



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF  
BUDGET AND PROGRAM PLANNING

## Fiscal Note 2027 Biennium

Bill#/Title: SB0014: Audit Office of Disciplinary Council

Primary Sponsor: Barry Usher

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>
<b>Expenditures</b>				
General Fund (01)	\$68,074	\$0	\$0	\$0
State Special Revenue (02)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Revenues</b>				
General Fund (01)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
State Special Revenue (02)	\$68,074	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Net Impact</b>	<u>(\$68,074)</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
<b>General Fund Balance</b>				

### Description of fiscal impact

SB 14 requires a one-time performance audit of the State Bar of Montana. The fiscal impact to the Judicial Branch is \$68,074.

### FISCAL ANALYSIS

#### Assumptions

##### Judicial Branch

1. This bill requires a one-time performance audit of the Office of Disciplinary Counsel with a final report due to the Law and Justice Interim Committee no later than December 15, 2026.
2. One-time general fund authority in the 2027 Biennium will be necessary to cover the costs of the audit.

##### Legislative Branch

1. The Legislative Audit Division (LAD) charges \$97.11 an hour for a performance audit. Based on past completed performance audits, LAD estimates the audit will take 701 hours for a cost of \$68,074.
2. This estimate uses the FY 2025 performance audit hourly billing rate. The performance audit hourly rate for the FY 2026 and FY 2027 fiscal years has not yet been developed, however, so all billing to the Judicial Branch will be updated with those rates.
3. The estimated \$68,074 cost of the performance audit paid by the Judicial Branch to LAD would be deposited in the state special revenue account of LAD.
4. LAD would conduct the one-time performance audit with existing resources, so no additional expenses are shown.

5. Depending on the timing of the audit, the actual revenue and expenses could be split between FY 2026 and FY 2027.

**Fiscal Analysis Table**

<b>Judiciary</b>				
	<u>FY 2026 Difference</u>	<u>FY 2027 Difference</u>	<u>FY 2028 Difference</u>	<u>FY 2029 Difference</u>
<b>Fiscal Impact</b>				
<b>Expenditures</b>				
Operating Expenses	\$68,074	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL Expenditures</b>	<b>\$68,074</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Funding of Expenditures</b>				
General Fund (01)	\$68,074	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL Funding of Expenditures</b>	<b>\$68,074</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Revenues</b>				
<b>Net Impact to Fund Balance (Revenue minus Funding of Expenditures)</b>				
General Fund (01)	(\$68,074)	\$0	\$0	\$0

<b>Legislative Branch</b>				
	<u>FY 2026 Difference</u>	<u>FY 2027 Difference</u>	<u>FY 2028 Difference</u>	<u>FY 2029 Difference</u>
<b>Fiscal Impact</b>				
<b>Expenditures</b>				
<b>Funding of Expenditures</b>				
<b>Revenues</b>				
State Special Revenue (02)	\$68,074	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL Revenues</b>	<b>\$68,074</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Net Impact to Fund Balance (Revenue minus Funding of Expenditures)</b>				
State Special Revenue (02)	\$68,074	\$0	\$0	\$0

<b>STATEWIDE SUMMARY</b>				
	<u>FY 2026 Difference</u>	<u>FY 2027 Difference</u>	<u>FY 2028 Difference</u>	<u>FY 2029 Difference</u>
<b>Fiscal Impact</b>				
<b>TOTAL Fiscal Impact</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>				
Operating Expenses	\$68,074	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL Expenditures</b>	<b>\$68,074</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Funding of Expenditures</b>				
General Fund (01)	\$68,074	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL Funding of Expenditures</b>	<b>\$68,074</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Revenues</b>				
State Special Revenue (02)	\$68,074	\$0	\$0	\$0

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(continued)

<b>TOTAL Revenues</b>	<u>\$68,074</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
<b>Net Impact to Fund Balance (Revenue minus Funding of Expenditures)</b>				
General Fund (01)	(\$68,074)	\$0	\$0	\$0
State Special Revenue (02)	<u>\$68,074</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>

**Technical Concerns**

1. The Office of Disciplinary Counsel is a part of the State Bar of Montana and not part of the Judicial Branch.

**NO SPONSOR SIGNATURE**

Sponsor's Initials

Date

11/7/25

Budget Director's Initials

12/31/2024

Date

