \$100,000)

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON OTHER STATE FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015
Total Estimated Net Effect on Other State Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0

Numbers within parentheses: () indicate costs or losses.
This fiscal note contains 5 pages.

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FEDERAL FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015
Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>All</u> Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FULL TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE)			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015
Total Estimated Net Effect on FTE	0	0	0

- Estimated Total Net Effect on All funds expected to exceed \$100,000 savings or (cost).
- Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue Fund expected to exceed \$100,000 (cost).

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015
Local Government	\$0	\$0	\$0

FISCAL ANALYSIS

ASSUMPTION

Officials from the **Office of the State Courts Administrator** and the **Department of Social Services - Children's Division** each assume the proposal would not fiscally impact their respective agencies.

In response to a previous version of this proposal, officials from the **Office of Prosecution Services** and the **Department of Public Safety - Missouri Highway Patrol** each assumed the proposal would not fiscally impact their respective agencies.

For the purpose of this proposed legislation, officials at the **Office of State Public Defender (SPD)** cannot assume that existing staff will provide effective representation for any indigent clients faced with the enhanced penalties for shaking a child - becomes child abuse and the possible penalties.

While the number of new cases (or cases with increased penalties) may be too few or uncertain to request additional funding for this specific bill, the SPD will continue to request sufficient appropriations to provide effective representation in all cases.

Oversight assumes the SPD can absorb the additional caseload that may result from this proposal.

Officials from the **Department of Corrections (DOC)** state the penalty provision component of this bill resulting in potential fiscal impact for DOC, is for up to a class B felony. Currently, the DOC cannot predict the number of new commitments which may result from the creation of the offense(s) outlined in this proposal. An increase in commitments depends on the utilization by prosecutors and the actual sentences imposed by the court.

If additional persons are sentenced to the custody of the DOC due to the provisions of this legislation, the DOC will incur a corresponding increase in direct offender cost either through incarceration (FY11 average of \$16.878 per offender, per day, or an annual cost of \$6,160 per inmate) or through supervision provided by the Board of Probation and Parole (FY11 average of \$5.12 per offender, per day or an annual cost of \$1,869 per offender).

ASSUMPTION (continued)

In summary, supervision by the DOC through probation or incarceration would result in additional unknown costs to the department. Seventeen (17) persons would have to be incarcerated per each fiscal year to exceed \$100,000 annually. Due to the narrow scope of this new crime, it is assumed the impact would be less than \$100,000 per year for the DOC.

<u>FISCAL IMPACT - State Government</u>	FY 2013 (10 Mo.)	FY 2014	FY 2015
GENERAL REVENUE FUND			
<u>Costs - Department of Corrections</u>			
Incarceration / supervision of criminals guilty of child abuse - resulting in abusive head trauma	(Less than <u>\$100,000</u>)	(Less than <u>\$100,000</u>)	(Less than <u>\$100,000</u>)
ESTIMATED NET EFFECT TO THE GENERAL REVENUE FUND	(Less than <u>\$100,000</u>)	(Less than <u>\$100,000</u>)	(Less than <u>\$100,000</u>)

<u>FISCAL IMPACT - Local Government</u>	FY 2013 (10 Mo.)	FY 2014	FY 2015
	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>

FISCAL IMPACT - Small Business

No direct fiscal impact to small businesses would be expected as a result of this proposal.

FISCAL DESCRIPTION

This proposal specifies that a person commits the crime of abuse of a child if he or she recklessly causes serious physical injury to a child younger than seventeen years of age which results in abusive head trauma. "Abusive Head Trauma" is defined as any serious physical injury to the head or brain caused by any means including, but not limited to, shaking, jerking, pushing, pulling, slamming, hitting, or kicking.

RS:LR:OD

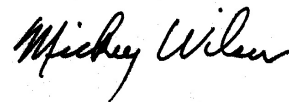
FISCAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

Abuse of a child is a class C felony, unless the person inflicts serious physical injury or serious emotional injury on a child younger than two years of age or it is committed as part of a ritual or ceremony in which case it will be a class B felony.

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 Public Safety
Office of the State Courts Administrator
Office of Prosecution Services
Office of the State Public Defender
Department of Corrections
Department of Social Services



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Director
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