

JBC Staff Fiscal Analysis
Senate Appropriations Committee

Concerning the scope of the independent ethics commission's jurisdiction over ethics complaints against local governments, and, in connection therewith, expanding the independent ethics commission's jurisdiction to include school districts and special districts, and making an appropriation.

Prime Sponsors:

Representatives Story; Marshall
Senator Weissman

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Fiscal Impacts

Appropriation Already Added to Bill, No Amendment in Packet

General Fund Impact

Fiscal Note Status

The most recent Legislative Council Staff Revised Fiscal Note (attached) reflects the fiscal impact of the bill as of 04/16/25.

No Change: Attached LCS Fiscal Note accurately reflects the fiscal impact of the bill.

The reengrossed bill includes committee and floor amendments adopted on second reading in the House (04/25/25). Legislative Council Staff and JBC Staff agree that these amendments do not change the bill's fiscal impact.

Amendments in This Packet

None.

Current Appropriations Clause in Bill

The bill includes an appropriation clause that provides \$120,856 General Fund to the Judicial Department for FY 2025-26 for use by the Independent Ethics Commission and reappropriates \$23,939 to the Department of Law. The appropriation reflects 0.9 FTE.

Points to Consider

General Fund Impact

The Joint Budget Committee has proposed a budget package for FY 2025-26 based on the March 2025 Office of State Planning and Budgeting (OSPB) revenue forecast. The budget package includes \$18.2 million in set-asides for legislation outside of the package (see table below). The budget package accounts for the 15.0 percent reserve associated with the placeholders.

General Fund Appropriation Placeholders for Other 2025 Legislation	
Description	FY 2025-26 Appropriation
Juvenile diversion, deflection, or detention	\$10,000,000
General Assembly legislative priorities	6,521,739
Voter approved initiatives	1,700,000
Total	\$18,221,739

This bill requires a General Fund appropriation of \$120,856 for FY 2025-26, reducing the \$18.2 million set aside by the same amount.