



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF
BUDGET AND PROGRAM PLANNING

Fiscal Note 2025 Biennium

Bill information:

SB0250 - Adopt Safety of the Child First Act (Manzella, Theresa)

Status: As Amended in Senate Committee

- 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	\$118,381	\$57,412	\$120,157	\$59,146
Revenue:				
General Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Net Impact-General Fund Balance:	<u>(\$118,381)</u>	<u>(\$57,412)</u>	<u>(\$120,157)</u>	<u>(\$59,146)</u>

Description of fiscal impact: SB 250 establishes training requirements for judges and relevant court personnel involved in child custody proceedings. The bill requires initial training of not less than 20 hours, and ongoing training of not less than 15 hours every two years. As amended, SB 250 removes the training requirement for judges, and requires the Board of Crime Control to administer and oversee the training for all court personnel involved in child custody proceedings.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

Assumptions:**Montana Board of Crime Control (MBCC)**

1. MBCC estimates the cost to establish and provide the required training at \$55,000 in FY 2024 and FY 2025, with a 1.5% cost growth in subsequent years.
2. MBCC will coordinate 5 training sessions per year at \$2,000 per session for the facility, and \$8,000 for the speaker fee, travel, and material costs. The trainings will be provided for free to eligible court personnel. Travel to attend trainings and any hotel costs are the responsibility of the attendees.
3. Annual operating costs are estimated at 10% of the training costs.
4. Currently, MBCC does not receive any federal grants that could offset the costs to administer SB 250. As a result, costs in this fiscal note are 100% general funds.

Judicial Branch

5. Standing masters will be required to attend the training established in Section 6.
6. Section 6 requires the training to be administered and overseen through the Montana Board of Crime Control (MBCC). MBCC has indicated that general fund will be utilized to provide training to various entities and individuals. The Judicial Branch assumes standing masters will attend training sessions provided by MBCC, as such, there will be no registration fees incurred.
7. The Judicial Branch will be responsible for travel costs for nine standing masters. Travel expenditures will be incurred every other year, starting in FY 2024. Travel cost estimates are based on data related to the FY 2022 Spring judges training (in which standing masters attend).
8. 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 \$1,845 (\$205 x 9 standing masters in travel status).
9. 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. Using the standard lodging rate of \$98 per night with an estimated tax of 8.6%, total lodging per night will cost \$106.43. Total lodging for 9 standing masters will be \$2,874 (\$106.43/night x 3 nights x 9 standing masters).
10. 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 x 3) per attendee. Total meal costs will be \$954 (\$106 x 9 standing masters).
11. The total cost in FY 2024 for standing master travel to attend the required training is \$5,673 (\$1,845 mileage + \$2,874 lodging + \$954 meals).
12. The total cost in FY 2026 is \$5,758 (FY 2024 increased by 1.5% for inflation).

	<u>FY 2024</u>	<u>FY 2025</u>	<u>FY 2026</u>	<u>FY 2027</u>
	<u>Difference</u>	<u>Difference</u>	<u>Difference</u>	<u>Difference</u>
<u>Fiscal Impact:</u>				
<u>Expenditures:</u>				
Operating Expenses - JUD	\$5,673	\$0	\$5,758	\$0
Operating Expenses - DOJ	\$112,708	\$57,412	\$114,399	\$59,146
TOTAL Expenditures	<u>\$118,381</u>	<u>\$57,412</u>	<u>\$120,157</u>	<u>\$59,146</u>
<u>Funding of Expenditures:</u>				
General Fund (01)	\$118,381	\$57,412	\$120,157	\$59,146
TOTAL Funding of Exp.	<u>\$118,381</u>	<u>\$57,412</u>	<u>\$120,157</u>	<u>\$59,146</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)	(\$118,381)	(\$57,412)	(\$120,157)	(\$59,146)

Technical Notes:

1. The Judicial Branch does not pay for training for guardians ad litem, mediators, or custody evaluators. Adding extensive training requirements, including travel and hotel, may reduce the number of providers willing to provide the service.
2. MBCC is not aware of how many entities or individuals statewide would need to receive this training or if any portion can be completed virtually, for a lesser cost. If the estimates in Assumption 2 are insufficient to meet the demand of court personnel, the costs of implementing SB 250 will be higher.

NO SPONSOR SIGNATURE

_____	3/10/23		3-8-23
<i>Sponsor's Initials</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Budget Director's Initials</i>	<i>Date</i>