

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

FISCAL NOTE

L.R. No.: 2220S.01I
Bill No.: SB 594
Subject: Education, Elementary and Secondary; Department of Elementary and Secondary
Education; Religion
Type: Original
Date: March 21, 2025

Bill Summary: This proposal requires school districts and charter schools to display the Ten Commandments in every building and classroom under their jurisdiction.

FISCAL SUMMARY

| ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND | | | |
|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| FUND AFFECTED | FY 2026 | FY 2027 | FY 2028 |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| Total Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |

| ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON OTHER STATE FUNDS | | | |
|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| FUND AFFECTED | FY 2026 | FY 2027 | FY 2028 |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>Other</u> State Funds | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |

Numbers within parentheses: () indicate costs or losses.

| ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FEDERAL FUNDS | | | |
|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| FUND AFFECTED | FY 2026 | FY 2027 | FY 2028 |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>All</u> Federal Funds | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |

| ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FULL TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE) | | | |
|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| FUND AFFECTED | FY 2026 | FY 2027 | FY 2028 |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| Total Estimated Net Effect on FTE | 0 | 0 | 0 |

- ☐ 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 2026 | FY 2027 | FY 2028 |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| Local Government | \$0 or (Unknown) | \$0 or (Unknown) | \$0 or (Unknown) |

***Oversight** notes there could be a potential increase in litigation costs to school districts and charter schools as a result of this proposal.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

ASSUMPTION

Officials from the **Office of Attorney General (AGO)** assume any potential litigation costs arising from this proposal can be absorbed with existing resources. The AGO may seek additional appropriations if the proposal results in a significant increase in litigation or investigation costs.

Oversight does not have any information to the contrary. Therefore, Oversight assumes the AGO will be able to perform any additional duties required by this proposal with current staff and resources and will reflect no fiscal impact to the AGO for fiscal note purposes.

Officials from the **Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Office of the State Courts Administrator, Missouri Office of Prosecution Services and Office of the State Public Defender** each assume the proposal will have no fiscal impact on their organizations. **Oversight** does not have any information to the contrary. Therefore, Oversight will reflect a zero impact in the fiscal note for these agencies.

In response to similar legislation, HB 34 (2025), officials from **Crane R-III School District** assumed this proposal could open the district up to lawsuits if a parent sues over having something posted that they do not want their child exposed to as a "captive" audience. Legal fees could become very large.

Based on the response provided by the Crane R-III School District, **Oversight** will reflect a zero to unknown cost to school districts for litigation.

Oversight notes this proposal states school boards and governing boards may use their funds or accept donations to purchase the displays, although they shall not be required to spend money for this purpose.

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.

Officials from the **Office of the Secretary of State (SOS)** note 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 2026 (10 Mo.) | FY 2027 | FY 2028 |
|---|---------------------|------------|------------|
| | | | |
| | <u>\$0</u> | <u>\$0</u> | <u>\$0</u> |
| | | | |
| | | | |

| <u>FISCAL IMPACT – Local Government</u> | FY 2026 (10 Mo.) | FY 2027 | FY 2028 |
|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND CHARTER SCHOOLS | | | |
| | | | |
| <u>Costs</u> – potential increase in litigation §171.022 p.3 | \$0 or (Unknown) | \$0 or (Unknown) | \$0 or (Unknown) |
| | | | |
| ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND CHARTER SCHOOLS | \$0 or (Unknown) | \$0 or (Unknown) | \$0 or (Unknown) |

FISCAL IMPACT – Small Business

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

FISCAL DESCRIPTION

Beginning January 1, 2026, this act requires each school district's school board and charter school's governing board to display the Ten Commandments in every building and classroom under their jurisdiction. The display shall be at least 11 inches by 14 inches in size, with the text of the Ten Commandments as the central focus in a large, readable font. School boards and governing boards may use their funds or accept donations to purchase the displays, although they shall not be required to spend money for this purpose.

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 Elementary and Secondary Education
Attorney General's Office


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Office of the State Public Defender
Office of the Secretary of State
Joint Committee on Administrative Rules
Missouri Office of Prosecution Services
Office of the State Courts Administrator
Crane R-III School District



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March 21, 2025



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