



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF  
BUDGET AND PROGRAM PLANNING

## Fiscal Note 2027 Biennium

Bill#/Title: **SB0464.04 (001): Revise laws related to appointment of special advocates in abuse and neglect cases**

Primary Sponsor: Dennis Lenz Status: As Amended in House 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 Difference</u>	<u>FY 2027 Difference</u>	<u>FY 2028 Difference</u>	<u>FY 2029 Difference</u>
<b>Expenditures</b>				
General Fund (01)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Revenues</b>				
General Fund (01)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Net Impact</b>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
<b>General Fund Balance</b>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>

#### Description of fiscal impact

SB 464 revises laws related to the appointment of special advocates in child abuse and neglect proceedings. There will be no fiscal impact to the Judicial Branch.

### FISCAL ANALYSIS

#### Assumptions

##### Judiciary

1. SB 464, Section 1, replaces "court appointed special advocate" with "special advocate" in abuse and neglect proceedings. Special advocates will require specific training and cannot be compensated for the duties performed.
2. Section 1 (9) allows for a judge to appoint an attorney or other qualified person to perform special advocate duties at public expense if a special advocate is not available.
3. Under current statute Judicial Branch pays court appointed special advocates in abuse and neglect cases from funding established in 3-1-707, MCA as well as with general fund dollars appropriated in HB 2.
4. The Judicial Branch assumes that the judge will have to appoint an attorney or other qualified person at public expense in most cases due to the minimum qualifications and training requirements established in section 1. The Judicial Branch does not estimate a decrease or increase in expenditures related to this bill, therefore no fiscal impact to the Judicial Branch.

**NO SPONSOR SIGNATURE**

4/2/25



Sponsor's Initials

Date

Budget Director's Initials

4/2/2025

Date