



*The Big Sky Country*

## MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

### SPONSOR'S REBUTTAL TO FISCAL NOTE

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**House Bill Number:** HB287

**Date Prepared:** 2/11/21

**Short Title:** Provide that state pays postage for absentee ballot return

**Sponsor:** Rep Kelly Kortum

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#### **Generally, why do you disagree with the fiscal note?**

The note included postage for local mail ballot elections, which should not be included. The "Description of fiscal impact" and "Long-Term Impacts" cites a different funding source than referred to in the bill.

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#### **Specifically, what in the fiscal note do you feel is flawed?**

The bill specifies that this would apply to "absentee ballots", which are almost always for statewide/federal elections. The fiscal note includes estimated costs for "mail ballot" elections, which are almost always local elections.

Additionally, the bill specifies that the funds would be appropriated by the legislature for the purpose of this bill, and not from the SoS registration and filing fees as stated in the Fiscal Note.

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#### **What is your estimate of the fiscal impact?**

Remove the local elections from the fiscal note results in:

	Single Page	DBL Page	Single Page	DBL Page
	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
Ballots Fed	293,081	484,180	298,943	493,864
Total Cost	\$180,538	\$460,939	\$184,149	\$470,158

**Sponsor Signature:**

*KK*