



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF
BUDGET AND PROGRAM PLANNING

Fiscal Note 2021 Biennium

Bill # SB0350

Title: Encourage lap-shoulder belts on school buses

Primary Sponsor: Cohenour, Jill

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 2020 Difference</u>	<u>FY 2021 Difference</u>	<u>FY 2022 Difference</u>	<u>FY 2023 Difference</u>
Expenditures:				
General Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Revenue:				
General Fund	\$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: There is no state fiscal impact related to SB 350.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

Assumptions:

- SB 350 encourages school districts to equip school buses with three-point lap-shoulder belts. All costs for seat belts in school buses are the expense of the school district and not the responsibility of the state; therefore, there is no state cost related to this bill.
- The fees addressed in this bill are currently not assessed to school districts, so would have no effect on school districts.

Effect on County or Other Local Revenues or Expenditures:

- The cost of installing seat belts in new school buses is an additional \$7,000 - \$12,000 depending upon the capacity, optional content of the bus, make, and model of the school bus. There is no way for the OPI to estimate how many school buses would be purchased with lap-shoulder belts because of this legislation.
- Some school districts purchase buses with three-point lap-shoulder belts already. Three-point lap-shoulder belts are optionally allowed in the Montana School Bus Standards.

3. While the bill relinquishes financial liability to the school district, county, bus driver, and employee if a student fails to comply with the district policy to wear the lap-shoulder belt, school districts may feel compelled to add a bus aide to ensure students comply with the district policy at an additional cost.

Technical Notes:

1. This bill allows for limited liability for school districts who publicly adopt a lab-shoulder belt policy. However, the language in the bill does not clarify if the intention is to include school bus contractors in the limited liability language as well.
2. This bill provides for a reduction in fees assessed with 61-3-529, MCA; however, school districts currently do not pay the fee included in that section of statute.

NO SPONSOR SIGNATURE

Sponsor's Initials

Date

TL

Budget Director's Initials

3/27/19

Date