



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF  
BUDGET AND PROGRAM PLANNING

## Fiscal Note 2025 Biennium

**Bill information:**

SB0482 - Revise laws related to voting system testing and certification (Glimm, Carl )

**Status:** As Introduced - Revised

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Significant Local Gov Impact | <input type="checkbox"/> Needs to be included in HB 2  | <input type="checkbox"/> Technical Concerns              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Included in the Executive Budget        | <input type="checkbox"/> Significant Long-Term Impacts | <input type="checkbox"/> 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>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>

**Description of fiscal impact:** SB 482 revises laws and requirements relative to voting system testing and exemptions. This bill has no fiscal impact to the state but may have significant potential impact to counties.

### FISCAL ANALYSIS

**Assumptions:**

1. 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 its existing operating budget.

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

1. SB 482 requires Montana's counties to run HASH validation testing for all voting systems.
2. In order to run a HASH validation test, a county must own an Electionware hardened computer (\$10,000) and pay annual maintenance (\$5,000) and would need to purchase an additional hardened computer to run the HASH validation test.
3. Of Montana's 56 counties, 28 counties own an Electionware hardened computer and pay the maintenance costs of \$140,000 per year and would need and additional \$420,000 to comply with this bill (28 x \$10,000 for computers and 28 x \$5,000 for annual maintenance)


**Fiscal Note Request – As Introduced (Revised)**

*(continued)*

4. 18 counties do not own an Electionware hardened computer and would need to purchase at a cost of \$270,000 (\$180,000 for the computers and \$90,000 for annual maintenance.)
5. There are 10 counties that do not own tabulators. Costs associated with equipment purchases were not included in these calculations.
6. Total estimated costs for the equipment for applicable Montana counties is \$960,000.

<b>Equipment &amp; Maintenance Needed</b>	<b>Computer Costs</b>	<b>Ongoing Annual Maintenance Costs</b>	<b>Total Initial Costs</b>
28 counties - need 1 additional hardened computer	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 420,000.00
18 counties - need 1 Electionware hardened computer plus additional hardened computer	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 540,000.00
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$ 960,000.00</b>

**NO SPONSOR SIGNATURE**

\_\_\_\_\_ 4/4/23 \_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_ 4-3-23  
*Sponsor's Initials*                      *Date*                      *Budget Director's Initials*                      *Date*