



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF
BUDGET AND PROGRAM PLANNING

Fiscal Note 2027 Biennium

Bill#/Title: SB0045.03: Create a judicial performance evaluation commission and system

Primary Sponsor: Tom McGillvray Status: As Amended in Senate Committee

☐ Included in the Executive Budget ☒ Needs to be included in HB 2 ☐ Significant Local Gov Impact
☐ Significant Long-Term Impacts ☒ Technical Concerns ☐ Dedicated Revenue Form Attached

FISCAL SUMMARY

	<u>FY 2026</u> <u>Difference</u>	<u>FY 2027</u> <u>Difference</u>	<u>FY 2028</u> <u>Difference</u>	<u>FY 2029</u> <u>Difference</u>
Expenditures				
General Fund (01)	\$161,631	\$156,631	\$158,980	\$161,364
Revenues				
General Fund (01)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Net Impact	<u>(\$161,631)</u>	<u>(\$156,631)</u>	<u>(\$158,980)</u>	<u>(\$161,364)</u>
General Fund Balance				

Description of fiscal impact

SB 45 creates a new judicial performance evaluation system that would be administratively attached to the Department of Justice. The department assumes an executive director position and associated expenses would be needed as a result of this new commission.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

Assumptions

Department of Justice

1. The Department of Justice (DOJ) assumes that the executive director position allowed by this bill will cost \$140,631 per fiscal year including benefits.
2. DOJ assumes \$11,000 in operating costs will be needed in FY 2026 for new office setup, computer, phone, fixed costs, travel, and training for the executive director position. For FY 2027, it is estimated that \$6,000 will be needed for ongoing expenses.
3. DOJ assumes an additional \$10,000 would be needed in the Central Services Division to support the human resources, payroll and fiscal functions of the commission.
4. The department assumes that an annual amount of \$25,000 will be needed to pay for the judicial performance survey contract.
5. An inflationary increase of 1.5% for personal services and operating costs has been added in FY 2028 and FY 2029.

Office of the Secretary of State

6. While there may be a minimal fiscal impact to include the judicial evaluation information in the voter information pamphlet, the Office of the Secretary of State can cover these costs within its existing operating budget.

Fiscal Analysis Table

	<u>FY 2026</u> <u>Difference</u>	<u>FY 2027</u> <u>Difference</u>	<u>FY 2028</u> <u>Difference</u>	<u>FY 2029</u> <u>Difference</u>
<u>Fiscal Impact</u>				
FTE	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
TOTAL Fiscal Impact	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
<u>Expenditures</u>				
Personal Services	\$140,631	\$140,631	\$142,740	\$144,881
Operating Expenses	\$21,000	\$16,000	\$16,240	\$16,483
TOTAL Expenditures	\$161,631	\$156,631	\$158,980	\$161,364
<u>Funding of Expenditures</u>				
General Fund (01)	\$161,631	\$156,631	\$158,980	\$161,364
TOTAL Funding of Expenditures	\$161,631	\$156,631	\$158,980	\$161,364
<u>Revenues</u>				
<u>Net Impact to Fund Balance (Revenue minus Funding of Expenditures)</u>				
General Fund (01)	(\$161,631)	(\$156,631)	(\$158,980)	(\$161,364)

Technical Concerns

- The amendments in Section 11 and 12 of SB 45 are being proposed under the Statewide Ballot Issues chapter of Title 13 of the Montana Code Annotated. The judicial evaluation information pamphlet does not relate to ballot issues.

Thomas M. Jellum 2-20-25
Sponsor's Initials Date

[Signature]
Budget Director's Initials

2/20/2025
Date