



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF  
BUDGET AND PROGRAM PLANNING

## Fiscal Note 2025 Biennium

**Bill information:**

HB0231 - Eliminate certification standards and practices advisory council (Ler, Brandon )

**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>
<b>Expenditures:</b>				
General Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
State Special Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Revenue:</b>				
General Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
State Special Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Net Impact-General Fund Balance:</b>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>

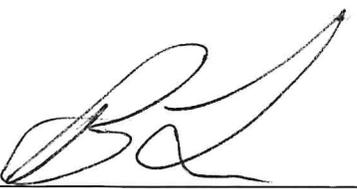
**Description of fiscal impact:** HB 231 eliminates the Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council (CSPAC) from statute. The work of CSPAC would need to be continued, therefore, there is no fiscal impact.

### FISCAL ANALYSIS

**Assumptions:**

- HB 231 proposes the annual \$6 fee collected for teacher and specialist certificates (20-4-109, MCA) would be entirely used for activities in support of the constitutional and statutory duties of the Board of Public Education (Board). Currently, \$4 of the fees are statutorily directed for the expenses of the Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council (CSPAC) and \$2 go to the board.
- Annually, the \$6 fee collects approximately \$55,000 for the board and \$110,000 for the CSPAC. However, the legislature appropriated \$63,004 for the board and \$122,907 to the CSPAC for FY 2023 which were amount that could not be spent because there was no cash.
- This legislation repeals all statutory language related to the CSPAC which is allocated in statute (2-15-1522, MCA) to the Board.

4. The Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council (CSPAC) meets four times each year. Historically, CSPAC costs have been approximately \$5,000 annually for operating expenses. The costs were primarily for member travel to CSPAC quarterly meetings.
5. The board has 3.00 FTE who spend approximately 30% of their time doing work to prepare and staff CSPAC meetings, do research, and other CSPAC related activities.
6. If HB 231 were to pass, eliminating the statutory CSPAC, the board would need to create a group of education professionals to continue the work of CSPAC. The board utilizes professional educators as a resource for advice and recommendations for making decisions related to Montana’s public schools.
7. CSPAC’s current duties in statute (20-4-133, MCA) are to recommend to the board:
  - a. Teacher certification standards;
  - b. Administrator certification standards;
  - c. Specialist certification standards;
  - d. Feasibility of establishing standards of professional practices and ethical conduct;
  - e. The status and efficacy of approved teacher education programs in Montana; and
  - f. Policies related to the denial, suspension, and revocation of teacher, administrator, and specialist certification and the appeals process.
8. For purposes of this fiscal note, there would be no change in costs of operation of the Board of Public Education because the work of the Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council would still need to be completed and the costs would remain the same. The funding provided to the board via the teacher licensure revenues would come from a single state special revenue fund, rather than the current two state special revenue funds.

  
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Sponsor’s Initials

1-19-2023  
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Date

  
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Budget Director’s Initials

1-18-23  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date