

Fiscal Note 2027 Biennium

Bill#/Title:	SB0464.04 (00 neglect cases	1): Revise laws related	d to appointme	nt of special advoc	ates in abuse and
Primary Sponsor:	Dennis Lenz	4	Status:	As Amended in H	ouse 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 SU	JMMARY		
		FY 2026 Difference	FY 2027 Difference	FY 2028 Difference	FY 2029 Difference
Expenditures				<u> </u>	2000000
General Fund (0	1)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Revenues General Fund (01)		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Net Impact General Fund I	Balance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

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

- SB 464, Section1, 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.

Fiscal Note Request - As Amended in House Committee

(continued)

NO SPONSOR SIGNATURE
Sponsor's Initials

 $\frac{4/2/25}{\text{Date}}$

Budget Director's Initials

4/2/2025

Date