



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF
BUDGET AND PROGRAM PLANNING

Fiscal Note 2027 Biennium

Bill#/Title: HB0657.01: Allow municipalities to review certain water and sewer systems

Primary Sponsor: Steve Gist

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) | \$26,585,047 | \$26,585,047 | \$26,585,047 | \$26,585,047 |
| State Special Revenue (02) | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Federal Special Revenue (03) | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Revenues | | | | |
| General Fund (01) | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| State Special Revenue (02) | (\$693,132) | (\$693,132) | (\$693,132) | (\$693,132) |
| Federal Special Revenue (03) | (\$25,891,915) | (\$25,891,915) | (\$25,891,915) | (\$25,891,915) |
| Net Impact | <u>(\$26,585,047)</u> | <u>(\$26,585,047)</u> | <u>(\$26,585,047)</u> | <u>(\$26,585,047)</u> |
| General Fund Balance | | | | |

Description of fiscal impact

HB 657 would cause the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to lose primacy over its Safe Drinking Water Act programs. DEQ would lose all associated federal funding related to the Safe Drinking Water Act, including the state revolving fund.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

Assumptions

Department of Environmental Quality

- DEQ will no longer have primacy for Safe Drinking Water Act programs, because HB 657 would remove the assurance that drinking water standards are being met by public water supplies.
- HB 657 indicates that DEQ is still responsible for environmental regulation but risks the loss of both federal and state funding because without primacy, fees can't be collected.
- DEQ used actual expenditures over the last 5.6 years, to calculate the estimated loss over the next two biennium.

Fiscal Analysis Table

Department of Environmental Quality

| | <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> |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Fiscal Impact | | | | |

Expenditures

| | | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Personal Services | \$4,293,349 | \$4,293,349 | \$4,293,349 | \$4,293,349 |
| Operating Expenses | \$8,974,139 | \$8,974,139 | \$8,974,139 | \$8,974,139 |
| Transfers | \$13,317,559 | \$13,317,559 | \$13,317,559 | \$13,317,559 |
| TOTAL Expenditures | \$26,585,047 | \$26,585,047 | \$26,585,047 | \$26,585,047 |

Funding of Expenditures

| | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| General Fund (01) | \$26,585,047 | \$26,585,047 | \$26,585,047 | \$26,585,047 |
| TOTAL Funding of Expenditures | \$26,585,047 | \$26,585,047 | \$26,585,047 | \$26,585,047 |

Revenues

| | | | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| State Special Revenue (02) | (\$693,132) | (\$693,132) | (\$693,132) | (\$693,132) |
| Federal Special Revenue (03) | (\$25,891,915) | (\$25,891,915) | (\$25,891,915) | (\$25,891,915) |
| TOTAL Revenues | (\$26,585,047) | (\$26,585,047) | (\$26,585,047) | (\$26,585,047) |

Net Impact to Fund Balance (Revenue minus Funding of Expenditures)

| | | | | |
|------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| General Fund (01) | (\$26,585,047) | (\$26,585,047) | (\$26,585,047) | (\$26,585,047) |
| State Special Revenue (02) | (\$693,132) | (\$693,132) | (\$693,132) | (\$693,132) |
| Federal Special Revenue (03) | (\$25,891,915) | (\$25,891,915) | (\$25,891,915) | (\$25,891,915) |

Effect on County or Other Local Revenues or Expenditures

1. Loss of the state revolving fund will increase municipality expenses for public water systems because they can no longer get low-cost loans through the state revolving fund.
2. Some drinking water upgrade projects cannot be funded by other means.

Significant Long-Term Impacts

1. Federal and state special revenue funds would be lost due to DEQ losing primacy of Safe Drinking Water Act programs.
2. The State of Montana would be required to identify alternative funding for Safe Drinking Water projects.

Sponsor's Initials_____
Date


Budget Director's Initials

3/5/2025

Date