



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF  
BUDGET AND PROGRAM PLANNING

## Fiscal Note 2023 Biennium

**Bill #** HB0648

**Title:** Generally revise natural resource laws

**Primary Sponsor:** Kassmier, Joshua

**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 2022</u> <u>Difference</u>	<u>FY 2023</u> <u>Difference</u>	<u>FY 2024</u> <u>Difference</u>	<u>FY 2025</u> <u>Difference</u>
<b>Expenditures:</b>				
General Fund	\$45,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Revenue:</b>				
General Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Net Impact-General Fund Balance:</b>	<u>(\$45,000)</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>

**Description of fiscal impact:** HB 648 generally revises natural resource laws and creates two natural resource investigation programs. The two programs are a program at the Department of Commerce to determine the existence of economically viable markets to reuse coal ash, and a program at the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology to establish a hydrocarbon and geology investigation program.

### FISCAL ANALYSIS

#### Assumptions:

- Section 1 of the bill states that the hydrocarbon and geology investigation program at the Bureau of Mines and Geology is for determining the existence of oil and gas deposits in the state and may start the investigation once it has determined it has sufficient funds to do so.
- Section 2 of the bill states that the Department of Commerce shall establish a coal ash market investigation program and may start the investigation once it has determined it has sufficient funds to do so.
- Section 3 of the bill appropriates \$25,000 to the Department of Commerce and \$20,000 to the Bureau of Mines and Geology.
- The Industry Development Program (IDP) at the Department of Commerce would conduct this analysis. IDP has previously conducted investigative work into potential uses of the coal ash deposits in Colstrip and could begin at the beginning of FY 2022 with the investigation requested by HB 648.

5. The \$45,000 funding provided by this bill would be used for research expenditures.

	<u>FY 2022</u> <u>Difference</u>	<u>FY 2023</u> <u>Difference</u>	<u>FY 2024</u> <u>Difference</u>	<u>FY 2025</u> <u>Difference</u>
<b><u>Expenditures:</u></b>				
Operating Expenses	\$25,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
Transfers	\$20,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL Expenditures</b>	<b>\$45,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b><u>Funding of Expenditures:</u></b>				
General Fund (01)	\$45,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL Funding of Exp.</b>	<b>\$45,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b><u>Revenues:</u></b>				
General Fund (01)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL Revenues</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b><u>Net Impact to Fund Balance (Revenue minus Funding of Expenditures):</u></b>				
General Fund (01)	(\$45,000)	\$0	\$0	\$0

SK  
Sponsor's Initials
3-25-21  
Date
KA  
Budget Director's Initials
3-24-21  
Date