



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF
BUDGET AND PROGRAM PLANNING

Fiscal Note 2027 Biennium

Bill#/Title: **HB0910.01: Provide for taxation of vapor products**

Primary Sponsor: **Mary Caferro**

Status: **As Introduced**

☐ Included in the Executive Budget

☒ Needs to be included in HB 2

☐ Significant Local Gov Impact

☐ Significant Long-Term Impacts

☐ Technical Concerns

☐ Dedicated Revenue Form Attached

FISCAL SUMMARY

	<u>FY 2026 Difference</u>	<u>FY 2027 Difference</u>	<u>FY 2028 Difference</u>	<u>FY 2029 Difference</u>
Expenditures				
General Fund (01)	\$170,164	\$166,657	\$168,844	\$171,070
State Special Revenue (02)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Revenues				
General Fund (01)	\$689,000	\$2,897,000	\$3,048,500	\$3,207,500
State Special Revenue (02)	\$689,000	\$2,897,000	\$3,048,500	\$3,207,500
Net Impact	<u>\$518,836</u>	<u>\$2,730,343</u>	<u>\$2,879,656</u>	<u>\$3,036,430</u>
General Fund Balance				

Description of fiscal impact

HB 910 amends the definition of "tobacco products" to include vape nicotine products. This would put vape nicotine products at a tax of 50% of wholesale price. If the bill passes, the Department of Revenue would need to update the website, create audit authority, and create or modify new tax returns, reports, or forms. Furthermore, the Department would need two additional full-time employees to implement the new tax. HB 910 is anticipated to generate state special and general fund revenue.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

Assumptions

1. HB 910 is effective June 30, 2025.
2. HB 910 adds vapor nicotine products to the definition of tobacco products. To estimate how much revenue the tax would bring to the State of Montana, Utah was used as a model. Utah's tax on vapor and alternative nicotine products became effective in 2020. They levy a 56% tax on the wholesale price of e-cigarette and alternative nicotine products. To model this for Montana, a per capita methodology was implemented. Data provided by the Utah State Tax Commission on e-cigarette and alternative nicotine products is shown in Table 1.1:

FY	E-Cig and Alt. Nicotine Product Tax Revenue
2022	\$13,776,324
2023	\$14,689,335
2024	\$15,249,350

3. As of 2024, Utah's population is estimated at 3.45 million – or about three times Montana's estimated population of 1.14 million. Assuming this tax revenue came from adult users of vape, data from the U.S. Census Bureau shows that Utah's adult (over 18) population is 71% of the total population and 78.4% for Montana. According to the National Center for Health Statistics, the percentage of adults that use e-cigarettes or electronic vaping products is 4.7%. This percentage was applied to the adult populations of Utah and Montana, which is also assumed constant over the estimating period of 2022, 2023, and 2024. Table 1.2 shows the value of the referenced percentages on the respective states' populations.

Utah population	Adult population	4.7% that use vape
3,454,230	2,452,503	115,268
Montana population	Adult population	4.7% that use vape
1,142,750	895,916	42,108

4. Since population is assumed constant, the values in Table 1.1. are then used to find the tax paid per capita in Utah over the three years provided by dividing their e-cigarette and alternative nicotine tax revenue. This is done by adjusting Utah's per capita tax revenue (from a 56% tax), shown in Table 1.3, to the proposed 50% in HB 910. To apply this, Utah's per capita tax revenue is adjusted to 100% of value (from a 56% tax). These adjusted values are shown in Table 1.4.

FY	Utah Tax Revenue Per Capita
2022	\$119.52
2023	\$127.44
2024	\$132.29

FY	Utah Tax Revenue Per Capita Non-Tax Spending
2022	\$213.42
2023	\$227.56
2024	\$236.24

5. To obtain estimates for Montana's vape tax revenue at a 50% tax rate, Montana's vaping population is multiplied by the 100% tax revenue per capita values in Table 1.4 and then taking 50%. These tax revenue estimates are provided in Table 1.5

FY	Estimated MT Vape Tax Revenue
2022	\$4,493,000
2023	\$4,791,000
2024	\$4,974,000

6. Vapor nicotine product consumption is expected to keep growing into the next decade. To obtain estimates for fiscal years 2026 to 2029, Montana's projected vape tax revenue growth rate was calculated from Table 1.5. Between 2022 and 2023, vape tax revenue grew by 6.6% and by 3.8% from 2023 to 2024, which averaged at 5.22%. This growth will be assumed constant for the forecast period of fiscal year 2026 to 2029. The values are shown below in Table 1.6. Since the collections for this vapor nicotine tax would not begin until March 1, 2026 (or a quarter of fiscal year 2026) then only 25% of potential revenue would be collected.

FY	Projected MT Vapor Tax Revenue
2026	\$1,378,000
2027	\$5,794,000
2028	\$6,097,000
2029	\$6,415,000

7. HB 910 would distribute this vapor nicotine revenue as 50% to the general fund and 50% to the Department of Health and Human Services for tobacco health and Medicaid initiatives. These distributions are shown in Table 1.7.

FY	General Fund (50%)	Tobacco Health and Medicaid Initiatives (50%)
2026	\$689,000	\$689,000
2027	\$2,897,000	\$2,897,000
2028	\$3,048,500	\$3,048,500
2029	\$3,207,500	\$3,207,500

8. The Department of Revenue would need an audit technician to assist with tax filing, tax return reconciliation, and front-rent compliance; a tax examiner would be needed to conduct audits on the tobacco product wholesalers. Costs including personal services, operating costs, and equipment are \$170,164 in FY 2026, \$166,657 in FY 2027, \$168,844 in FY 2028, and \$171,070 in FY 2029.

Fiscal Analysis Table

	FY 2026 Difference	FY 2027 Difference	FY 2028 Difference	FY 2029 Difference
<u>Fiscal Impact</u>				
FTE	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00
TOTAL Fiscal Impact	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00
<u>Expenditures</u>				
Personal Services	\$145,942	\$147,751	\$149,586	\$151,450
Operating Expenses	\$18,306	\$18,906	\$19,258	\$19,620
Equipment	\$5,916	\$0	\$0	\$0
TOTAL Expenditures	\$170,164	\$166,657	\$168,844	\$171,070
<u>Funding of Expenditures</u>				
General Fund (01)	\$170,164	\$166,657	\$168,844	\$171,070
TOTAL Funding of Expenditures	\$170,164	\$166,657	\$168,844	\$171,070
<u>Revenues</u>				
General Fund (01)	\$689,000	\$2,897,000	\$3,048,500	\$3,207,500
State Special Revenue (02)	\$689,000	\$2,897,000	\$3,048,500	\$3,207,500
TOTAL Revenues	\$1,378,000	\$5,794,000	\$6,097,000	\$6,415,000
<u>Net Impact to Fund Balance (Revenue minus Funding of Expenditures)</u>				
General Fund (01)	\$518,836	\$2,730,343	\$2,879,656	\$3,036,430
State Special Revenue (02)	\$689,000	\$2,897,000	\$3,048,500	\$3,207,500


Sponsor's Initials

Date


Budget Director's Initials

4/1/2025
Date