



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF
BUDGET AND PROGRAM PLANNING

Fiscal Note 2025 Biennium

Bill information:

SB0229 - Reimburse counties for actual witness costs (Usher, Barry)

Status: As Introduced

- Significant Local Gov Impact
 Needs to be included in HB 2
 Technical Concerns
 Included in the Executive Budget
 Significant Long-Term Impacts
 Dedicated Revenue Form Attached

FISCAL SUMMARY

	<u>FY 2024</u> <u>Difference</u>	<u>FY 2025</u> <u>Difference</u>	<u>FY 2026</u> <u>Difference</u>	<u>FY 2027</u> <u>Difference</u>
Expenditures:				
General Fund	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$253,750	\$257,556
Revenue:				
General Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Net Impact-General Fund Balance:	<u>(\$250,000)</u>	<u>(\$250,000)</u>	<u>(\$253,750)</u>	<u>(\$257,556)</u>

Description of fiscal impact: SB 229 will increase annual reimbursement of witness expenses currently being paid for by the county. The Department of Justice (DoJ) will be required to make the payments.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

Assumptions:**Department of Justice (DoJ)**

- SB 229 changes statute for DoJ from "may" reimburse to "shall" reimburse.
- Based on current trends, the Department of Justice assumes that county reimbursement requests will approximately \$250,000 per year.
- Since the law would require payment, and the restrictions on availability of funding is removed, the department would be required to pay for all submitted requests.
- This legislation would encourage the use of expert witnesses without limitation.

Fiscal Note Request – As Introduced

(continued)

5. The department would need an appropriation mechanism such as a statutory appropriation, since the amount cannot be definitively projected. If a standard appropriation is provided to the DoJ this a likelihood that the department would need to seek a supplemental appropriation for most fiscal years.
6. There is a 1.5% inflation factor applied to FY 2026 and FY 2027.

	<u>FY 2024</u> <u>Difference</u>	<u>FY 2025</u> <u>Difference</u>	<u>FY 2026</u> <u>Difference</u>	<u>FY 2027</u> <u>Difference</u>
<u>Fiscal Impact:</u>				
<u>Expenditures:</u>				
Operating Expenses	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$253,750	\$257,556
TOTAL Expenditures	<u>\$250,000</u>	<u>\$250,000</u>	<u>\$253,750</u>	<u>\$257,556</u>
<u>Funding of Expenditures:</u>				
General Fund (01)	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$253,750	\$257,556
TOTAL Funding of Exp.	<u>\$250,000</u>	<u>\$250,000</u>	<u>\$253,750</u>	<u>\$257,556</u>
<u>Revenues:</u>				
General Fund (01)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
TOTAL Revenues	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
<u>Net Impact to Fund Balance (Revenue minus Funding of Expenditures):</u>				
General Fund (01)	(\$250,000)	(\$250,000)	(\$253,750)	(\$257,556)

NO SPONSOR SIGNATURE

2/6/23
Date


Budget Director's Initials

2-3-23
Date