



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF  
BUDGET AND PROGRAM PLANNING

## Fiscal Note 2025 Biennium

**Bill information:**

SB0435 - Require hand counting as the official manner of counting ballots (Manzella, Theresa )

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

**Description of fiscal impact:** This bill proposes hand counting ballots as the primary method of ballot tabulation. While there is a minimal fiscal impact to the state, SB 435 has a significant fiscal impact for counties.

### FISCAL ANALYSIS

**Assumptions:**

**Office of the Secretary of State**

- While there may be a minimal fiscal impact, the Office of the Secretary of State can cover the costs associated with implementing this bill within the office's existing operating budget.

**Effect on County or Other Local Revenues or Expenditures:**

**Montana Association of Counties**

- This bill will have significant fiscal impacts to counties and will increase the need for election judges. Reporting preliminary results will be significantly delayed, and reporting final results will be even more delayed in larger jurisdictions. Mid-size and large election offices will have to increase the number of judges and the total outlay for judge compensation. The exact increase in costs and delays cannot be determined at this time.

NO SPONSOR SIGNATURE

\_\_\_\_\_      2/27/23      \_\_\_\_\_      2-24-23  
 Sponsor's Initials      Date      Budget Director's Initials      Date