



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF
BUDGET AND PROGRAM PLANNING

Fiscal Note 2027 Biennium

Bill#/Title: **SB0064 R: Clarifying calculation of legislator compensation and expenses during the interim**

Primary Sponsor: Pat Flowers 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				
General Fund (01)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Revenues				
General Fund (01)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Net Impact	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
General Fund Balance	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>

Description of fiscal impact

SB 64 amends 2-18-502, MCA, which clarifies the calculation of compensation and expenses for legislators when not in session and provides an immediate effective date. There is no fiscal impact to the Legislative Branch.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

Assumptions

Department of Administration

1. This bill will require some minor policy updates, which will be absorbed by utilizing the Department of Administration's existing staff and resources. Otherwise, there is no fiscal impact anticipated for the Department of Administration.

Legislative Branch

2. SB 64 amends the calculation of compensation and expenses for legislators when not in session.
3. Section 1 of SB 64 amends 2-18-502, MCA, to remove the entitlement of a mid-day meal for members of a legislative subcommittee, select, or interim committee.
4. Section 2 amends 5-2-302, MCA, defining how compensation and expenses for legislators during the interim are calculated.
5. Section 2 of SB 64 sets "zones" based on how far a legislator lives from the place of the meeting for which they will be compensated.
 - a. Remote participation (Zoom) (Salary-Only)
 - b. Distance in round-trip miles from Legislator's residence to the meeting place:
6. Subsection (3) defines compensation for each additional consecutive day.

7. Calculations are based on actual attendance (86.3%) for the 2025 biennium as follows:
 - a. 9.65% of meeting members attend by zoom and 76.65% meeting members attend in person.
8. Salary and travel expenses are based on "Zone."
9. Mileage is calculated using actual 2025 biennium legislator-reported mileage.
10. The mileage rate increased to \$0.70 per mile on January 1, 2025.
11. Lodging is calculated using the federal FY 2205 GSA lodging rates.
12. It is assumed that all meetings will be in Helena.
13. Legislator salary is based on the 2027 biennium salary rate as defined in 5-2-301, MCA, which includes the statutory pay increase of \$3/hour as passed by the 2023 Legislature.
14. SB 64 has an immediate effective date.
15. For the purposes of this fiscal note, it is assumed that there will be zero authorized interim, interim budget, or administrative committee legislative business conducted between the end of the 2025 session and June 30, 2025. If any meetings do occur, costs will be absorbed within the existing budget, if available.
16. The 2025 legislative session HB 13, as introduced, increases legislators salary. For the purposes of this fiscal note it is assumed that there will be zero authorized interim, interim budget, or administrative committee legislative business conducted between the end of the 2027 session and June 30, 2027. If any meetings do occur, they will be absorbed within the existing budget, if available.
17. Based on actual 2025 legislator data, 7.33% of legislators live within 100 miles or less from the Capitol building, 54.67% of legislators live more than 100 miles or less than 400 miles from the Capitol building, and 38% of legislators live 400 or more miles away from the Capitol building.
18. If there are additional expenditures, it is assumed that the Legislative Branch will absorb additional costs within existing 2027 biennium budget, if available.
19. It is estimated that passage of SB 64 will free up about 20 hours a week of Financial Office staff time, that will be reallocated to priority duties that had previously been tabled or postponed.



Sponsor's Initials

1/14/25

Date



Budget Director's Initials

1/14/2025

Date