



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF  
BUDGET AND PROGRAM PLANNING

## Fiscal Note 2025 Biennium

<b>Bill information:</b>	
SB0250 - Adopt Safety of the Child First Act (Manzella, Theresa )	
<b>Status:</b>	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 Difference</u>	<u>FY 2025 Difference</u>	<u>FY 2026 Difference</u>	<u>FY 2027 Difference</u>
<b>Expenditures:</b>				
General Fund	\$57,708	\$2,412	\$58,574	\$2,484
<b>Revenue:</b>				
General Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Net Impact-General Fund Balance:</b>	<u>(\$57,708)</u>	<u>(\$2,412)</u>	<u>(\$58,574)</u>	<u>(\$2,484)</u>

**Description of fiscal impact:** SB 250 establishes training requirements for judges and any other relevant court personnel involved in child custody proceedings. The bill requires an initial training of not less than 20 hours and ongoing training of not less than 15 hours every two years. The Judicial Branch will incur travel and related costs for the training required in this bill.

### FISCAL ANALYSIS

#### Assumptions:

- The Judicial Branch is required to pay for training for district court judges and standing masters. Judges are currently required to have 15 Continuing Legal Education (CLE) hours each year in a variety of legal topics. The training required in SB 250 would be in addition to the current CLE requirements.
- Training will need to be provided for 51 district court judges and nine standing masters, for a total of 60 attendees.
- It is assumed that the costs for the initial 20-hour training will not vary significantly from the subsequent training of at least 15 hours every other year. Therefore, the estimated cost for each required training is the same.
- The costs for this training are based on actual expenditures incurred at the FY 2022 Spring judges' training.

5. Thirty-four judges attended the FY 2022 Spring training with 32 receiving travel reimbursement. Based on these numbers, 94% of the attendees were in travel status. Applying the same percentage to the 60 attendees required to attend the training, 56 will be in travel status (this accounts for attendees living in the same location as the training and not in travel status).
6. At the Spring judges' training, \$5,730 was paid to 28 attendees for mileage reimbursement, or an average of \$205 per attendee. Using the average mileage reimbursement rate of \$205, the total cost of mileage would be \$11,480.
7. It is assumed that attendees will need three nights of lodging which includes one travel day and two and a half days of training, with return travel on the last day of the training. Total lodging for all attendees will be \$17,880.
8. Meals will be reimbursed at state rate assuming dinner at \$14.50 on the first travel day and three days of breakfast, lunch, and dinner at \$30.50 per day for a total cost of \$106 ( $\$14.50 + (\$30.50 \times 3)$ ) per attendee. Total meal costs will be \$5,936 ( $\$106 \times 56$  attendees).
9. It is estimated that the Judicial Branch will incur a facility use fee of approximately \$12,000 for a conference site large enough to support the number of attendees for two and a half days of training.
10. The cost of qualified professionals, meeting the requirements established in Section 6, will cost approximately \$8,000 which includes speaker fee, travel, and materials.
11. The total cost for the initial 20-hour training is \$55,296 ( $\$11,480$  mileage +  $\$17,880$  lodging +  $\$5,936$  meals +  $\$12,000$  facility use fee +  $\$8,000$  instructor fee). It is estimated that the initial training will be held in FY 2024.
12. It assumed that at least one new judge (due to retirements) will need to attend a course through the National Judicial College (NJC) each fiscal year to receive the initial training. The estimated cost is \$2,412 airfare, lodging, meals, and registration.
13. FY 2024 costs are \$57,708 ( $\$55,296$  initial training +  $\$2,412$  for additional NJC course).
14. FY 2025 costs are \$2,412 (the cost of one judge attending NJC).
15. FY 2026 costs are \$58,574 ( $\$55,296$  initial training +  $\$2,412$  for additional NJC course increased by 1.5%).
16. FY 2027 costs are \$2,484 ( $\$2,412$  for NJC course increased by 3% for inflation)
17. The training requirement will reduce the time the judge has for court work and will add to the delay in case processing and increase workload.

	<u>FY 2024 Difference</u>	<u>FY 2025 Difference</u>	<u>FY 2026 Difference</u>	<u>FY 2027 Difference</u>
<b><u>Fiscal Impact:</u></b>				
<b><u>Expenditures:</u></b>				
Operating Expenses	\$57,708	\$2,412	\$58,574	\$2,484
<b>TOTAL Expenditures</b>	<b>\$57,708</b>	<b>\$2,412</b>	<b>\$58,574</b>	<b>\$2,484</b>
<b><u>Funding of Expenditures:</u></b>				
General Fund (01)	\$57,708	\$2,412	\$58,574	\$2,484
<b>TOTAL Funding of Exp.</b>	<b>\$57,708</b>	<b>\$2,412</b>	<b>\$58,574</b>	<b>\$2,484</b>
<b><u>Revenues:</u></b>				
General Fund (01)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL Revenues</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b><u>Net Impact to Fund Balance (Revenue minus Funding of Expenditures):</u></b>				
General Fund (01)	(\$57,708)	(\$2,412)	(\$58,574)	(\$2,484)

**Technical Notes:**

1. The Judicial Branch does not pay for training for GALs, mediators, or custody evaluators. Adding extensive training requirements will reduce the number of providers willing to provide the service.

NO SPONSOR SIGNATURE

	2/13		2-9-23
<i>Sponsor's Initials</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Budget Director's Initials</i>	<i>Date</i>