



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF  
BUDGET AND PROGRAM PLANNING

## Fiscal Note 2023 Biennium

**Bill #** HB0328

**Title:** Provide guidelines for assessing language development in deaf children

**Primary Sponsor:** Keogh, Connie

**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 Difference</u>	<u>FY 2023 Difference</u>	<u>FY 2024 Difference</u>	<u>FY 2025 Difference</u>
<b>Expenditures:</b>				
General Fund	\$11,763	\$5,418	\$5,499	\$5,581
<b>Revenue:</b>				
General Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Net Impact-General Fund Balance:</b>	<u>(\$11,763)</u>	<u>(\$5,418)</u>	<u>(\$5,499)</u>	<u>(\$5,581)</u>

**Description of fiscal impact:** HB 328 indicates that the Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) would be responsible for the selection of a language and literacy development developmental assessment tool, and administration of that assessment to children who are deaf and hard of hearing. This results in added costs and services provided by the five current IDEA Part C contracts, as well as IDEA Part C system modifications to capture and report related data and information. The general fund cost would be \$17,181 for the 2023 biennium.

### FISCAL ANALYSIS

#### Assumptions:

#### **Department of Health and Human Services (DPHHS)**

- Contracted cost estimates are based on the current number of children served who are deaf and hard of hearing statewide. There are currently 20 qualifying children. Each child would receive an administered assessment twice per year (one initial assessment and one update) by qualified professionals via one of five existing contractors. The assessment models indicate what "qualified professional" means with respect to each tool, but is generally an occupational therapist, school psychologist, or a master's degree level social worker. This

**Fiscal Note Request – As Introduced**

*(continued)*

- cost is estimated at \$45.00 per hour, each of the 40 assessments being estimated to require one hour in duration for a total annual cost of \$1,800. The estimated rate of \$45.00 per hour is based on an average hourly benefit rate for different types of qualified professionals.
2. In-person professional interpreter services are needed to meet the requirements of HB 328. These services are estimated at \$50.00 per hour, the duration of each assessment being estimated one hour. The annual cost for a professional interpreter for each assessment would be \$2,000.
  3. In person facilitation with a “qualified professional” is estimated to be needed in certain cases. Cost estimates include mileage reimbursement for four 300-mile trips at the mileage rate of \$0.575 for travel from Miles City to Billings for an annual cost of \$690.
  4. A new assessment tool that meets the criteria of HB 328 would be acquired by DPHHS with an estimated one-time operating cost of \$3,173 in FY 2022 and \$928 in ongoing operating costs for annual materials updates and maintenance.
  5. DPHHS must prepare an annual report regarding language and literacy development in deaf and hard-of-hearing children from birth to three years of age. This will require one-time costs for system and report modifications, estimated at 50 hours at a rate of \$82.00 per hour for a total of \$4,100.
  6. Ongoing costs are inflated 1.5% per year in FY 2024 and FY 2025.
  7. These children are currently being referred to the Montana School for the Deaf and Blind (MSDB) and DPHHS would continue to refer them to MSDB after the assessments.

	<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>Fiscal Impact:</u></b>				
<b><u>Expenditures:</u></b>				
Operating Expenses	\$7,273	\$928	\$942	\$956
Benefits	\$4,490	\$4,490	\$4,557	\$4,625
<b>TOTAL Expenditures</b>	<u>\$11,763</u>	<u>\$5,418</u>	<u>\$5,499</u>	<u>\$5,581</u>
<b><u>Funding of Expenditures:</u></b>				
General Fund (01)	\$11,763	\$5,418	\$5,499	\$5,581
<b>TOTAL Funding of Exp.</b>	<u>\$11,763</u>	<u>\$5,418</u>	<u>\$5,499</u>	<u>\$5,581</u>
<b><u>Revenues:</u></b>				
General Fund (01)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL Revenues</b>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
<b><u>Net Impact to Fund Balance (Revenue minus Funding of Expenditures):</u></b>				
General Fund (01)	(\$11,763)	(\$5,418)	(\$5,499)	(\$5,581)

**NOT SIGNED BY SPONSOR**

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Sponsor's Initials

2/16/21  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

KA  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Budget Director's Initials

2/15/21  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date