



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF  
BUDGET AND PROGRAM PLANNING

## Fiscal Note 2025 Biennium

**Bill information:**

SB0481 - Require cast vote records (Glimm, Carl )

**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>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>

**Description of fiscal impact:** This bill requires Montana's counties to generate, and store, the Cast Votes Record (CVR) for all elections. Although SB 481 has no fiscal impact to the Office of the Secretary of State, there is a fiscal impact to the counties to comply with the proposed legislation.

**FISCAL ANALYSIS****Assumptions:****Office of the Secretary of State**

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 the office's existing operating budget.

**Effect on County or Other Local Revenues or Expenditures:****Montana Association of Counties**

1. The proposed legislation requires Montana counties to generate, and store, the Cast Votes Record (CVR) for seven years.
2. In order to generate the CVR, each county must own an Electionware hardened computer (\$10,000) and pay an annual maintenance cost for the Electionware hardened computers (\$5,000).
3. Of Montana's 56 counties, 26 counties own the Electionware hardened computer and pay the maintenance costs of \$130,000 (26 x \$5,000) and 17 counties do not own the Electionware hardened computer. Total costs

to purchase the Electionware hardened computer are \$255,000 (\$170,000 for the computers and \$85,000 for annual maintenance).

4. Three counties could not be reached in time for this fiscal note. It is assumed these counties will also need to purchase the Electionware hardened computer. Total costs for these counties is \$45,000 (\$30,000 for the computers and \$15,000 for annual maintenance).
5. The bill indicates a requirements to produce a CVR in each election. Currently, 10 Montana counties do not own tabulators. Costs associated with purchasing a tabulators, and then complying with the CVR, were not included for these 10 counties.
6. The above costs do not include maintenance of tabulators or other technology needed, such as USB drives.

**NO SPONSOR SIGNATURE**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sponsor's Initials

2/28/23  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Budget Director's Initials

2-28-23  
Date