

## Frequently Asked Questions - Locals

- 1. What is the purpose of the fiscal note?** The fiscal note details the financial impact of a piece of legislation. It explains the cost or savings that would occur if the legislation were to be implemented as written. It does not include how an organization “feels” about the legislation (i.e. whether it is “good”/”bad”).
- 2. What is the purpose of the comment memo?** The comment memo is where you can express how you feel about a bill (like/support or dislike/against). This is also the form to explain why you believe a piece of legislation may be unconstitutional. This form can be submitted through the MOLIS Portal or sent to our office at [LROversight@LR.mo.gov](mailto:LROversight@LR.mo.gov) and is forwarded to the bill sponsor.
- 3. What is the purpose of the technical memo?** The technical memo is where mistakes in the legislation can be pointed out, such as typos, wrong sectional references, etc. This form can also be submitted through the MOLIS Portal and sent to our office at [LROversight@LR.mo.gov](mailto:LROversight@LR.mo.gov) and is forwarded to the bill sponsor as well as the bill drafter.
- 4. Do we need to submit our fiscal impact response on the form provided by Oversight?** No. You may simply respond using the notes to Oversight section stating how the bill will fiscally impact your organization. Please provide specific examples or calculations.
- 5. What does the bracketed and underlined sections in the legislation refer to?** [Bracketed] sections (words, paragraphs, or punctuation) means this will be deleted from existing statutes. Underlined words, paragraphs or punctuation means this will be added.
- 6. How should we respond to multiple committee substitute versions of a bill?** Oversight will send out all substitute versions of a bill and state that we may need a response on each version. Once a version is reported out of committee, Oversight will notify agencies that have yet to respond, which version has been reported out of committee and that your response is due ASAP. Agencies may then disregard our request for fiscal impact responses for all unused versions.
- 7. We have submitted a comment memo from a previous version of this bill. Do we need to keep submitting the same comment memo, or is it ok to drop it in the future?** Please continue

to submit comment and/or technical memos on any future versions that you believe the issue continues to need to be addressed.

**8. How do I find the amendments that have been added to a bill?**

- For the Missouri Senate: - Go to [www.senate.mo.gov](http://www.senate.mo.gov). Go to the Legislation Tab and the current year's List of Senate Bills. Click on the bill number and then click on Amendments /CCRs/CCSs. Under the Status column, it will list the amendments and their status.
- For the Missouri House: - Go to [www.house.mo.gov](http://www.house.mo.gov). Go to Bill Information / Bill List and select the Bill number. Click on the Amendments (Expand) to open all of the amendments for this bill. The amendment(s) that are adopted (green check mark) will be part of the legislation to be considered for review.

**9. If I cannot come up with an estimated cost for the fiscal note, how should I respond to the request?** If a cost estimate cannot be specified, then one of the following responses or ranges can be used:

Unknown Cost (or Savings)

Unknown Costs (or Savings), Less than \$250,000

Unknown Costs (or Savings), More than \$250,000

Greater than (or Less than) another number

Please provide reasons and estimates for your answer.

**10. I can't open the attachment. What should I do?** We generally try to also provide a PDF version of the bill along with the Word document. If you are still unable to open the attachment, contact the analyst that sent you the legislation for assistance.

**11. How do I prioritize requests for fiscal impact on multiple proposals with competing deadlines and limited staff hours?** Prioritize those with a 'Hard' Due Status or 'High' Priority first otherwise prioritize the notes based on the tentative due dates provided. If the Due Status is set as Hard, the response date is often based on a hearing or committee meeting. Always provide a response even if you miss the deadline (as an updated note can be completed if new information is available.)

12. **When does Oversight prepare a fiscal note on a bill?** We will prepare a fiscal note at specific steps of a bill, including:

- Before a bill is heard in a committee meeting;
- If a bill is reported out of the committee and changed in any way;
- Upon perfection in the original chamber;
- If a bill is reported out of committee in the other chamber (if changed);
- Sometimes upon being amended in the opposite chamber; and
- If passed by both chambers (TAFP version).

13. **What are 'special requests' and how are they prioritized?** Often during the session, Oversight will be asked to prepare a fiscal note on potential amendment or substitute. Generally, we will treat these similar to bills; however, the legislation must be treated as Confidential by Oversight and agencies. Special requests priority is below that of hearings, perfections, and reported out committee substitutes.

14. If you have any questions regarding the fiscal note process or would like training, please contact our office at 573-751-4143.