



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF
BUDGET AND PROGRAM PLANNING

Fiscal Note 2027 Biennium

Bill#/Title: **HB0568.01: Provide for the Montana hunters first act**

Primary Sponsor: Courtenay Sprunger

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</u> <u>Difference</u>	<u>FY 2027</u> <u>Difference</u>	<u>FY 2028</u> <u>Difference</u>	<u>FY 2029</u> <u>Difference</u>
Expenditures				
State Special Revenue (02)	\$40,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
Revenues				
State Special Revenue (02)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Net Impact	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
General Fund Balance	<u><u>\$0</u></u>	<u><u>\$0</u></u>	<u><u>\$0</u></u>	<u><u>\$0</u></u>

Description of fiscal impact

HB 568 is the Montana Hunters First Act. This bill requires the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks to conduct a study on the impact of nonresidents on deer and elk hunting in the state and in each region. This random sampling will be completed through a mail survey that will cost \$40,000. This is a one-time study that must be completed by December 1, 2026.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

Assumptions

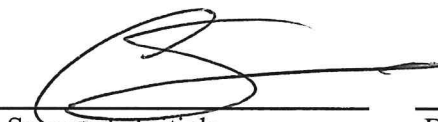
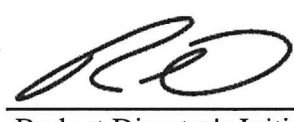
Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks

1. HB 568, Section 2 requires the department to conduct a study of nonresident impacts on deer and elk hunting in the state and in each of the commission's administrative regions. The bill is specific to nonresident therefore the study will contain no resident data.
2. HB 568 requires the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) to provide deer and elk estimates of hunters and hunter days for nonresident hunters, by region of public land, private land, and BMA's. To gather this data, it would require the sampling of 5,000 nonresidents for each species. FWP would draw from the licensing database. The value of 5000 samples each will provide enough responses by region to have reliable estimates.
3. This random sampling will be completed through a mail survey (so respondents have enough time to think through their responses when filling out the form). Mail surveys cost approximately \$4,000 per 1,000 surveys, making the total cost for the survey of 5,000 nonresidents estimated at \$40,000 (Deer Survey 5 x \$4,000 = \$20,000 and Elk Survey 5 x \$4,000 = \$20,000).
4. HB 568 requires FWP to complete the study and report by December 1, 2026.

Fiscal Analysis Table

Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks

	<u>FY 2026</u> <u>Difference</u>	<u>FY 2027</u> <u>Difference</u>	<u>FY 2028</u> <u>Difference</u>	<u>FY 2029</u> <u>Difference</u>
<u>Fiscal Impact</u>				
<u>Expenditures</u>				
Operating Expenses	\$40,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
TOTAL Expenditures	\$40,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
<u>Funding of Expenditures</u>				
State Special Revenue (02)	\$40,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
TOTAL Funding of Expenditures	\$40,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
<u>Revenues</u>				
<u>Net Impact to Fund Balance (Revenue minus Funding of Expenditures)</u>				
State Special Revenue (02)	(\$40,000)	\$0	\$0	\$0

	<u>2/24/25</u>		<u>2/22/2025</u>
Sponsor's Initials	Date	Budget Director's Initials	Date