



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF
BUDGET AND PROGRAM PLANNING

Fiscal Note 2025 Biennium

Bill information:

SB0231 - Create task force on establishing a dependent neglect court system (Lenz, Dennis R)

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	\$73,866	\$54,640	\$0	\$0
Revenue:				
General Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Net Impact-General Fund Balance:	<u>(\$73,866)</u>	<u>(\$54,640)</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>

Description of fiscal impact: SB 231 creates an interim task force to study the dependency and neglect court system, specifies members and duties, and provides an immediate effective date and a termination date. The total cost to the Legislative Branch is \$73,866 for fiscal year 2024 and \$54,640 for fiscal year 2025.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

Assumptions:**Legislative Branch**

1. SB 231 creates an interim task force consisting of 11 total members. The legislative members are as follows:
 - a. Two members from the House of Representatives
 - b. Two members from the Senate
2. Legislative members of the task force will receive compensation and expenses as provided in 5-2-302, MCA.
3. Non-legislative members (who are not full-time salaried officers or employees of the state or political subdivision of the state) of the task force will receive compensation and expenses as provided in 5-2-302, MCA.
 - a. For the purposes of this fiscal note, it is assumed that two members qualify (a tribal member with experience relating to the Indian Child Welfare Act and a member of the public having experience with the dependency and neglect court system).

4. SB 231 requires reimbursement for travel expenses for all members as provided in 2-18-501, MCA, through 2-18-503, MCA. For the purposes of this fiscal note, it is assumed two members (a county attorney, and a law enforcement officer) will travel.
5. The task force will meet no more than 12 days. It is assumed that the 12 days will be three two-day meetings and six one-day meetings all in Helena.
6. For the purpose of this fiscal note, 70% of the meetings will be in FY 2024 and 30% of the meetings will be in FY 2025.
7. SB 231 allows for the creation of subcommittees where:
 - a. Full time salaried or employees of the state members are entitled to reimbursement for travel expenses as provided in 2-18-501, MCA, through 2-18-503, MCA.
 - b. A non-legislative member is entitled to salary and expenses to the same extent as a legislative member.
8. SB 231 does not specify the number of subcommittees and subcommittee membership. For the purpose of this fiscal note, it is assumed the membership of subcommittees will contain a variation of the same members as the task force.
9. It is also assumed that subcommittee meetings will be held on the same days as the task force meetings. Therefore, there is no additional fiscal impact to the Legislative Branch for the subcommittees.
10. SB 231 allows for the creation of working groups but does not specify compensation for the working groups. For the purposes of this fiscal note, it is assumed working groups will not receive compensation.
11. Reporting, data collection, and analysis will require 0.50 FTE committee support for the Legislative Services Division. There will be a new employee office package and computer package with a one-time cost of \$1,600 in FY 2024. Salary and benefits for the 0.50 FTE will be \$41,421 in FY 2024 and FY 2025. FTE costs were developed from a similar position in IBARS.
12. The Legislative Branch is requesting a 0.50 FTE in both SB 182 and SB 231, but only one 0.50 FTE is needed. If either SB 182 or SB 231 passes, then the other request is unnecessary.
13. SB 231 states all aspects of the task force must be concluded prior to September 15, 2024.
14. SB 231 contains a “Contingent voidness.”
15. SB 231 terminates June 30, 2025.

Fiscal Note Request – As Introduced

(continued)

FTE	0.50	0.50	0.00	0.00
<u>Expenditures:</u>				
Personal Services	\$49,163	\$44,739	\$0	\$0
Operating Expenses	\$24,703	\$9,901	\$0	\$0
TOTAL Expenditures	<u>\$73,866</u>	<u>\$54,640</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
<u>Funding of Expenditures:</u>				
General Fund (01)	\$73,866	\$54,640	\$0	\$0
TOTAL Funding of Exp.	<u>\$73,866</u>	<u>\$54,640</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</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)	(\$73,866)	(\$54,640)	\$0	\$0

NO SPONSOR SIGNATURE 2/8/23

Sponsor's Initials

Date


Budget Director's Initials

Date

2-6-23