

Program Proposed Budget								
Budget Item	Base Budget Fiscal 1998	PL Base Adjustment Fiscal 2000	New Proposals Fiscal 2000	Total Leg. Budget Fiscal 2000	PL Base Adjustment Fiscal 2001	New Proposals Fiscal 2001	Total Leg. Budget Fiscal 2001	Total Leg. Budget Fiscal 00-01
FTE	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Operating Expenses	13,992	3,274	0	17,266	3,201	0	17,193	34,459
Total Costs	\$13,992	\$3,274	\$0	\$17,266	\$3,201	\$0	\$17,193	\$34,459
State/Other Special	13,992	3,274	0	17,266	3,201	0	17,193	34,459
Total Funds	\$13,992	\$3,274	\$0	\$17,266	\$3,201	\$0	\$17,193	\$34,459

**Agency Description**

The Montana Chiropractic Legal Panel reviews all malpractice claims or potential claims against chiropractic physicians to: a) prevent, when possible, filed court actions against chiropractic physicians for professional liability in situations where the facts do not permit at least a reasonable inference of malpractice; and b) make possible the fair and equitable disposition of such claims against chiropractic physicians that are or reasonably may be well founded (Title 27, Chapter 12, MCA). A panel, consisting of three chiropractic physicians licensed in Montana and three attorneys who are members of the State Bar Association of Montana, is appointed to review each malpractice claim or potential claim. The panel is managed by a director appointed by the executive director of the Montana Chiropractic Association.

**Summary of Legislative Action**

This program received a supplemental appropriation in fiscal 1998 totaling \$1,000 to bring its fiscal 1998 appropriation to \$15,000. The increase was due to an increase in the number of claims filed. (The panel ultimately did not spend any of the supplemental.) The panel expended \$5,032 in fiscal 1997. Therefore, expenditures of \$13,992 were almost three times the panel's previous year expenditure.

The panel cannot predict the number of cases filed or, therefore, its expenditures in any given year. In the 2001 biennium, the legislature provided expenditure authority of over \$17,000 each year to provide for an expansion of current activity.

Agency Budget Comparison								
Budget Item	Base Budget Fiscal 1998	Executive Budget Fiscal 2000	Legislative Budget Fiscal 2000	Leg - Exec. Difference Fiscal 2000	Executive Budget Fiscal 2001	Legislative Budget Fiscal 2001	Leg - Exec. Difference Fiscal 2001	Biennium Difference Fiscal 00-01
FTE	.00	.00	.00		.00	.00		
Operating Expenses	13,992	17,266	17,266	0	17,193	17,193	0	0
Total Costs	\$13,992	\$17,266	\$17,266	\$0	\$17,193	\$17,193	\$0	\$0
State/Other Special	13,992	17,266	17,266	0	17,193	17,193	0	0
Total Funds	\$13,992	\$17,266	\$17,266	\$0	\$17,193	\$17,193	\$0	\$0

**Executive Budget Comparison**

The legislature adopted the budget as proposed by the executive.

**Funding**

The Montana Chiropractic Legal panel is funded through state special revenue funds derived from annual assessments levied on all chiropractic physicians. The amount of the assessment is annually set by the director and equally assessed against all chiropractic physicians.

Present Law Adjustments		Fiscal 2000	Fiscal 2000	Fiscal 2000	Fiscal 2001	Fiscal 2001	Fiscal 2001
Present Law Description		FTE	General Fund	Total Funds	FTE	General Fund	Total Funds
Statewide Present Law							
	Inflation/Deflation			21			21
	Fixed Costs			64			86
	Total Statewide Adjustments			\$85			\$107
Present Law Adjustments							
11	Panel Operating Costs	.00	0	3,189	.00	0	3,094
	Total PL Adjustments	.00	\$0	\$3,189	.00	\$0	\$3,094
	Present Law Adjustments Total			\$3,274			\$3,201

**Present Law Adjustments**

The table above shows the changes made by the legislature to the adjusted base budget. Statewide adjustments are standard categories of adjustments globally applied by the legislature to all agencies. The other numbered adjustments in the table correspond to the narrative descriptions.

DP 11 - Panel Operating Costs - All functions of the panel are conducted through contract services. The legislature includes an increase in contract services, travel, and audit fees in anticipation of increased activity. The level of activity will depend upon the number of cases filed, which cannot be predicted.