

General Fund Status Sheet Rules

Adopted by the Legislative Finance Committee – Management Work Group

1. What statutory appropriations are to be used?

Recommendation: Use the legislative estimates calculated by the LFD.

2. What reversion estimates are to be used?

Recommendation: Use 0.3% of the total estimated annual general fund appropriation as calculated by the LFD.

3. How should the impact of bills be developed if the LFD disagrees with the fiscal note or if the bill is amended without a new fiscal note?

Recommendation:

When the LFD has a material difference of fact or legal interpretation from the executive fiscal note or other major policy issue, the LFD will inform the sponsor of the bill, all members of the LFC, and the chairs and vice chairs, including minority vice chairs of Senate Finance and Claims, House Appropriations, Senate Tax and House Tax of these material differences in writing.

LFD will follow the 65th Legislative Session SJ 1, Section 40-100 (12) as required.

4. If bills impact the guarantee account or school funding, should the general fund impact be shown on the status sheet?

Recommendation: The general fund status sheet should include any impact of those school funding items as anticipated 2019 appropriations. Statute (17-7-301, MCA) allows for certain school funding items not to be subject to reductions when fiscal year transfers occur.

5. If revenue bills impact property taxes, should the impact on the 6-mill levy be shown as a general fund impact?

Recommendation: The 6-mill levy impact would be shown as a “potential” general fund impact.

6. When should bills be placed on the status sheet?

Recommendation: After positive executive action in any committee.

7. How should duplicate or similar bills be reflected on the status sheet?

Recommendation: Show the impact of the most significant bill and footnote the duplicate(s) or similar bill(s).

8. How should bills that are **re-referred** to a second committee be reflected on the status?

Recommendation: If **re-referred in the first house**, do not show the impact of the bill until positive executive action has occurred in the second committee. If a bill has already been transmitted to the second house and a re-referral occurs in the 2nd house, the bill remains on the status sheet.

9. Should the general fund balance sheet show the required ending fund per 17-7-140?

Recommendation: The statutorily required percentage will only be included in the footnote section on the general fund balance sheet in the event that the ending fund balance nears the statutory minimum.

10. How should bills that have significant “potential” appropriations with similar revenue impacts be shown?

Recommendation: In the past, the balance sheet has reflected both the revenue and “potential” appropriation until such time an appropriation is made in HB 2 or in the bill.

11. Should staff show a reduction in revenue if the Department of Revenue’s budget is reduced?

Recommendation: The department has argued that there is a direct impact on revenues if their budget is reduced. DOR’s recent data uses an agency wide approach resulting in a ratio of 6.3:1. During the 2011 session the value of the range 3:1 to 6:1 was recorded in the footnote section of the GF status sheet.

12. If a fiscal impact is known to be effective through FY 2021 or longer, should it be considered ongoing?

Recommendation: If fiscal impacts continue through FY 2021 LFD will consider the impacts ongoing and provide an explanation of risk in the footnoted section of the status sheet.

13. How should the biennial appropriation be shown?

Recommendation: Use the parameters for the biennial appropriations as written in the bill, unless unstated, then the biennial appropriations will be split equally between the two years of the biennium.

14. How should fiscal impacts of bills that appear to have stalled in the legislative process appear on the status sheet?

Recommendation: The number of days in committee will be shown for each bill.