



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF
BUDGET AND PROGRAM PLANNING

Fiscal Note 2027 Biennium

Bill#/Title: HB0111: Adopt Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act

Primary Sponsor: Steve Fitzpatrick

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)	\$66,150	\$28,350	\$2,500	\$2,500
Revenues				
General Fund (01)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Net Impact	<u>(\$66,150)</u>	<u>(\$28,350)</u>	<u>(\$2,500)</u>	<u>(\$2,500)</u>
General Fund Balance				

Description of fiscal impact

HB 111 implements the "Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act" (UELMA) which provides a framework for providing online legal material with the same level of trustworthiness traditionally provided by print. The fiscal impact to the Legislative Branch is \$94,500 for the 2027 Biennium.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

Assumptions

Legislative Branch

- Legal material means:
 - The Constitution of the State of Montana (Code Commissioner is publisher)
 - The Laws of Montana (Session Laws) (Legislative Services Division is publisher)
 - Montana Code Annotated (Code Commissioner is publisher)
- HB 111 requires that official electronic legal material be:
 - Authenticated by providing a method to determine that it is unaltered;
 - Preserved, either in electronic or print form; and
 - Accessible for use by the public on a permanent basis.
- Section 4 of HB 111 does not require the Legislative Branch to eliminate traditional books and go 100% electronic (requiring authentication). Rather, it would be a policy decision made by the Code Commissioner in coordination with the Legislative Council.
- For the purposes of this fiscal note, and to prepare an accurate cost assessment, it is assumed the Legislative Branch will designate all legal material as official electronic legal material.
- It is assumed that an initial 500 hours of contracted development is necessary at a cost of \$189/hour for a total of \$94,500 in the 2027 Biennium:

- a. Development cost in FY 2026: \$66,150 (350 hours)
- b. Development cost in FY 2027: \$28,350 (150 hours)
6. The initial costs include set up, building an authentication tool, archiving, and storage.
7. On-going costs for software licensing, storage, archiving, and transmission is difficult to determine. Based on current costs, and for the purposes of this fiscal note, it is assumed that the additional cost to provide these services will be \$5,000 each additional biennium (\$2,500 for FY 2028 and FY 2029).

Fiscal Analysis Table

Legislative Branch				
	<u>FY 2026</u>	<u>FY 2027</u>	<u>FY 2028</u>	<u>FY 2029</u>
	<u>Difference</u>	<u>Difference</u>	<u>Difference</u>	<u>Difference</u>
<u>Fiscal Impact</u>				
<u>Expenditures</u>				
Operating Expenses	\$66,150	\$28,350	\$2,500	\$2,500
TOTAL Expenditures	\$66,150	\$28,350	\$2,500	\$2,500
<u>Funding of Expenditures</u>				
General Fund (01)	\$66,150	\$28,350	\$2,500	\$2,500
TOTAL Funding of Expenditures	\$66,150	\$28,350	\$2,500	\$2,500
<u>Revenues</u>				
<u>Net Impact to Fund Balance (Revenue minus Funding of Expenditures)</u>				
General Fund (01)	(\$66,150)	(\$28,350)	(\$2,500)	(\$2,500)

NOT SIGNED BY SPONSOR

Sponsor's Initials

Date



Budget Director's Initials

1/7/2025

Date