



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF
BUDGET AND PROGRAM PLANNING

Fiscal Note 2015 Biennium

Bill #	HB0507	Title:	Generally revising management of wild buffalo and wild bison
Primary Sponsor:	Harris, Bill	Status:	As Introduced

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Significant Local Gov Impact | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Needs to be included in HB 2 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Technical Concerns |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Included in the Executive Budget | <input type="checkbox"/> Significant Long-Term Impacts | <input type="checkbox"/> Dedicated Revenue Form Attached |

FISCAL SUMMARY

	<u>FY 2014</u> <u>Difference</u>	<u>FY 2015</u> <u>Difference</u>	<u>FY 2016</u> <u>Difference</u>	<u>FY 2017</u> <u>Difference</u>
Expenditures:				
General Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
State Special Revenue	\$40,800	\$1,800	\$1,827	\$1,854
Federal Special Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Revenue:				
General Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
State Special Revenue	\$40,800	\$1,800	\$1,836	\$1,873
Federal Special Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Net Impact-General Fund Balance:	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>

Description of fiscal impact: HB 507 would require bison on land not contiguous with the boundaries of Yellowstone National Park to be treated as regular livestock where estray laws apply. The Department of Livestock would need the equipment and operational costs to handle estray bison, paid with per capita fee state special revenue dollars. HB 507 could jeopardize the department's federal funding for bison operations.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

Assumptions:

Department of Livestock

1. It is assumed that the USDA/APHIS federal funding will remain in the Department of Livestock for Cattle Health/Bison operations.
2. It is assumed that bison outside the contiguous area of the park would be livestock and treated as estray. The cost to capture, quarantine, and test these estray bison would be funded with per capita fee state special revenue.

3. The Brand Enforcement Division will have increased operational costs for managing estray bison outside the Greater Yellowstone contiguous region. Three areas within the state will require \$3,000 for portable panels to build bison corrals with a total cost of \$9,000. The division will also need two additional trailers at a cost of \$10,000 each to haul bison at a cost of \$20,000. A portable hydraulic chute capable of handling bison is necessary for disease testing at a cost of \$10,000.
4. The department estimates that there could be 18 estray bison that would require 20 days in accordance with existing estray laws holding with feed and related costs of \$1,800.
5. Operational costs for field and lab testing of estray bison could be provided by the DOL veterinarian and lab staff.
6. When bison are moved between counties that certification will be provided on-line.
7. It is assumed that negligible revenue will be derived from the sale or slaughter of these bison.
8. All operational costs are inflated by 1.5% per year in FY 2015 and FY 2016.

Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP)

9. FWP is currently developing a management plan for bison within Montana.
10. If this legislation passes, FWP will assume additional bison management duties that will require additional funding. FWP is unable to determine exactly what those responsibilities are for bison management in HB 507, and therefore cannot reasonably determine the fiscal impact.

Secretary of State

11. This bill will have minimal cost for postage and administrative duties related to tribal notifications in Section 21 of the bill. The Office of the Secretary of State does not receive general fund monies for office operations, but has agreed to assume the fiscal responsibility for this bill.

<i>Department of Livestock</i>	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017
<u>Fiscal Impact:</u>	<u>Difference</u>	<u>Difference</u>	<u>Difference</u>	<u>Difference</u>
<u>Expenditures:</u>				
Operating Expenses	\$1,800	\$1,800	\$1,827	\$1,854
Equipment	\$39,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
TOTAL Expenditures	<u>\$40,800</u>	<u>\$1,800</u>	<u>\$1,827</u>	<u>\$1,854</u>
<u>Funding of Expenditures:</u>				
State Special Revenue (02)	\$40,800	\$1,800	\$1,827	\$1,854
TOTAL Funding of Exp.	<u>\$40,800</u>	<u>\$1,800</u>	<u>\$1,827</u>	<u>\$1,854</u>
<u>Revenues:</u>				
State Special Revenue (02)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
TOTAL Revenues	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
<u>Net Impact to Fund Balance (Revenue minus Funding of Expenditures):</u>				
State Special Revenue (02)	(\$40,800)	(\$1,800)	(\$1,827)	(\$1,854)

Technical Notes:

1. Because of the statutory provisions of 15-24-922(3), MCA, state special revenue may not be available to fund the increased cost to implement this bill.
2. The majority of bison outside Yellowstone National Park are not in a year-round tolerance area, and therefore, as the bill is written, the bison are subject to the per capita fee. It is not clear how per capita fee will be assessed on estray bison from the contiguous area of the park.

3. The existing cooperative agreement with USDA/APHIS is to fund brucellosis disease control programs for wild bison as per 81-2-120, MCA. Section 4 lines 20-22 are struck. It is not clear whether such bison are domestic or wild on public or private lands. The USDA/APHIS may withdraw their disease control funding resulting in a loss of \$511,000 federal funds.
4. It is unknown where or if the department would be able to lease a northern facility for Yellowstone Park bison. If a lease is not available then the department would likely have to purchase land and facilities to conduct operations.
5. HB 507 makes the jurisdiction of Fish, Wildlife and Parks and the Department of Livestock unclear and alters the current management laws.

Sponsor's Initials

Date

Budget Director's Initials

Date