



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF
BUDGET AND PROGRAM PLANNING

Fiscal Note 2025 Biennium

Bill information:

HB0243 - Revise hunter education laws (Marler, Marilyn)

Status: As Amended in House Committee

- 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 2024</u> <u>Difference</u>	<u>FY 2025</u> <u>Difference</u>	<u>FY 2026</u> <u>Difference</u>	<u>FY 2027</u> <u>Difference</u>
Expenditures:				
General Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
State Special Revenue	\$100,877	\$201,754	\$204,780	\$207,852
Federal Special Revenue	\$302,631	\$605,262	\$614,341	\$623,556
Revenue:				
General Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
State Special Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Federal Special Revenue	\$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: HB 243 adds the requirement that all hunters and bow hunters born after 01/01/1985, completing an online education course, must complete an in-person field day. For the hunter's education course, the field day must include firearm safety training. The effective date of the bill January 1, 2024, so FY 2024 reflects one half of the fiscal year.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

Assumptions:

1. The Department of Fish Wildlife and Parks (FWP) offers Hunters Education (HE) and Bow Hunters Education (BHE) courses online and in-person to the public.
2. For those students taking the in-person course the field day portion is included in the course work.
3. Online courses do not require the field day, but students can elect to attend one.
4. HB 243 requires all students taking a Montana online hunters education course to attend an in-person field day if they were born after January 1, 1985.
5. The FWP relies on volunteer instructors to carry out in-person courses.

6. In 2019 there were over 800 volunteers to provide these services, but the current volunteer pool has shrunk to 308 full time volunteers and 84 part time volunteers for this program. The current pool is barely sufficient to complete the in-person courses.
7. In FY 2022 there were 7,252 students that completed an online hunter education course.
8. Based on best practice for firearms and bow safety training, field days would be limited to 5 students per instructor amounting to an additional 396 field days annually in different locations around the state.
9. FWP will need to add FTE to meet the new statutory requirements as the volunteer pool is not sufficient.
10. Due to the number of class sizes and the locations across the state it is assumed that 8.00 FTE will be necessary to implement the change in law.
11. The effective date of the bill is January 1, 2024. Therefore, the FY 2024 expenditures are shown at half of a full year's expenditures.
12. Personal service costs for these 8.00 FTE will be \$647,562 for FY 2025 (half that in FY 2024).
13. A 1.5% per year inflation factor is applied for FY 2026 and FY 2027.

	<u>FY 2024</u> <u>Difference</u>	<u>FY 2025</u> <u>Difference</u>	<u>FY 2026</u> <u>Difference</u>	<u>FY 2027</u> <u>Difference</u>
<u>Fiscal Impact:</u>				
FTE	4.00	8.00	8.00	8.00
<u>Expenditures:</u>				
Personal Services	\$323,781	\$647,562	\$657,275	\$667,135
Operating Expenses	\$79,727	\$159,454	\$161,846	\$164,273
TOTAL Expenditures	\$403,508	\$807,016	\$819,121	\$831,408
<u>Funding of Expenditures:</u>				
General Fund (01)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
State Special Revenue (02)	\$100,877	\$201,754	\$204,780	\$207,852
Federal Special Revenue (03)	\$302,631	\$605,262	\$614,341	\$623,556
TOTAL Funding of Exp.	\$403,508	\$807,016	\$819,121	\$831,408
<u>Revenues:</u>				
General Fund (01)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
State Special Revenue (02)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Federal Special Revenue (03)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
TOTAL Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<u>Net Impact to Fund Balance (Revenue minus Funding of Expenditures):</u>				
General Fund (01)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
State Special Revenue (02)	(\$100,877)	(\$201,754)	(\$204,780)	(\$207,852)
Federal Special Revenue (03)	(\$302,631)	(\$605,262)	(\$614,341)	(\$623,556)

mm
Sponsor's Initials

3-29-23
Date

[Signature]
Budget Director's Initials

3-29-23
Date