

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH  
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

**FISCAL NOTE**

L.R. No.: 4883H.06C  
 Bill No.: HCS for SB 945  
 Subject: Civil Procedure; Courts; Fees; Libraries and Archives; Saint Louis City  
 Type: Original  
 Date: May 14, 2026

Bill Summary: This proposal modifies and establishes provisions relating to court operations.

**FISCAL SUMMARY**

**ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND**

FUND AFFECTED	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
General Revenue*	(\$0 to Could exceed \$1,520,839)	(Could exceed \$3,253,492)	(Could exceed \$4,136,254)
<b>Total Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue</b>	<b>(\$0 to Could exceed \$1,520,839)</b>	<b>(Could exceed \$3,253,492)</b>	<b>(Could exceed \$4,136,254)</b>

**ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON OTHER STATE FUNDS**

FUND AFFECTED	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
Statewide Court Automation	\$1,793,426	Could exceed \$2,152,111	Could exceed \$2,152,111
Missouri Expungement*	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>Other</u> State Funds</b>	<b>\$1,793,426</b>	<b>Could exceed \$2,152,111</b>	<b>Could exceed \$2,152,111</b>

\* Gifts, donations, grants, etc. and expenditures net to \$0.

Numbers within parentheses: () indicate costs or losses.

**ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FEDERAL FUNDS**

FUND AFFECTED	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
<b>Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>All</u> Federal Funds</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

**ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FULL TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE)**

FUND AFFECTED	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
General Revenue	Up to 19 FTE	Up to 27 FTE	Up to 33 FTE
<b>Total Estimated Net Effect on FTE</b>	<b>Up to 19 FTE</b>	<b>Up to 27 FTE</b>	<b>Up to 33 FTE</b>

- 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
<b>Local Government</b>	<b>Less than \$130,200</b>	<b>Less than \$156,240</b>	<b>Less than \$156,240</b>

## FISCAL ANALYSIS

### ASSUMPTION

#### §57.540 – Compensation for the Attorney of the Sheriff of the City of St. Louis

In response to similar legislation, SCS SB 944 (2026), officials from the **City of St. Louis** stated the proposed legislation would raise the salary limit for the position of Attorney of the Sheriff of the City of St. Louis. The current limit under the existing statute is \$15,000 (although payroll records may indicate current salary of \$25,000). Should the Sheriff of the City elect to raise this position's salary to the new limit, there would be an increase in cost to the City of at least \$50,000 in salary plus another \$14,000 in fringe benefits (FICA, pension, life insurance, etc.) bringing the total additional cost to nearly \$65,000.

**Oversight** notes in this version of the bill, the \$15,000 salary per annum is repealed and the sheriff will set the compensation for an attorney hired. Oversight is unaware how much the compensation will be should this proposal be enacted. Therefore, Oversight will reflect an unknown cost for this proposal.

#### §478.003 – Treatment Courts

Officials from the **Office of the State Courts Administrator (OSCA)** state the proposed legislation modifies and establishes provisions relating to court operations.

Section 478.003 adds treatment court administrators, subject to appropriations, in each circuit with a treatment court division that has neither a treatment court administrator nor a treatment court commissioner. The compensation for an administrator is provided from a source other than state funds and the source of such funds shall pay to and reimburse the state for the actual costs of the salary and benefits. The following circuits would be eligible for treatment court administrators: third; fourth; eighth; tenth; fourteenth; fifteenth; seventeenth; eighteenth; twenty-fifth; twenty-sixth; twenty-seventh; thirtieth; thirty-first; thirty-fourth; thirty-seventh; thirty-eighth; forty-first; forty-third; and forty-sixth.

If the compensation of an administrator is provided from a source other than state funds, that source would need to be reimbursed for the actual costs of the salary and benefits.

OSCA stated the cost per administrator is \$93,075, including fringe benefits, plus E&E costs of \$2,978, annually. OSCA indicated because the language of §478.003 is subject to appropriations, OSCA did not provide a specific cost estimate for the proposed change in the §478.003.

**Oversight** has no information to the contrary. Oversight will range costs for the treatment court administrators from \$0 to \$1,825,007 ( $\$93,075 + \$2,978 = \$96,053 * 19$  circuits) annually to General Revenue.

§§476.055, 483.005, 483.082, and 509.520 – Court Operations

In response to a previous version, officials from the **OSCA** stated the proposed legislation modifies and establishes provisions relating to court operations.

Sections 476.055, 483.005, 483.082, & 509.520 may have some impact but there is no way to quantify that currently. Any significant changes will be reflected in future budget requests.

**Oversight** notes these sections were not addressed in OSCA's response to this proposal except for a statement that any additional costs would be reflected in future budget requests. For fiscal note purposes, Oversight is presenting a \$0 or (Unknown) cost for various sections of this proposal.

§§478.385, 478.387, 478.550, 478.600, 478.630, 478.700, 478.705, and 487.020 – Judgeships in Certain Judicial Circuits

Officials from the **Office of the State Courts Administrator (OSCA)** state this proposed legislation modifies provisions relating to certain Judicial Circuits.

Section 478.385 adds one additional circuit judge to the seventh Judicial circuit to be elected in 2028. The FY27 salary for circuit judges is projected to be \$182,427 plus E&E of \$2,978 (\$2,117 one-time).

Section 478.385 addition of a circuit judge this includes a court reporter. The FY26 starting salary for court reporters is \$72,516 plus E & E of \$2,978 (\$2,117 one-time).

**Oversight** notes the provisions of this section state there will be an additional circuit judge beginning in FY28. Oversight assumes the judge will be elected in November 2027 and take the bench 1-1-28. FY28 expenses for the judge and court reporter will be presented for 6 months.

**OSCA** states §478.550 adds one additional associate circuit judge to the twenty-third Judicial circuit to be elected in 2028. This shall not be included in the statutory formula for authorizing additional judges per county as provided in §478.320. The FY27 salary of an associate circuit judge is projected to be \$167,833 plus E&E of \$2,978 (\$2,117 one-time).

Section 478.550 addition of an associate circuit judge includes a senior court clerk for the associate circuit judge. The FY26 starting salary for a senior court clerk is \$46,057 plus E & E of \$2,978 (\$2,117 one-time).

**Oversight** notes the Governor is to appoint the judge in 2028. Oversight assumes the judge will be appointed and start 7-1-27. Therefore, FY28 costs for the associate judge and senior court clerk will be reflected for 12 months.

**OSCA** states §478.600 adds one additional circuit judge to the eleventh Judicial circuit to be elected in 2028. The FY27 salary for circuit judges is projected to be \$182,427 plus E&E of \$2,978 (\$2,117 one-time).

Section 478.600 addition of a circuit judge this includes a court reporter. The FY26 starting salary for court reporters is \$72,516 plus E &E of \$2,978 (\$2,117 one-time).

Section 478.600 adds two additional associate circuit judges to the eleventh Judicial circuit to be elected in 2028. These shall not be included in the statutory formula for authorizing additional judges per county as provided in §478.320. The FY27 salary of two associate circuit judges is projected to be \$335,666 (\$167,833 x 2) plus E&E of \$5,956 (\$2,978 x 2) of that \$4,234 is one-time (\$2,117 x 2 one-time).

Section 478.600 addition of two associate circuit judges includes a senior court clerk for each associate circuit judge. The FY26 starting salary for two senior court clerks is \$92,114 (\$46,057 x 2) plus E&E of \$5,956 (\$2,978 x 2) of that \$4,234 is one-time (\$2,117 x 2 one-time).

**Oversight** notes the provisions of this section provide for a circuit judge to be elected in 2028. Oversight assumes the judge will be elected in November 2028 and take the bench 1-1-29; therefore, costs for the judge and court reporter will be presented for 6 months beginning in FY29.

Oversight also notes the provisions of this section provide for two (2) additional associate circuit judges to be elected in 2028. Oversight assumes the judges will be elected in November 2028 and take the bench 1-1-29. FY29 expenses for the judges and senior court clerks will be presented for 6 months.

**OSCA** states §478.630 adds one additional associate circuit judge to Franklin County to be elected in 2028. This shall not be included in the statutory formula for authorizing additional judges per county as provided in § 478.320. The FY27 salary of an associate circuit judge is projected to be \$167,833 plus E&E of \$2,978 (\$2,117 one-time; \$861 on-going).

Section 478.630 addition of an associate circuit judge includes a senior court clerk for the associate circuit judge. The FY26 starting salary for a senior court clerk is \$46,057 plus E & E of \$2,978 (\$2,117 one-time; \$861 on-going).

**Oversight** notes the Governor is to appoint the judge in 2028. Oversight assumes the judge will be appointed and start 7-1-27. Therefore, FY28 costs for the associate judge and senior court clerk will be reflected for 12 months.

Oversight notes §478.700 provides for three (3) circuit judges in the 25<sup>th</sup> judicial circuit. OSCA's 2027 budget already shows 3 circuit judges for this judicial circuit. This legislation appears to clarify election dates for the existing judges. Oversight assumes no fiscal impact for this section.

**OSCA** states §478.705 adds one additional associate circuit judge to Miller County to be elected in 2028. This shall not be included in the statutory formula for authorizing additional judges per county as provided in section 478.320. The FY27 salary of an associate circuit judge is projected to be \$167,833 plus E&E of \$2,978 (\$2,117 one-time; \$861 on-going).

Section 478.705 addition of an associate circuit judge includes a senior court clerk for the associate circuit judge. The FY26 starting salary for a senior court clerk is \$46,057 plus E & E of \$2,978 (\$2,117 one-time; \$861 on-going).

**Oversight** notes the Governor is to appoint the judge in 2028. Oversight assumes the judge will be appointed and start 7-1-27. Therefore, FY28 costs for the associate judge and senior court clerk will be reflected for 12 months.

**OSCA** states §487.020.2 includes provisions that shall not be construed to allow appointment of a family court commissioner in the seventh judicial circuit in addition to the number of family court commissioners holding office.

The proposed legislation's addition of two circuit court judges, two court reporters, five associate circuit judges and five senior court clerks total approximately \$1,579,336 plus E & E of \$41,692 (\$29,638 one-time) and 14 FTE.

**Oversight** assumes costs provided by OSCA are for a full year and notes the estimate of the costs of this proposal provided by OSCA do not include fringe benefits or inflationary increases for salaries and equipment and expenses for the three- year period of the fiscal note. Oversight further notes the judges are not all appointed/elected at the same time and adjusted the fiscal note to reflect the provisions in the proposal and noted by section above.

#### §§488.012 and 488.027 – Court Costs

Officials from the **Office of the State Courts Administrator (OSCA)** state during the past five fiscal years there was an average of 1,405,422 cases filed with the current fee of \$7. The average total assessment amount was \$9,837,954, and the average amount of revenue collected was \$5,021,725 (approximately a 51.044 % collection rate).

The court automation fee increase to \$10.00 is expected to result in approximately \$14,054,220 in assessments (average cases 1,405,422 x \$10.00). With the collection rate of 51.044 %, the estimated amount of revenue is approximately \$7,173,836. This would increase the average amount of revenue collected by \$2,152,111.

The Missouri Court Automation Committee would request an increase in appropriation authority from the statewide court automation fund to correspond with court automation fee assessments. The additional spending authority would assist in maintaining and advancing the judiciary's use of automation in the local courts.

Officials from the **Office of Administration - Budget and Planning (B&P)** state §488.014 would increase the court fee to be deposited into the Statewide Automation Fund by \$3. This would increase total state revenues.

Section 488.027 would adjust court fees annually for inflation based on the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers. This would increase total state revenues.

**Oversight** has no information to the contrary. Therefore, Oversight will present the fiscal impact of this proposal as provided by OSCA, adjusted to 10 months for FY27. However, Oversight notes the provisions of §488.027.4 provide that beginning July 1, 2027 (FY28), and each year thereafter, the fee authorized shall be adjusted annually for inflation. As a result, Oversight assumes the fees presented could exceed the amount provided by OSCA once adjusted by the Consumer Price Index beginning in FY28.

#### §488.426 – St. Louis City Circuit Court Civil Case Filing Fee

Officials from the **Office of the State Courts Administrator (OSCA)** state the proposed legislation allows the circuit court in St. Louis City to collect a fee not to exceed twenty dollars, rather than fifteen, to go toward the law library.

During the past five years there was an average of 11,383 circuit civil case filings, 4,856 domestic relations civil case filings and 15,009 associate civil and small claims civil case filings for a total of 31,248 case filings.

Based upon the increase in the collection fee not to exceed \$20.00, rather than \$15.00, to go toward the library, OSCA estimates the increase to be \$0 to \$156,240 (\$5 x 31,248).

**Oversight** assumes fees collected would go directly to the St. Louis City Circuit Court and will present a positive fiscal impact of \$0 to \$156,240 (\$5 x 31,248) annually. Oversight also assumes the provisions of this section will not create a material fiscal impact to local political subdivisions other than St. Louis City Circuit Court.

#### §610.144 – Missouri Expungement Fund

Officials from the **B&P** state §610.144 would create the “Missouri Expungement Fund” which would consist of moneys deposited from gifts, donations, grants, and bequests, and could be invested by the State Treasurer.

In response to similar legislation, HCS HB 2967 (2026), **OSCA** assumed this proposal may have some impact on their organization, but there is no way to quantify that amount currently. Any significant changes will be reflected in future budget requests.

**Oversight** notes the provisions of this proposal provide that the Missouri Expungement Fund shall consist of monies deposited into the fund from any source, but not limited to gifts,

donations, grants and bequests. The Office of State Courts Administrator, the Department of Public Safety, and the ITSD within the Office of administration shall expend moneys from the fund, upon appropriation, on the Statewide Court Automation System and the Missouri Criminal History Record Information System for purposes specified in the bill.

Oversight assumes, for fiscal note purposes, unknown contributions, etc. coming into the fund as well as unknown expenses incurred by OSCA, DPS and OA-ITSD; income and expenses will net to \$0.

#### Responses regarding the proposed legislation as a whole

Officials from the **Office of the Governor (GOV)** state this bill adds to the Governor's current load of appointment duties. Individually, additional requirements should not fiscally impact the GOV. However, the cumulative impact of additional appointment duties across all enacted legislation may require additional resources for the GOV.

**Oversight** has no information to the contrary. Therefore, Oversight will present no fiscal impact for this proposal for the GOV.

Officials from the **Department of Corrections, Department of Public Safety – Director's Office and Missouri Highway Patrol, Department of Social Services, Office of Administration, Office of the State Public Defender, Office of the State Treasurer, City of Kansas City, and Missouri Senate** 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.

#### Rule Promulgation

Officials from the **Joint Committee on Administrative Rules** assume this proposal is not anticipated to cause a fiscal impact beyond its current appropriation.

In response to a previous version, officials from the **Office of the Secretary of State (SOS)** noted many bills considered by the General Assembly include provisions allowing or requiring agencies to submit rules and regulations to implement the act. The SOS is provided with core funding to handle a certain amount of normal activity resulting from each year's legislative session. The fiscal impact for this fiscal note to the SOS for Administrative Rules is less than \$5,000. The SOS recognizes that this is a small amount and does not expect that additional funding would be required to meet these costs. However, the SOS also recognizes that many such bills may be passed by the General Assembly in a given year and that collectively the costs may be in excess of what the office can sustain with its core budget. Therefore, the SOS reserves the right to request funding for the cost of supporting administrative rules requirements should the need arise based on a review of the finally approved bills signed by the governor.

<u>FISCAL IMPACT – State Government</u>	FY 2027 (10 Mo.)	FY 2028	FY 2029
<b>GENERAL REVENUE</b>			
<u>Cost – OSCA (Various Sections)</u> Potential increase in costs p.4	\$0 or (Unknown)	\$0 or (Unknown)	\$0 or (Unknown)
<u>Cost – OSCA (§478.003) Treatment</u> court administrator costs p.3	(\$0 to \$1,520,839)	(\$0 to \$1,825,007)	(\$0 to \$1,825,007)
FTE Change - OSCA	Up to 19 FTE	Up to 19 FTE	Up to 19 FTE
<u>Cost – OSCA (§478.385) p.4</u>			
Personal service	\$0	(\$130,304)	(\$264,895)
Fringe benefits	\$0	(\$97,824)	(\$198,491)
Equipment and expense	\$0	(\$5,112)	(\$1,792)
<u>Total Costs - OSCA</u>	\$0	(\$233,240)	(\$465,178)
FTE Change - OSCA	0 FTE	2 FTE	2 FTE
<u>Cost – OSCA (§478.550) p.4-5</u>			
Personal service	\$0	(\$218,268)	(\$221,782)
Fringe benefits	\$0	(\$174,157)	(\$176,621)
Equipment and expense	\$0	(\$5,990)	(\$1,792)
<u>Total Costs - OSCA</u>	\$0	(\$398,415)	(\$400,195)
FTE Change - OSCA	0 FTE	2 FTE	2 FTE
<u>Cost – OSCA (§478.600) p.5</u>			
Personal service	\$0	\$0	(\$354,229)
Fringe benefits	\$0	\$0	(\$275,865)
Equipment and expense	\$0	\$0	(\$15,390)
<u>Total Costs - OSCA</u>	\$0	\$0	(\$645,484)
FTE Change - OSCA	0 FTE	0 FTE	6 FTE
<u>Cost – OSCA (§478.630) p.5</u>			
Personal service	\$0	(\$218,268)	(\$221,782)
Fringe benefits	\$0	(\$174,157)	(\$176,621)
Equipment and expense	\$0	(\$5,990)	(\$1,792)
<u>Total Costs - OSCA</u>	\$0	(\$398,415)	(\$400,195)
FTE Change - OSCA	0 FTE	2 FTE	2 FTE

<u>FISCAL IMPACT – State Government</u>	FY 2027 (10 Mo.)	FY 2028	FY 2029
<u>Cost – OSCA (§478.705) p.6</u>			
Personal service	\$0	(\$218,268)	(\$221,782)
Fringe benefits	\$0	(\$174,157)	(\$176,621)
Equipment and expense	<u>\$0</u>	<u>(\$5,990)</u>	<u>(\$1,792)</u>
<b>Total Costs - OSCA</b>	<b><u>\$0</u></b>	<b><u>(\$398,415)</u></b>	<b><u>(\$400,195)</u></b>
FTE Change - OSCA	0 FTE	2 FTE	2 FTE
<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE</b>	<b>(\$0 to Could exceed <u>\$1,520,839</u>)</b>	<b>(Could exceed <u>\$3,253,492</u>)</b>	<b>(Could exceed <u>\$4,136,254</u>)</b>
Estimated Net FTE Change on General Revenue	Up to 19 FTE	Up to 27 FTE	Up to 33 FTE
<b>STATEWIDE COURT AUTOMATION FUND (1270)</b>			
<u>Revenue Gain – OSCA (§§488.012 and 488.027) Increase in court fees p.6-7</u>	<u>\$1,793,426</u>	Could exceed <u>\$2,152,111</u>	Could exceed <u>\$2,152,111</u>
<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON THE STATEWIDE COURT AUTOMATION FUND</b>	<b><u>\$1,793,426</u></b>	<b>Could exceed <u>\$2,152,111</u></b>	<b>Could exceed <u>\$2,152,111</u></b>
<b>MISSOURI EXPUNGEMENT FUND</b>			
<u>Income – Gifts, grants, donations and bequests p.8</u>	\$0 or Unknown	\$0 or Unknown	\$0 or Unknown
<u>Cost – Various expenditures by OSCA, DPS-MHP, and OA-ITSD p.7-8</u>	\$0 or <u>(Unknown)</u>	\$0 or <u>(Unknown)</u>	\$0 or <u>(Unknown)</u>
<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON THE MISSOURI EXPUNGEMENT FUND</b>	<b><u>\$0</u></b>	<b><u>\$0</u></b>	<b><u>\$0</u></b>

<u>FISCAL IMPACT – Local Government</u>	FY 2027 (10 Mo.)	FY 2028	FY 2029
<b>LOCAL POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS</b>			
<u>Revenue</u> – St. Louis City Circuit (§488.426) Increase in fees for law library p.7	Up to \$130,200	Up to \$156,240	Up to \$156,240
<u>Cost</u> – City of St. Louis (§57.540) Attorney’s salary set by the Sheriff of the City of St. Louis p.3	(Unknown)	(Unknown)	(Unknown)
<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS</b>	<b>Less than \$130,200</b>	<b>Less than \$156,240</b>	<b>Less than \$156,240</b>

FISCAL IMPACT – Small Business

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

FISCAL DESCRIPTION

Current law provides that compensation for the attorney for the sheriff of the City of St. Louis shall be not less than \$3,000 and not more than \$15,000 per year. This act provides that the sheriff shall set the rate of compensation for the attorney, and the attorney shall serve at the pleasure of the sheriff. (§57.540)

The Missouri supreme court may assign a treatment court commissioner to serve in the treatment court division of a circuit other than the circuit in which the commissioner is appointed. In each circuit having a treatment court division that has neither a treatment court administrator nor a treatment court commissioner, the court shall employ a treatment court administrator, subject to appropriations. (§478.003)

This bill amends various statutes related to certain judicial circuits by repealing references to the specific counties of which the individual circuits consist. The bill also adds a circuit judge to the 7<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> judicial circuits as well as associate circuit judges to the 11<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, Franklin and Miller counties.

Currently, the court collects as a court cost \$7 for the statewide court automation fund. This bill increases the amount to \$10. The bill specifies that, starting July 1, 2027, and every July thereafter, the fee associated with all civil cases and certain criminal cases assessed as court costs

will be adjusted annually for inflation based on the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers rounded to the nearest whole dollar. The annual adjustment will apply to all cases filed on or after January 1st of the year in which the adjustment was made. (§§488.012 and 488.027)

Currently, any circuit court may collect a civil case filing surcharge of an amount not to exceed \$15 for the maintenance of a law library, the county's or circuit's family services and justice fund, or courtroom renovation and technology enhancement. If the circuit court reimburses the state for salaries of family court commissioners or is the circuit court in Jackson County, the surcharge may be up to \$20. This act provides that the circuit court in the City of St. Louis may charge a filing surcharge up to \$20. (§488.426)

This bill creates in the State Treasury the "Missouri Expungement Fund", the funds of which will be used by the Office of State Courts Administrator, the Department of Public Safety, and the Information Technology Services Division within the Office of Administration on the statewide court automation system and the Missouri criminal history record information system for the purposes specified in the bill. (§610.144)


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 Administration - Budget and Planning  
Department of Corrections Department of Public Safety –  
    Director's Office  
    Missouri Highway Patrol  
Department of Social Services  
Office of the Governor  
Office of Administration  
Office of the State Courts Administrator  
Office of the Secretary of State  
Office of the State Public Defender  
Office of the State Treasurer  
City of Kansas City  
City of St. Louis

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Missouri House of Representatives  
Missouri Senate  
Joint Committee on Administrative Rules



Julie Morff  
Director  
May 14, 2026



Jessica Harris  
Assistant Director  
May 14, 2026