



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF
BUDGET AND PROGRAM PLANNING

Fiscal Note 2015 Biennium

Bill # HB0537

Title: Revising laws related to convening legislative sessions

Primary Sponsor: Hansen, Kris

Status: As Introduced

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Significant Local Gov Impact | <input 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 Difference</u>	<u>FY 2015 Difference</u>	<u>FY 2016 Difference</u>	<u>FY 2017 Difference</u>
Expenditures:				
General Fund	-----	Unknown	-----	-----
Revenue:				
General Fund	-----	Unknown	-----	-----
Net Impact-General Fund Balance:	-----	Unknown	-----	-----

Description of fiscal impact: The costs related to implementation of HB 537 cannot be reasonably determined by the Legislative Branch. There is no fiscal impact to the Secretary of State.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

Assumptions:

Legislative Branch

1. HB 537 revises laws related to the legislature and elections, including revising the legislative calendar to allow for interim training and work, revising legislator compensation laws, candidate filing deadlines, and provides for a legislative finance committee study of the budget process and changes necessary to implement a new schedule.
2. Section 1 of this bill changes the meeting times of the regular session of the legislature to convene in January for no more than six legislative days to organize its committees, adopt rules, make appointments, provide for training in joint committees, if desired, and organize for interim work. The legislature would then recess and reconvene on the first Monday of November in the odd numbered year to consider legislation and the upcoming biennial budget. It is assumed that the combined number of legislative days for

this regular session would not exceed 90 days, as provided in the Montana Constitution. It is unknown whether the new legislative calendar would include more breaks to account for any additional holidays. Statute provides for a maximum of four mileage allowances during a regular session, as provided in 5-2-301, MCA. This bill does not propose to change this section of statute. It is assumed that the costs related to the regular session would remain the same.

3. Section 6 of this bill requires that interim committees shall meet no more than three times each interim following the organizational meeting unless additional meetings are approved by the Legislative Council. Reducing the number of interim committee meetings to three each would decrease the Interim Committees and Activities budget by approximately 23%, or a reduction of \$289,604 from the 2015 biennium's proposed budget. During the second interim period, it is unknown due to elections, how often interim, select, or statutory committees would meet (and the above funds could be retained for that purpose).
4. The cost for a one-day meeting composed of eight members is \$3,414; the cost for a one-day meeting composed of 12 members is \$5,120; a one-day meeting for a 16 member committee is \$6,826.
5. Section 2 allows members of leadership to meet as necessary during a recess in a session as provided in 5-2-103, MCA. It also allows members of the House Appropriations Committee and of the Senate Finance and Claims Committee to meet during a recess to consider requests under their jurisdiction during a recess as provided in 5-2-103, MCA. It is unknown how many times these members may meet during the recess, and costs related to this activity cannot be reasonably determined. The appropriations that would provide for these costs would be from HB 1.
6. Although not enough information is known to reasonably determine the costs related to implementing HB 537, it is anticipated that decreased costs in HB 2 (Interim Committees and Activities Program budget) will shift to HB 1 (Feed Bill) for increased leadership and committee meetings as provided in Section 2 of this bill.
7. Section 8 of this bill requires the Legislative Finance Committee to make recommendations necessary to transition the budget cycle in Title 17 to accommodate the revised legislative calendar by Aug. 1, 2014. It is anticipated that this requirement will increase the workload of the Legislative Finance Committee and will impact their ability to complete other statutory duties. It is unknown how many additional meeting days would be needed to fulfill this requirement. This cost of a one-day meeting for the 12-member committee is \$5,120.
8. Section 8 also requires the Legislative Finance Committee to meet and consult with the Legislative Council on other procedural or rule changes necessary to implement the transition. For the purposes of this fiscal note, it is assumed that the Legislative Council will perform this duty within existing resources. The Legislative Services Division will evaluate resource needs after completing the first interim which includes the requirements of this bill.

Technical Notes:**Legislative Branch**

1. Section 4, subsection 4, of this bill requires that when making interim committee appointments, the appointing authority ensures that each first-term legislator is assigned to an interim committee unless the legislator is unable to serve. This requirement may preclude some second, third, or fourth-term legislators from serving on an interim committee.
2. Section 5 changes the duties of interim committees to include review of proposed legislation of legislators. If rules are not changed, it is unknown how many bills will be requested by a legislator. Depending on the number of bills requested, the Legislative Services Division will be drafting bills at the same time as staffing interim committees. This will require prioritization of duties and tasks by the Legislative Council and may preclude some responsibilities from being completed.

3. If HB 537 becomes law, it is possible for future legislatures to repeal it early in a subsequent session, reverting the legislative and interim calendars to the current process and calendar. This would require the state to adjust rapidly to the changing budget environment.

Sponsor's Initials

Date

Budget Director's Initials

Date