



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF
BUDGET AND PROGRAM PLANNING

Fiscal Note 2027 Biennium

Bill#/Title: **HB0176.03 (001): Require unlimited wolf hunting quota when population is at or above 450 wolves**

Primary Sponsor: Shannon Maness Status: As Amended in Senate Committee

☐ 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				
State Special Revenue (02)	(\$32,322)	(\$32,322)	(\$32,322)	(\$32,322)
Revenues				
State Special Revenue (02)	(\$32,322)	(\$32,322)	(\$32,322)	(\$32,322)
Net Impact	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
General Fund Balance				

Description of fiscal impact

HB 176.03 requires that FWP Commission authorize certain hunting and trapping practices when the population is above 550 wolves. HB 176.03 provides an exception to the statewide quota for wolf management for the area near Yellowstone National Park (units 313 and 316). These areas would be required to adhere to 87-1-304 (7) and (8).

FISCAL ANALYSIS

Assumptions

Department of Fish Wildlife and Parks

1. HB 176.03 requires that FWP Commission authorize certain hunting and trapping practices when the population is above 550 wolves.
2. HB 176.03 provides an exception to the statewide quota for wolf management for the area near Yellowstone National Park (units 313 and 316). These areas would be required to adhere to 87-1-304 (7) and (8).
3. HB 176.03, the department shall use the same modeling criteria for estimates made for subsequent years to ensure the data results are able to be interpreted consistently. The department may use new modeling techniques in conjunction with the iPOM to estimate the wolf population more accurately.
4. HB 176.03 does not distinguish between resident and nonresident hunters, so nonresidents could also take an unlimited number of wolves on a single license.
5. Under HB 176.03, there will be no change in the information below. A hunter would only need to purchase one wolf license to take an unlimited number of wolves. Currently, a hunter must possess a wolf license for each wolf they plan to harvest with a limit of 10 wolves per hunter. This would result in a loss of license revenue as currently an average of 14.73% of wolf hunters purchase more than one wolf license each year. We can estimate that the average loss of revenue from wolf licenses would be \$32,322 per year. For

purposes of this fiscal note, the department assumes the same number of hunters will apply and purchase these licenses in future years.

6. The following table shows the total number of hunters purchasing wolf licenses from 2020-2024 with a 5-year average.

Residency	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024 (YTD)	5-year average
Resident	16,094	17,797	15,487	15,207	15,488	16,015
Nonresident	2,433	3,041	2,364	2,544	2,673	2,611

7. The following table shows the total individual hunters with more than one license and the total lost revenue based on HB 176.03 (5-year average). (approximately 14.73% of hunters purchase a second wolf license).

Residency	# of Hunters purchasing additional license	License Cost	Total Lost Revenue
Resident	2,156	\$12.00	\$25,872
Nonresident	129	\$50.00	\$6,450
Total	2,285		\$32,322 per year

Fiscal Analysis Table

	FY 2026 Difference	FY 2027 Difference	FY 2028 Difference	FY 2029 Difference
<u>Fiscal Impact</u>				
<u>Expenditures</u>				
Operating Expenses	(\$32,322)	(\$32,322)	(\$32,322)	(\$32,322)
TOTAL Expenditures	(\$32,322)	(\$32,322)	(\$32,322)	(\$32,322)
<u>Funding of Expenditures</u>				
State Special Revenue (02)	(\$32,322)	(\$32,322)	(\$32,322)	(\$32,322)
TOTAL Funding of Expenditures	(\$32,322)	(\$32,322)	(\$32,322)	(\$32,322)
<u>Revenues</u>				
State Special Revenue (02)	(\$32,322)	(\$32,322)	(\$32,322)	(\$32,322)
TOTAL Revenues	(\$32,322)	(\$32,322)	(\$32,322)	(\$32,322)
<u>Net Impact to Fund Balance (Revenue minus Funding of Expenditures)</u>				
State Special Revenue (02)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Sponsor's Initials

Date

Budget Director's Initials

Date