



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF
BUDGET AND PROGRAM PLANNING

Fiscal Note 2027 Biennium

Bill#/Title: **SB0040: Revise supreme court public records laws by opening deliberations and files to the public**

Primary Sponsor: Greg Hertz 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 Difference</u>	<u>FY 2027 Difference</u>	<u>FY 2028 Difference</u>	<u>FY 2029 Difference</u>
Expenditures				
General Fund (01)	\$25,728	\$25,728	\$26,114	\$26,506
Revenues				
General Fund (01)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Net Impact	<u>(\$25,728)</u>	<u>(\$25,728)</u>	<u>(\$26,114)</u>	<u>(\$26,506)</u>
General Fund Balance				

Description of fiscal impact

SB 40 requires closed meetings of the supreme court to be recorded by electronic means and for a written record of the meeting to be made. The Judicial Branch will incur costs related to producing the written record.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

Assumptions

Judicial Branch

1. Closed meetings of the supreme court include weekly court conferences and approximately 15 oral argument deliberations. Each meeting and oral argument deliberation lasts on average four hours.
2. The Judicial Branch assumes the written record will be produced in the fiscal year the closed meeting or deliberation occurred but will not be available to the public until the case that was subject to the closed deliberations becomes final.
3. The Judicial Branch assumes the written record will be provided by a court reporter who will transcribe the recordings of the closed meetings. The cost of the transcription will be at the statutorily established rate, which will be \$2.40 per page effective July 1, 2025.
4. The 52 weekly meetings and 15 oral arguments at four hours each will generate 268 hours of closed meetings that will require written record.
5. A one-hour long hearing generates an estimated 40 pages of transcripts.
6. There will be approximately 10,720 pages of transcripts to be produced each fiscal year (268 hours of meetings x 40 pages per hour).
7. The estimated cost of producing the written record of closed meetings in FY 2026 and FY 2027 will be \$25,728 each fiscal year (\$2.40 per page x 10,720 pages).
8. A 1.5% inflation factor is applied in FY 2028 and FY 2029.

Fiscal Analysis Table

Judiciary				
	FY 2026 Difference	FY 2027 Difference	FY 2028 Difference	FY 2029 Difference
<u>Fiscal Impact</u>				
<u>Expenditures</u>				
Operating Expenses	\$25,728	\$25,728	\$26,114	\$26,506
TOTAL Expenditures	\$25,728	\$25,728	\$26,114	\$26,506
<u>Funding of Expenditures</u>				
General Fund (01)	\$25,728	\$25,728	\$26,114	\$26,506
TOTAL Funding of Expenditures	\$25,728	\$25,728	\$26,114	\$26,506
<u>Revenues</u>				
<u>Net Impact to Fund Balance (Revenue minus Funding of Expenditures)</u>				
General Fund (01)	(\$25,728)	(\$25,728)	(\$26,114)	(\$26,506)

NO SPONSOR SIGNATURE

Sponsor's Initials

Date

1/24/25

Budget Director's Initials

1/24/2025

Date