



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF
BUDGET AND PROGRAM PLANNING

Fiscal Note 2027 Biennium

| | | | |
|------------------|----------------|---------|---|
| Bill # | HB 383 | Title: | Generally revise campaign finance laws to increase transparency |
| Primary Sponsor: | Lukas Schubert | 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 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 | \$90,000 | Unable to Determine | Unable to Determine | Unable to Determine |
| Revenue: | | | | |
| General Fund | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Net Impact-General Fund Balance: | <u>(\$90,000)</u> | <u>Unable to Determine</u> | <u>Unable to Determine</u> | <u>Unable to Determine</u> |

Description of fiscal impact: HB 383 would require Montana's Campaign Electronic Reporting System (CERS) to generate and store a unique URL or web address for each registration or report filed.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

Assumptions:

Commissioner of Political Practices (COPP)

1. The agency assumes that Montana's current electronic filing system, the Campaign Electronic Reporting System (CERS) will require a new database to store each unique URL or web address required under HB 383.
2. The CERS system would also need to be updated so that the public search function would include and link to each unique URL or web address required under HB 383.
3. Prior to implementation, any necessary CERS updates would need to undergo testing and compliance verification.
4. According to HB 383, all required updates to CERS would need to be completed prior to the bill effective date of July 1, 2025. It is not feasible to implement all updates by that date.
5. The agency estimates a total of \$90,000 to update and maintain the CERS system, estimates these technical updates to the system would require approximately 300 total hours of work, with a total estimated cost of

\$90,000. COPP assumes this would be a one-time project and these costs would all occur in FY 2026.

| | <u>FY 2026 Difference</u> | <u>FY 2027 Difference</u> | <u>FY 2028 Difference</u> | <u>FY 2029 Difference</u> |
|---|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <u>Fiscal Impact:</u> | | | | |
| FTE | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| <u>Expenditures:</u> | | | | |
| Personal Services | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Operating Expenses | \$90,000 | Unable to Determine | Unable to Determine | Unable to Determine |
| TOTAL Expenditures | <u>\$90,000</u> | <u>\$0</u> | <u>\$0</u> | <u>\$0</u> |
| <u>Funding of Expenditures:</u> | | | | |
| General Fund (01) | \$90,000 | Unable to Determine | Unable to Determine | Unable to Determine |
| TOTAL Funding of Exp. | <u>\$90,000</u> | <u>\$0</u> | <u>\$0</u> | <u>\$0</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) | (\$90,000) | Unable to Determine | Unable to Determine | Unable to Determine |

Technical Notes:

1. If HB 383 passes, the costs of maintaining the CERS system would likely increase each fiscal year, as providing a unique URL or web address for each document or filing made in the system increases the amount of data that needs to be stored. COPP is unable to determine what those costs would be at this time.
2. Having all required updates completed and usable by July 1, 2025, is not feasible.

NOT SIGNED BY SPONSOR

2/12/25

Sponsor's Initials

Date

Budget Director's Initials

Date