



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF
BUDGET AND PROGRAM PLANNING

Fiscal Note 2025 Biennium

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|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| Bill information: | |
| SB0163 - Establish volunteer program in child protective services (Lenz, Dennis R) | |
| | |
| Status: | As Introduced |

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Significant Local Gov Impact | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Needs to be included in HB 2 | <input checked="" 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 Difference</u> | <u>FY 2025 Difference</u> | <u>FY 2026 Difference</u> | <u>FY 2027 Difference</u> |
|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Expenditures: | | | | |
| General Fund | \$889,086 | \$852,438 | \$865,225 | \$878,204 |
| Revenue: | | | | |
| General Fund | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Net Impact-General Fund Balance: | (\$889,086) | (\$852,438) | (\$865,225) | (\$878,204) |

Description of fiscal impact: SB 163 establishes a volunteer program within the Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS/the department) to support child protective services activities and requires the department to establish positions, supervision, and training for the volunteers. There is a fiscal impact to the department to supervise and train the volunteer program.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

Assumptions:

- Section 1 requires the department to establish and maintain a volunteer program to support child protective services. Section 1 (2)(c) requires the department to supervise the volunteers. There are 56 counties and 32 child protective offices across Montana. To supervise and recruit volunteers in the diverse communities, it is estimated to require 14.00 FTE supervisory positions. Each supervisor would supervise 5 to 10 volunteers. The following table includes the breakout of the supervisory locations by region:

| Area | Number of Supervisors | Reasoning |
|----------|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Region 1 | 3 | Region contains 18 counties and covers all of eastern Montana. |
| Region 2 | 2 | Region has one primary hub and is large with outlying areas |
| Region 3 | 2 | Region has one primary hub and is large with outlying areas |
| Region 4 | 3 | Region has three distinct hubs with distinct communities |
| Region 5 | 2 | Region has three hubs to cover however they are not as large as other Regions |
| Region 6 | 2 | Region has two distinct hubs |
| | 14 | Total FTE |

2. Salary and benefits for 1.00 FTE for an administrative support supervisor is estimated to be \$58,938 in FY 2024 and \$59,115 in FY 2025. Total salary and benefits for the 14.00 FTE is estimated at \$825,132 in FY 2024 and \$827,610 in FY 2025 (annual salary X 14.00 FTE). Annual costs for personal services are estimated to increase 1.5% in FY 2026 and FY 2027. A one-time only office set up cost is estimated at \$2,800 per FTE in FY 2024 and operating costs associated with the FTE are estimated at 3% of personal services.
3. Section 1(2)(d) of SB 163 requires the department to develop a training program and train the volunteers of the volunteer program. It is estimated to take 40 hours to develop an eight-hour training program to be delivered quarterly. Salary and benefits to develop and provide the volunteer training will be absorbed within in existing budget and FTE.
4. It is anticipated that the tasks assigned to volunteers would not be eligible for federal Title IV-E reimbursement, so the cost of the program would be funded with general fund dollars (see Technical Note 1, below).
5. The department is required to pay for workers compensation coverage for voluntary positions, based on the number of volunteer hours provided by each individual. The rate for non-driving duties is \$0.54/\$100 of payroll. The rate for driving duties is \$0.70/\$100 of payroll. Volunteer rates are calculated quarterly, based on the value of the duties if they were being provided by paid staff. There will be a cost to the department for this coverage, but it is unable to be determined until a volunteer program is implemented and volunteer hours are known.
6. The department can reimburse volunteers for uncompensated out-of-pocket expenses, including transportation, food, and lodging. The cost for this reimbursement is unable to be determined until a volunteer program is created and volunteers' areas of responsibility can be assigned.

| | <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> |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| <u>Fiscal Impact:</u> | | | | |
| FTE | 14.00 | 14.00 | 14.00 | 14.00 |
| <u>Expenditures:</u> | | | | |
| Personal Services | \$825,132 | \$827,610 | \$840,024 | \$852,625 |
| Operating Expenses | \$63,954 | \$24,828 | \$25,201 | \$25,579 |
| TOTAL Expenditures | <u>\$889,086</u> | <u>\$852,438</u> | <u>\$865,225</u> | <u>\$878,204</u> |
| <u>Funding of Expenditures:</u> | | | | |
| General Fund (01) | \$889,086 | \$852,438 | \$865,225 | \$878,204 |
| TOTAL Funding of Exp. | <u>\$889,086</u> | <u>\$852,438</u> | <u>\$865,225</u> | <u>\$878,204</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) | (\$889,086) | (\$852,438) | (\$865,225) | (\$878,204) |

Technical Notes:

1. Section 1(2)(a) states that volunteer duties may include clerical, transportation, administrative or professional responsibilities. The delivery of child protective services is covered by collective bargaining agreements. Volunteers cannot perform tasks that would normally fall to staff covered by those agreements when there are union staff ready, willing, and able to perform such duties. It is unclear what, if any, tasks could be assigned to volunteers that would not conflict with the collective bargaining agreements.

NO SPONSOR SIGNATURE

Sponsor's Initials

1/20/23
Date


Budget Director's Initials

1-18-23
Date