



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF
BUDGET AND PROGRAM PLANNING

Fiscal Note 2023 Biennium

Bill #	HB0637	Title:	Generally revise fish, wildlife, and parks laws
Primary Sponsor:	Berglee, Seth	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 2021</u> <u>Difference</u>	<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>
Expenditures:					
General Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
State Special Revenue	\$0	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000
Federal Special Revenue	\$0	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000
Revenue:					
General Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
State Special Revenue	\$5,472	\$5,388	\$5,276	\$5,136	\$4,996
Federal Special Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Net Impact-General Fund Balance:	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>

Description of fiscal impact: HB 637 revises several laws related to Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP). There are two sections of this bill which have a fiscal impact: Section 5 and Section 21. Section 5 changes current statute regarding the nonresident Class D-4 hound license; it reduces the price, increases the annual number of these licenses the department can sell, and adds the requirement for nonresidents hunting with aid of a dog or dogs who are not the handler of the dog or dogs to purchase a Class D-4 license. Section 21 creates statute that allows FWP to purchase pheasants to be released on state lands and establishes appropriations for this activity.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

Assumptions:

1. The effective date of this bill is May 15, 2021, except section 4 which is effective March 1, 2022.
2. Current statute allows nonresidents with a mountain lion hunting license to hunt with the aid of a dog or dogs with the purchase of a Class D-4 hound handler license. If the nonresident is hunting with an outfitter, they are not required to purchase the Class D-4 hound handler license.
3. This bill increases the number of Class D-4 licenses the department may sell annually from 35 to 50.

4. This bill changes the base price of a Class D-4 license from \$500 to \$250 and removes the CPI price adjustment.
5. This bill changes the name of the license from ‘Class D-4 hound handler license’, to ‘Class D-4 hound license.’ This would require nonresident hunters who are hunting with the aid of a dog or dogs who are not the handler of the dog or dogs to purchase the Class D-4 license.
6. This bill adds that nonresidents who are landowners with 640 contiguous acres are not required to purchase the Class D-4 hound license.
7. The department does not know how many current nonresident mountain lion hunters are hunting with the of a dog or dogs who are not the handler of the dog or dogs and how many nonresident mountain lion hunters own 640 or more contiguous acres. Therefore, for the purposes of this fiscal note, the department assumes Class D-4 hound licenses will sell all 50 available licenses for FY 2022 through FY 2025.
8. In 2020, the department sold 14 Class D-4 hound handler licenses and 270 nonresident mountain lion hunting licenses.
9. Of the 270 nonresident mountain lion hunters the department does not know how many hunted with an outfitter, with the aid of a dog or dogs, or are landowners who own 640 or more contiguous acres. Therefore, for the purposes of this fiscal note, the department assumes Class D-4 hound licenses will sell all 50 available licenses for FY 2022 through FY 2025.
10. The below table shows the estimated revenue for current statute, the proposed law, and the net revenue increase.

	Quantity	Revenue				
		2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Current Law	14	\$ 7,028	\$ 7,112	\$ 7,224	\$ 7,364	\$ 7,504
Proposed Law	50	\$ 12,500	\$ 12,500	\$ 12,500	\$ 12,500	\$ 12,500
Net Revenue		\$ 5,472	\$ 5,388	\$ 5,276	\$ 5,136	\$ 4,996

11. This bill also creates an appropriation for the purchase of pheasants to be released on state lands. The appropriation is \$1 million, \$500,000 of which is state special revenue and \$500,000 of which is federal special revenue funds.
12. The department will develop an MOU with the Montana Correctional Enterprises (MCE) of the Department of Corrections to establish a pheasant raising program.
13. In FY 2022 FWP will purchase equipment and supplies necessary to start the program and purchase approximately 12,500 pheasants to be released depending on cost per bird.
14. FWP will purchase annually approximately 50,000 pheasants to be released depending on cost per bird.

Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

15. HB 637 revises 61-12-401, MCA, by adding the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks game wardens to a list of law enforcement entities allowed to take an abandoned vehicle and authorize the person hired to remove the abandoned vehicle to seek reimbursement from DEQ.
16. Abandoned vehicle towing reimbursement and process are already accounted for in the Administrative Rules of Montana and authorized under the Montana Motor Vehicle Recycling and Disposal Act.
17. DEQ would utilize existing staff, processes, and funding sources to administer the proposed changes in HB 637.

	<u>FY 2021</u> <u>Difference</u>	<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>
<u>Fiscal Impact:</u>					
<u>Expenditures:</u>					
Operating Expenses	\$0	\$385,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
Equipment	\$0	\$615,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
TOTAL Expenditures	\$0	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
<u>Funding of Expenditures:</u>					
General Fund (01)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
State Special Revenue (02)	\$0	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000
Federal Special Revenue (03)	\$0	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000
TOTAL Funding of Exp.	\$0	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
<u>Revenues:</u>					
General Fund (01)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
State Special Revenue (02)	\$5,472	\$5,388	\$5,276	\$5,136	\$4,996
Federal Special Revenue (03)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
TOTAL Revenues	\$5,472	\$5,388	\$5,276	\$5,136	\$4,996
<u>Net Impact to Fund Balance (Revenue minus Funding of Expenditures):</u>					
General Fund (01)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
State Special Revenue (02)	\$5,472	(\$494,612)	(\$494,724)	(\$494,864)	(\$495,004)
Federal Special Revenue (03)	\$0	(\$500,000)	(\$500,000)	(\$500,000)	(\$500,000)

SMB
Sponsor's Initials

17 Nov 21
Date

KA
Budget Director's Initials

3-17-21
Date