



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF
BUDGET AND PROGRAM PLANNING

Fiscal Note 2027 Biennium

Bill#/Title: **HB0224: Generally revise criminal law Prohibiting judges from seeking, accepting, or using political party endorsement**

Primary Sponsor: Ed Stafman Status: As Introduced

- ☐ 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)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Revenues				
General Fund (01)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Net Impact	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
General Fund Balance	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>

Description of fiscal impact

HB 224 prohibits a judge from seeking, accepting, or using a political party endorsement. There is no fiscal impact to the state.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

Assumptions

Judicial Branch

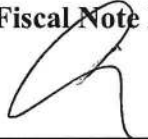
- HB 224 precludes a judge or judicial candidate from knowingly seeking, accepting, using, advertising, promoting, or otherwise knowingly seek to benefit from a contribution or endorsement from a political party. There is no impact to the Judicial Branch.

Commissioner of Political Practices (COPP)

- Current Montana election law in 13-35-part 2, MCA, prohibits political party committees from making campaign contributions to judicial candidates. HB 224 adds to these existing prohibitions. The Commissioner of Political Practices (COPP) has existing jurisdiction over enforcement of Title 13, chapter 35, part 2.
- COPP assumes that it could handle any additional duties or new obligations arising as a result of HB 224 with current levels of staff and budgeting.

Fiscal Note Request - As Introduced

(continued)



Sponsor's Initials

1/29/25

Date



Budget Director's Initials

1/20/2025

Date