

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

FISCAL NOTE

L.R. No.: 0211H.01I
Bill No.: HB 308
Subject: Religion; Health, Public
Type: Original
Date: January 5, 2021

Bill Summary: This proposal exempts houses of worship from social distancing requirements issued by local or state health authorities.

FISCAL SUMMARY

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
Total Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON OTHER STATE FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>Other</u> 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 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>All</u> Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FULL TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE)			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
Total Estimated Net Effect on FTE	0	0	0

Estimated Net Effect (expenditures or reduced revenues) expected to exceed \$100,000 in any of the three fiscal years after implementation of the act.

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
Local Government	\$0	\$0	\$0

FISCAL ANALYSIS

ASSUMPTION

§192.020 – Exemption for houses of worship from social distancing requirements

Officials from the **Columbia/Boone County Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS)** state there will be an unknown cost due to an increase in COVID-19 cases requiring disease investigation and contact tracing. It is impossible to estimate how many additional COVID-19 cases there will be because DPHHS doesn't know how many people will ignore social distancing recommendations in church.

Officials from the **City of Corder** state this proposal will have a fiscal impact on their city as the largest gathering places in their community are their houses of worship. This could significantly impact their community's ability to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

Officials from the **City of Gordonville** and the **City of Hale** state this proposal will have a fiscal impact on their cities, but did not provide additional information.

Oversight notes officials from the City of Corder, the City of Gordonville, and the City of Hale did not respond to our request for additional information regarding the potential fiscal impact of this proposal on their organizations.

Oversight notes it is currently the responsibility of local public health agencies (LPHAs) to conduct disease investigation and contact tracing regardless of whether a statewide emergency has been proclaimed by the governor. Oversight assumes that any potential costs that may be incurred as a result of this proposal would be indirect costs. Therefore, Oversight will present no fiscal impact for provisions of this proposal.

Officials from the **Department of Health and Senior Services**, the **City of Ballwin**, the **City of Kansas City**, the **City of O'Fallon**, the **City of Springfield**, the **City of St. Louis** and the **Newton County Health Department** each assume the proposal will have no fiscal impact on their respective organizations.

Oversight does not have any information to the contrary. Therefore, Oversight will reflect a zero impact in the fiscal note for these agencies.

Oversight only reflects the responses that we have received from state agencies and political subdivisions; however, other cities, various county officials, and local public health agencies were requested to respond to this proposed legislation but did not. A general listing of political subdivisions included in our database is available upon request.

<u>FISCAL IMPACT – State Government</u>	FY 2022 (10 Mo.)	FY 2023	FY 2024
	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>

<u>FISCAL IMPACT – Local Government</u>	FY 2022 (10 Mo.)	FY 2023	FY 2024
	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>

FISCAL IMPACT – Small Business

This proposal is not anticipated to have a direct fiscal impact on small businesses.

FISCAL DESCRIPTION

This bill says houses of worship will be exempt from any social distancing requirements contained in any order relating to the prevention of the spread of infectious diseases issued by the Department of Health and Senior Services or any local health authority. Social distancing requirements includes any limitation on the number of people who can gather in a single space or any requirement to maintain a certain amount of space between individuals.

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 Health and Senior Services

City of Ballwin

City of Corder

City of Gordonville

City of Hale

City of Kansas City

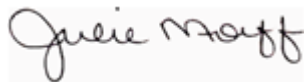
City of O'Fallon

City of Springfield

City of St. Louis

Columbia/Boone County Department of Public Health and Human Services

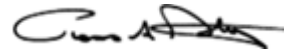
Newton County Health Department



Julie Morff

Director

January 5, 2021



Ross Strobe

Assistant Director

January 5, 2021