



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF
BUDGET AND PROGRAM PLANNING

Fiscal Note 2017 Biennium

Bill # HB0446

Title: Revise campaign finance laws to authorize attorney fees for prevailing party

Primary Sponsor: Wagoner, Kirk

Status: As Introduced

- Significant Local Gov Impact
 Needs to be included in HB 2
 Technical Concerns
 Included in the Executive Budget
 Significant Long-Term Impacts
 Dedicated Revenue Form Attached

FISCAL SUMMARY

	<u>FY 2016 Difference</u>	<u>FY 2017 Difference</u>	<u>FY 2018 Difference</u>	<u>FY 2019 Difference</u>
Expenditures:				
General Fund		----- Unknown -----		
Revenue:				
General Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Net Impact-General Fund Balance:	=====	=====	=====	=====

Description of fiscal impact: The state would be required to pay “reasonable attorney fees and costs” if it lost an enforcement action against it in district court under Title 13, chapter 35 or chapter 37, MCA.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

Assumptions:

- The outcome of legal actions taken by the Commissioner of Political Practices cannot be predicted. If a plaintiff or defendant were to prevail in the legal action involving the state, the Commissioner of Political Practices, or a county attorney under Title 13, Chapter 35 or Chapter 37, MCA, that party would be entitled to reasonable attorney fees and costs. The average estimate of such fees and costs is \$64,000. However, the fiscal impact is unknown until after the resolution of each affected case.

Technical Note:

- Reasonable attorney fees and costs in Section 1 are not defined.

Sponsor's Initials

Date

Budget Director's Initials

Date