

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

FISCAL NOTE

L.R. NO.: 4533-02
BILL NO.: HCS for HB 2044
SUBJECT: Education, Higher: Spinal Cord Injury Grants
TYPE: Original
DATE: April 10, 2000

FISCAL SUMMARY

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON STATE FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003
Spinal Cord Injury*	Unknown	(Up to \$220,000)	(Up to \$220,000)
Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>All</u> State Funds**	Unknown	(Up to \$220,000)	(Up to \$220,000)

*Subject to appropriations.

**Does not include unknown revenue from traffic case collections.

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FEDERAL FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003
None			
Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>All</u> Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003
Local Government	\$0	\$0	\$0

Numbers within parentheses: () indicate costs or losses.

This fiscal note contains 4 pages.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

ASSUMPTION

Officials from the **State Treasurer's Office** and the **University of Missouri** assume the proposal would result in no fiscal impact to the agency.

The proposal states that beginning in the 2002 fiscal year, the Board of Curators would utilize the first \$200,000 of moneys collected in the Spinal Cord Injury Fund for research projects. The proposal also states the Board of Curators could request additional funds for administrative overhead, not to exceed 10% of the annual appropriation of research funds. Therefore, the **Oversight Division** assumes the fiscal impact to the University of Missouri would be \$200,000 for research grants and \$20,000 (\$200,000 x 10% = \$20,000) for administrative overhead beginning in FY 2002.

Officials from the **Office of State Courts Administrator (CTS)** state the proposal would establish a spinal cord injury fund to be funded from a \$1 surcharge on seat belt violations. CTS states they do not currently track seat belt infractions as a separate charge code. The cost of tracking these offenses, which are almost always part of a larger traffic case, would approach the amount of money which might be collected. There were some 425,000 traffic and ordinance cases of all types disposed in FY99. Not all of these convictions, and only a relatively small proportion of these include a conviction of a seat belt offense. CTS states that when, and if, traffic tickets would be automated from law enforcement and prosecutors, it might be more feasible to track cases at this level of detail. A traffic ticket may charge a driver with speeding, defective equipment, and a seat belt violation. The case may be pled to some part of the charges with other parts being dismissed. CTS states that if the proposal is enacted they would include the requirement in the statewide court automation software and, as courts come up on the system, they would have the ability to trade, collect, and disburse the fee; but, it would be some time before a large part of the state is up on that software for traffic.

<u>FISCAL IMPACT - State Government</u>	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003
	(10 Mo.)		
SPINAL CORD INJURY FUND			
<u>Income-Spinal Cord Injury Fund</u>			
Surcharges	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
<u>Cost-University of Missouri</u>			
Research Grants	\$0	(\$200,000)	(\$200,000)
Administrative Overhead	<u>\$0</u>	<u>(\$20,000)</u>	<u>(\$20,000)</u>
Total <u>Cost-University of Missouri*</u>	\$0	(\$220,000)	(\$220,000)

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<u>FISCAL IMPACT - State Government</u>	FY 2001 (10 Mo.)	FY 2002	FY 2003
ESTIMATED PARTIAL NET EFFECT ON SPINAL CORD INJURY FUND**	<u>Unknown</u>	<u>(Up to \$220,000)</u>	<u>(Up to \$220,000)</u>

***Subject to appropriation.**

****Does not include unknown revenue from traffic cases collections.**

<u>FISCAL IMPACT - Local Government</u>	FY 2001 (10 Mo.)	FY 2002	FY 2003
	<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.

DESCRIPTION

This proposal would authorize the Board of Curators of the University of Missouri, beginning in fiscal year 2002, to award funds to investigators for original research projects designed to increase knowledge in the area of spinal cord injury. The proposal would establish a 10-member advisory board appointed by the Governor from nominations submitted by the Board of Curators to advise on the administration of the program, including soliciting and selecting research proposals for funding. The composition of the advisory board and of its members terms are outlined. The advisory board is to use a peer review process to evaluate investigators and their proposals in accordance with the procedures used by the National Institute of Health and the National Science Foundation. The evaluation component of the selection process would not be open to the public; the final awards of the advisory board and all of its other proceedings are open to the public.

Investigators whose proposals would be selected for funding may receive an award of up to \$30,000 per year, for one or 2 years; overhead costs would not be allowable research expenses. Investigators submitting proposals for funding consideration would be employees or staff of public or private educational, health care, voluntary health association, or research institutions. Research funded under this program would be conducted in Missouri.

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DESCRIPTION (continued)

The proposal would also establish the Spinal Cord Injury Fund to fund the research grants. The initial \$200,000 deposited into the fund would be appropriated to the University of Missouri for grants for the selected spinal cord injury research projects. The proposal would impose a \$1 surcharge for all criminal cases involving violations of the child passenger restraint system or seat belt laws. The \$1 surcharge would not be collected if the proceeding or the defendant has been dismissed by the court or when the costs are to be paid by the state, county, or municipality. The proposal would require the Office of State Courts Administrator to implement a system for tracking and recording the number of cases involving child passenger restraint system and seat belt law violations.

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

University of Missouri
Office of State Courts Administrator
State Treasurer's Office



Jeanne Jarrett, CPA
Director
April 10, 2000