



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF  
BUDGET AND PROGRAM PLANNING

## Fiscal Note 2027 Biennium

**Bill #** SB 359

**Title:** Revise traffic laws related to distracted driving

**Primary Sponsor:** Sara Novak

**Status:** As Introduced

- ☐ 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 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>
<b>Expenditures:</b>				
General Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
State Special Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Revenue:</b>				
General Fund	Unable to determine	Unable to determine	Unable to determine	Unable to determine
State Special Revenue	Unable to determine	Unable to determine	Unable to determine	Unable to determine
<b>Net Impact-General Fund Balance:</b>	<u>Unable to determine</u>	<u>Unable to determine</u>	<u>Unable to determine</u>	<u>Unable to determine</u>

**Description of fiscal impact:** SB 359 establishes a distracted driving offense related to the use of mobile devices. It establishes a requirement for the use of hands-free devices while operating a motor vehicle. If passed, Montana Highway Patrol (MHP) officers may pull over drivers that are blatantly using handheld electronic devices while driving. The bill will have a positive, but indeterminant fiscal impact on both general fund and state special fund revenue.

### FISCAL ANALYSIS

#### Assumptions:

#### **Department of Justice**

1. The MHP does not have insight into how many citations may be written under the proposed bill, so cannot accurately project a fiscal impact.
2. Fine revenue will be determined by the number of fines written and the amount of each fine imposed. Half of fine revenue will go to the general fund and half will go to the county in where the fine was written.
3. Proposed revisions to add distracted driving points for habitual offender points is a simple addition to the Credentialing and Registration System (CARS) and is assumed to not have a fiscal impact.

	<u>FY 2026 Difference</u>	<u>FY 2027 Difference</u>	<u>FY 2028 Difference</u>	<u>FY 2029 Difference</u>
<b><u>Fiscal Impact:</u></b>				
FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b><u>Expenditures:</u></b>				
Personal Services	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Operating Expenses	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Equipment	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL Expenditures</b>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
<b><u>Funding of Expenditures:</u></b>				
General Fund (01)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
State Special Revenue (02)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL Funding of Exp.</b>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
<b><u>Revenues:</u></b>				
General Fund (01)	Unable to determine	Unable to determine	Unable to determine	Unable to determine
State Special Revenue (02)	Unable to determine	Unable to determine	Unable to determine	Unable to determine
<b>TOTAL Revenues</b>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
<b><u>Net Impact to Fund Balance (Revenue minus Funding of Expenditures):</u></b>				
General Fund (01)	Unable to determine	Unable to determine	Unable to determine	Unable to determine
State Special Revenue (02)	Unable to determine	Unable to determine	Unable to determine	Unable to determine

NO SPONSOR SIGNATURE 3/3

Sponsor's Initials

Date

Budget Director's Initials

Date