



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF  
BUDGET AND PROGRAM PLANNING

## Fiscal Note 2025 Biennium

**Bill information:**

SB0311 - Reduce the number of associate judges on the Supreme Court (Usher, Barry )

**Status:** As Introduced

- Significant Local Gov Impact     
  Needs to be included in HB 2     
  Technical Concerns  
 Included in the Executive Budget     
  Significant Long-Term Impacts     
  Dedicated Revenue Form Attached

### FISCAL SUMMARY

	<u>FY 2024 Difference</u>	<u>FY 2025 Difference</u>	<u>FY 2026 Difference</u>	<u>FY 2027 Difference</u>
<b>Expenditures:</b>				
General Fund	\$0	(\$105,542)	(\$214,342)	(\$326,123)
<b>Revenue:</b>				
General Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Net Impact-General Fund Balance:</b>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$105,542</u>	<u>\$214,342</u>	<u>\$326,123</u>

**Description of fiscal impact:** SB 311 reduces the number of associate justices on the Supreme Court from six to four over an extended number of years. Reducing the number of associate justices will reduce personnel and operating costs of the Supreme Court.

### FISCAL ANALYSIS

**Assumptions:****Judicial Branch**

- SB 311 reduces the number of Supreme Court associate justices from six to five in January 2025 and from five to four in January 2027.
- Personal services cost estimates are based on position detail data for an associate justice position contained in IBARS for FY 2025 and operating costs estimates are based on FY 2022 actual expenditures.
- In FY 2025 there will be personal services cost savings of \$105,116 (\$210,232 full year cost of elected official with benefits x .5).

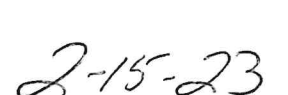
4. Operating cost savings for half the fiscal year are estimated at \$426, which includes SITSD voice services and Montana Report volumes.
5. Total cost savings in FY 2025 is \$105,542 (\$105,116 personals services + \$426 operating).
6. Estimated savings in FY 2026 is \$214,342 (\$210,323 annual personal services plus \$851 in annual operating costs; both personal services and operating are increased by 1.5% for inflation).
7. In FY 2027, there will be an additional cost savings related to the reduction of a second associate justice position.
8. Personal services cost savings in FY 2027 is estimated at \$324,808 (\$210,232 annual cost of associate justice position + \$105,116 half year cost of associate justice position increased by 3% for inflation).
9. Operating cost savings is estimated at \$1,315 (\$851 for a full year of operating costs plus \$426 for a half a year of operating costs increased by 3% for inflation).
10. Total cost savings in FY 2027 is estimated at \$326,123.

	<u>FY 2024</u> <u>Difference</u>	<u>FY 2025</u> <u>Difference</u>	<u>FY 2026</u> <u>Difference</u>	<u>FY 2027</u> <u>Difference</u>
<b><u>Fiscal Impact:</u></b>				
FTE	0.00	(0.50)	(1.00)	(1.50)
<b><u>Expenditures:</u></b>				
Personal Services	\$0	(\$105,116)	(\$213,478)	(\$324,808)
Operating Expenses	\$0	(\$426)	(\$864)	(\$1,315)
<b>TOTAL Expenditures</b>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>(\$105,542)</u>	<u>(\$214,342)</u>	<u>(\$326,123)</u>
<b><u>Funding of Expenditures:</u></b>				
General Fund (01)	\$0	(\$105,542)	(\$214,342)	(\$326,123)
<b>TOTAL Funding of Exp.</b>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>(\$105,542)</u>	<u>(\$214,342)</u>	<u>(\$326,123)</u>
<b><u>Revenues:</u></b>				
General Fund (01)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL Revenues</b>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
<b><u>Net Impact to Fund Balance (Revenue minus Funding of Expenditures):</u></b>				
General Fund (01)	\$0	\$105,542	\$214,342	\$326,123

  
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 Sponsor's Initials

  
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 Date

  
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 Budget Director's Initials

  
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 Date