

# FISCAL NOTE

**Bill #:** HB0181

**Title:** Individualized Braille literacy  
assessment for blind students

**Primary  
Sponsor:** Dave Lewis

**Status:** As Amended in House Education  
Committee

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Sponsor signature	Date	Chuck Swysgood, Budget Director	Date
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## Fiscal Summary

	<b><u>FY2002 Difference</u></b>	<b><u>FY2003 Difference</u></b>
<b>Expenditures:</b>		
General Fund	\$5,000	\$0
<b>Net Impact on General Fund Balance:</b>	<b>(\$5,000)</b>	<b>\$0</b>

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<b><u>Yes</u></b>	<b><u>No</u></b>		<b><u>Yes</u></b>	<b><u>No</u></b>	
X		Significant Local Gov. Impact	X		Technical Concerns
	X	Included in the Executive Budget		X	Significant Long-Term Impacts
	X	Dedicated Revenue Form Attached		X	Family Impact Form Attached

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## Fiscal Analysis

### ASSUMPTIONS:

1. Students attending Montana public schools who meet the definition of "Blind Student" under provisions of the HB 181 total 170. (This is the current number of students on the American Printing House for the Blind listing, which is maintained by the Montana School for the Deaf and Blind (MSDB), not including 25 students with visual impairment currently attending MSDB.)
2. The assessment requirements of the amended version of HB 181 do not exceed current federal requirements.
3. The Board of Public Education study commission in Section 6 is estimated to cost \$5,000 in the biennium. Actual costs would depend on the size of the commission and the number of meetings.
4. The MSDB currently provides instructional materials to school districts from the American printing house for the blind.

FISCAL IMPACT:

	<u>FY2002 Difference</u>	<u>FY2003 Difference</u>
<u>Expenditures:</u>		
Operating Expenses	\$5,000	\$0
<u>Funding:</u>		
General Fund (01)	\$5,000	\$0
<u>Net Impact to Fund Balance (Revenue minus Expenditure):</u>		
General Fund (01)	(\$5,000)	\$0

EFFECT ON COUNTY OR OTHER LOCAL REVENUES OR EXPENDITURES:

The requirements for districts contained in HB 181 do not exceed the current requirements in federal law.

TECHNICAL NOTES:

1. Although the assessment requirements of the amended version of HB 181 do not exceed current federal requirements, it may not result in the educational assessments of blind students unless additional funding is provided. If the Legislature desires to ensure that this work is completed by the school districts, Montana School for the Deaf and Blind estimates that two additional outreach staff would be needed to assist schools in performing the assessments of students. The cost for two outreach staff and related travel is estimated at \$69,000 per year.
2. Section 5 implies that any teacher who provides any educational services to students with disabilities receive special training. Special education teachers would need this training, but not necessarily all teachers that provided instruction to students.