

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH  
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

**FISCAL NOTE**

L.R. No.: 0384-01  
Bill No.: SB 34  
Subject: County Government; Department of Health and Senior Services; Medical Procedures and Personnel; Professional Registration and Licensing  
Type: Original  
Date: February 1, 2019

Bill Summary: This proposal modifies provisions relating to coroners.

**FISCAL SUMMARY**

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND</b>			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
General Revenue	(\$78,932) to (\$136,816)	(\$81,753) to (\$162,384)	(\$82,435) to (\$163,747)
<b>Total Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue</b>	<b>(\$78,932) to (\$136,816)</b>	<b>(\$81,753) to (\$162,384)</b>	<b>(\$82,435) to (\$163,747)</b>

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON OTHER STATE FUNDS</b>			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
Missouri Coroners' Training Fund	Greater than \$10,433	Greater than \$12,520	Greater than \$12,520
<b>Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>Other</u> State Funds</b>	<b>Greater than \$10,433</b>	<b>Greater than \$12,520</b>	<b>Greater than \$12,520</b>

Numbers within parentheses: ( ) indicate costs or losses.  
This fiscal note contains 8 pages.

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FEDERAL FUNDS</b>			
<b>FUND AFFECTED</b>	<b>FY 2020</b>	<b>FY 2021</b>	<b>FY 2022</b>
<b>Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>All</u> Federal Funds</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FULL TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE)</b>			
<b>FUND AFFECTED</b>	<b>FY 2020</b>	<b>FY 2021</b>	<b>FY 2022</b>
General Revenue	1 or 2 FTE	1 or 2 FTE	1 or 2 FTE
<b>Total Estimated Net Effect on FTE</b>	<b>1 or 2 FTE</b>	<b>1 or 2 FTE</b>	<b>1 or 2 FTE</b>

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

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL FUNDS</b>			
<b>FUND AFFECTED</b>	<b>FY 2020</b>	<b>FY 2021</b>	<b>FY 2022</b>
<b>Local Government</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

## FISCAL ANALYSIS

### ASSUMPTION

#### Death Certificates - §58.208

Officials at the **Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS)** issue on average 12,520 death certificates each year. Per 193.265, RSMo, the Bureau of Vital Records (BVR) collects a thirteen dollar fee for each initial copy and a ten dollar fee for each additional death certificate ordered at the same time. The fees are divided and deposited into four different funds. The proposed legislation requires the collection of an additional one dollar fee for each death certificate to be deposited into an additional fund, the Missouri State Coroners' Training Fund.

Collecting the additional dollar at time of issuance and performing accounting procedures to report and submit the fees daily to DHSS Fee Receipts Office would be absorbed within current operations. The Fee Receipts Office would need two additional hours of an Accounting Clerk's time in a year. Collecting the additional dollar and depositing the fees daily would be part of the normal workload of the Fee Receipts Unit. One Accounting Clerk (\$26,340) x 2 hours = \$25.33. The department anticipates being able to absorb the costs. However, until the FY20 budget is final, the department cannot identify specific sources.

In order to have the additional dollar deposited to the credit of this new fund, an ITSD system change would need to occur. ITSD estimates 116.64 programming hours at \$75 per hour or \$8,748 would be required in FY 2020 to modify the existing mainframe programs to accommodate the additional fee of \$1.00 for any death certificate issued which shall be deposited into the Missouri State Coroners' Training Fund. No additional ongoing maintenance is indicated as the changes are to the existing program.

**Oversight** notes ITSD assumes that every new IT project/system will be bid out because all their resources are at full capacity. For this bill, ITSD assumes they will contract out the programming changes to the BVR system. ITSD estimates the project would take 116.64 hours at a contract rate of \$75 per hour for a total cost to the state of \$8,748. Oversight notes that an average salary for a current IT Specialist within ITSD is \$51,618, which totals roughly \$80,000 per year when fringe benefits are added. Assuming that all ITSD resources are at full capacity, Oversight assumes ITSD may (instead of contracting out the programming) hire an additional IT Specialist to perform the work required from this bill. Therefore, Oversight will range the fiscal impact from the cost of contracting out the work (\$8,748) to hiring an additional FTE IT Specialist (roughly \$80,000 per year).

ASSUMPTION (continued)

**Oversight** also notes that in section 58.208, the word “issued” is used and is within the normal procedures of DHSS. Issued death certificates are not done on every death and county health departments also issue death certificates. The number of death certificates provided by DHSS is what is done by DHSS and not by the counties. The extra \$1 fee for the training fund would also come from the counties when they issue a death certificate. Oversight is unclear on the number of death certificates that were issued by counties at this time and will reflect an amount greater than DHSS’s death certificate number going into the MO Coroners’ Training Fund.

Officials at the **Department of Revenue (DOR)** assume the Missouri State Coroner’s Training fund could potentially increase by an estimated \$60,000 each fiscal year. The DOR is aware that not each and every death reported in Missouri has a death certificate issued.

Based on information provided to the DHSS, there were 11,097 death certificates issued during Fiscal Year 2018. This would indicate that the Missouri State Coroners' Trust Fund could potentially receive \$11,097 each fiscal year.

Based upon information published on the DHSS website, the number of deaths per year, in Missouri, (past four calendar years) averages 60,000. This creates the possibility that a death certificate could be issued for all 60,000 individual deaths, for a maximum estimate of deposit into the Missouri State Coroners' Training Fund. Provided this were true, \$60,000 could be collected under this legislation and deposited into the Missouri State Coroners' Training Fund each year. As of December 2017, an increase in Missouri resident deaths has occurred each calendar year for the past eight years. The Department anticipates that the maximum estimated \$60,000 that could be collected under this legislation and deposited into the Missouri State Coroners' Training Fund could increase each year.

**Oversight** went to the Provisional Vital Statistics for December 2017 report on DHSS’s website to obtain the data for the number of deaths for the last four years. They are as follows:

2017 - 61,867  
2016 - 59,824  
2015 - 59,810  
2014 - 58,141

ASSUMPTION (continued)

Coroner Standards and Training Commission - §§58.035 & 58.095

Officials at the **Department of Public Safety (DPS) - Office of the Director (DO)** assume Section 58.035 requires that the coroner standards and training commission establish training standards relative to the office of county coroner. In order for DPS-DO to assist the commission with this requirement, the DPS feels it will be necessary to hire a Program Specialist in the mid-range salary position due to the expertise required to establish the standards and training courses, and to possibly track them.

Associated costs for the first year (FY2020) are:

(1) FTE Program Specialist	\$43,173.00
FICA/Medicare	\$23,665.50
Chair	\$ 574.00
File Cabinet	\$ 599.00
Calculator	\$ 40.00
ITSD Costs	\$ 1,425.00
PC/Monitor/Phone/Software	
Office Supplies	\$ 310.00
Ongoing ITSD Costs	<u>\$ 398.00</u>
Total Requested Costs	\$70,184.50

**Oversight** will reflect 1 FTE for DPS for FY2020 at a cost of \$70,184 and \$81,753 for FY2021 and \$82,435 for FY2022 for this proposal.

Officials at the **Department of Insurance, Financial Institutions and Professional Registration** and the **Office of the State Treasurer** each assume no fiscal impact to their respective agencies from this proposal.

**Oversight** notes that the Department of Insurance, Financial Institutions and Professional Registration and the Office of the State Treasurer have stated the proposal would not have a direct fiscal impact on their organizations. Oversight does not have any information to the contrary. Therefore, Oversight will reflect a zero impact on the fiscal note for these agencies.

ASSUMPTION (continued)

In response to similar legislation from this year, HB 447, officials at the **Monroe County Assessor** assumed no fiscal impact from this proposal.

**Oversight** only reflects the responses that we have received from state agencies and political subdivisions; however, other counties were requested to respond to this proposed legislation but did not. For a general listing of political subdivisions included in our database, please refer to [www.legislativeoversight.mo.gov](http://www.legislativeoversight.mo.gov).

In response to similar legislation from 2018, SCS for HCS for HB 2079, officials at **St. Louis County** and **Boone County** assumed no fiscal impact to their respective entities from this proposal.

<u>FISCAL IMPACT - State Government</u>	FY 2020 (10 Mo.)	FY 2021	FY 2022
<b>GENERAL REVENUE FUND</b>			
<u>Costs - DHSS - ITSD costs (ranged from contracting out programming to hiring additional FTE IT Specialist</u>	(\$8,748) to (\$66,632)	\$0 to (\$80,631)	\$0 to (\$81,312)
FTE Change - ITSD	0 or 1 FTE	0 or 1 FTE	0 or 1 FTE
<u>Costs - DPS - Staff costs to establish/maintain Coroners Standard &amp; Training Commission</u>			
Personal Service (1 FTE)	(\$43,173)	(\$52,326)	(\$52,849)
Fringe Benefits	(\$23,665)	(\$28,556)	(\$28,715)
Expense & Equipment	<u>(\$3,346)</u>	<u>(\$871)</u>	<u>(\$871)</u>
<u>Total Costs - DPS</u>	(\$70,184)	(\$81,753)	(\$82,435)
FTE Change - DPS	1 FTE	1 FTE	1 FTE
<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON THE GENERAL REVENUE FUND</b>	<b>(\$78,932) to <u>(\$136,816)</u></b>	<b>(\$81,753) to <u>(\$162,384)</u></b>	<b>(\$82,435) to <u>(\$163,747)</u></b>
Estimated Net FTE Change for General Revenue	1 or 2 FTE	1 or 2 FTE	1 or 2 FTE

<u>FISCAL IMPACT - State Government</u>	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
(continued)	(10 Mo.)		

**MISSOURI CORONERS' TRAINING FUND**

<u>Revenue - DHSS - collection of \$1 fee on death certificates</u>	Greater than <u>\$10,433</u>	Greater than <u>\$12,520</u>	Greater than <u>\$12,520</u>
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<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON THE MISSOURI CORONERS' TRAINING FUND</b>	<b>Greater than <u>\$10,433</u></b>	<b>Greater than <u>\$12,520</u></b>	<b>Greater than <u>\$12,520</u></b>
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<u>FISCAL IMPACT - Local Government</u>	FY 2020 (10 Mo.)	FY 2021	FY 2022
	<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 act establishes the Coroner Standards and Training Commission within the Department of Public Safety which shall establish training standards relating to the operation, responsibilities, and technical skills of the office of county coroner. The membership of the commission is set forth in the act.

Currently, \$1,000 of a county coroner's salary shall only be payable if he or she completes at least 20 hours of classroom instruction each year relating to the operations of the coroner's office when approved by a professional association of county coroners of Missouri. This act provides that the Coroners Standards and Training Commission shall establish and certify such training programs and their completion shall be submitted to the Missouri Coroners' and Medical Examiners' Association. Upon the Association's validation of certified training, it shall then submit the individual's name to the county treasurer and Department of Health and Senior Services indicating his or her compliance.

FISCAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

This act creates the Missouri State Coroner's Training Fund. For any death certificate issued, there shall be a fee of one dollar deposited into the fund which shall be used by the Missouri Coroners' and Medical Examiners' Association for the purpose of in-state training, equipment, and necessary supplies, and to provide aid to training programs approved by the Missouri Coroners' and Medical Examiners' Association.

During states of emergency or disasters, local registrars may request reimbursement from the fund for copies of death certificates issued to individuals who are unable to afford the associated fees.

This act provides that if a coroner or deputy coroner is not current with, or is without, the approved training required under this act, then the Department of Health and Senior Services shall prohibit such coroner from attesting to the accuracy of a death certificate.

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  
Department of Revenue  
Department of Public Safety  
Department of Insurance, Financial Institutions and Professional Registration  
Office of the State Treasurer  
Monroe County Assessor  
St. Louis County  
Boone County



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February 1, 2019

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