



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF  
BUDGET AND PROGRAM PLANNING

## Fiscal Note 2025 Biennium

**Bill information:**

SB0481 - Require cast vote records (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>FY 2025</u>	<u>FY 2026</u>	<u>FY 2027</u>
	<u>Difference</u>	<u>Difference</u>	<u>Difference</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**

- 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**

- The proposed legislation requires Montana counties to generate, and store, the Cast Votes Record (CVR) for seven years.
- In order to generate the CVR, each county must own an ES&S Electionware hardened computer as well as provide for the annual maintenance of the system. The costs per computer are as follows:
  - One Electionware hardened computer = \$10,000 (estimated tech replacement is once every 10 years)
  - Annual maintenance of Electionware hardened computer = \$5,000 (ongoing)
- Of Montana's 56 counties, 46 have tabulators and 10 hand count. The 10 hand count counties are excluded from these calculations.

4. Of the 46 counties with tabulators, 28 own and maintain an Electionware hardened computer capable of generating the CVR. However, 18 counties with tabulators do not have, or maintain, the required Electionware hardened computer and will need to purchase one as well as begin paying for annual maintenance.
5. Multiplying the 18 counties by the \$10,000 for the required Electionware hardened computer equals \$180,000, which is what will be needed every 10 years (the approximate timeline for tech replacement).
6. Multiplying the 18 counties by \$5,000 for the required maintenance on one Electionware hardened computer equals \$90,000, which is what will be required to be paid annually.
7. The total cost to the counties to implement SB 481 is \$270,000 (\$180,000 hardware + \$90,000 ongoing maintenance).

NO SPONSOR SIGNATURE

Sponsor's Initials

4/4/23

Date



Budget Director's Initials

4-3-23

Date