



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF  
BUDGET AND PROGRAM PLANNING

## Fiscal Note 2027 Biennium

Bill#/Title: **HB0855.01: Establish FWP wildlife highway crossings and accommodation account**

Primary Sponsor: **Katie Zolnikov** 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><br><u>Difference</u> | <u>FY 2027</u><br><u>Difference</u> | <u>FY 2028</u><br><u>Difference</u> | <u>FY 2029</u><br><u>Difference</u> |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Expenditures</b>         |                                     |                                     |                                     |                                     |
| General Fund (01)           | \$8,120                             | \$0                                 | \$0                                 | \$0                                 |
| State Special Revenue (02)  | \$160,220                           | \$160,100                           | \$160,100                           | \$160,100                           |
| <b>Revenues</b>             |                                     |                                     |                                     |                                     |
| General Fund (01)           | \$0                                 | \$0                                 | \$0                                 | \$0                                 |
| State Special Revenue (02)  | \$160,220                           | \$160,100                           | \$160,100                           | \$160,100                           |
| <b>Net Impact</b>           | <u>(\$8,120)</u>                    | <u>\$0</u>                          | <u>\$0</u>                          | <u>\$0</u>                          |
| <b>General Fund Balance</b> |                                     |                                     |                                     |                                     |

### Description of fiscal impact

### FISCAL ANALYSIS

#### Assumptions

##### Department of Justice

1. It is assumed that FWP would pay the fees associated with establishing the specialty plate.
2. The one-time set up fee for new plate production at Montana Correctional Enterprises is \$4,000, plus \$120 for the 3% MVD administrative fee.
3. The MVD would program the Credentialing and Registration System (CARS) to include the new specialty plate at no cost if completed by an MVD employee.

##### Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks

4. HB 855 requires the FWP to establish a generic specialty license plate, as defined in 61-3-473, no later than January 1, 2026.
5. HB 855 requires an applicant for a FWP specialty license plate purchased to donate \$20 to the department upon initial issuance of the license plates and a donation of \$20 for each annual renewal of the license plates.
6. FWP will enter a contract for the design of the specialty plate for a cost of \$4,000 .
7. MVD will charge FWP \$4,120 for applying for a specialty plate (\$4,000 is to cover the cost of setting up the plate print at Montana Correctional Enterprises, and \$120 is for the 3% MVD Admin fee that is on all MVD products).
8. MVD statistics show 203 different specialty plates.
9. In FY 2024, 1,624,798 plates were sold for an average of 8,000 per specialty plate.

10. FWP estimates a maximum revenue of \$160,000 per year, as there were 146 plate types that sold less than 8,000 in FY 2024.
11. HB 855 requires the state treasurer to make a deposit of \$100 from the general fund to the account by June 20, 2025.
12. FWP would need a general fund for expenditures as there is not an eligible funding source.

**Secretary of State's Office**

13. HB 855 requires the Office of the Secretary of State to notify each federally recognized tribal government in Montana. While there may be a minimal fiscal impact, the Office of the Secretary of State will absorb the costs associated with implementing this bill within its existing operating budget.

**Department of Transportation**

13. HB 855 establishes the big game and wildlife highway crossings state special revenue account and establishes a statutory appropriation for FWP.
14. Revenue into the fund comes from a specialized license plate (\$20 fee), or through gifts, grants, donations, and interest income from investment of the fund.
15. The total revenue into the big game and wildlife highway crossings state special revenue account is unknown, as MDT cannot predict how many specialized license plates will be sold, or what would be received in gifts, grants or donations.
16. HB 855 allows the funding to be used for the design, construction, identification, maintenance, and conservation of wildlife crossings as well as matching for federal funds on eligible projects.
17. HB 855 requires FWP to consult with MDT before funding qualifying projects.
18. MDT assumes that the discussion on projects between FWP and MDT would be take place as part of regular duties and no additional resources are required to coordinate on this funding.
19. The total amount of available funds is unknown. MDT will coordinate with FWP regarding eligible projects, available funding, the transfer of funds and establishment of an MDT appropriation, if necessary.

**Fiscal Analysis Table****Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks**

|  | <b><u>FY 2026<br/>Difference</u></b> | <b><u>FY 2027<br/>Difference</u></b> | <b><u>FY 2028<br/>Difference</u></b> | <b><u>FY 2029<br/>Difference</u></b> |
|--|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b><u>Fiscal Impact</u></b>  |                                      |                                      |                                      |                                      |
| <b><u>Expenditures</u></b>   |                                      |                                      |                                      |                                      |
| Operating Expenses   | \$168,220                            | \$160,100                            | \$160,100                            | \$160,100                            |
| <b>TOTAL Expenditures</b>  | <b>\$168,220</b>                     | <b>\$160,100</b>                     | <b>\$160,100</b>                     | <b>\$160,100</b>                     |
| <b><u>Funding of Expenditures</u></b>  |                                      |                                      |                                      |                                      |
| General Fund (01)  | \$8,120                              | \$0                                  | \$0                                  | \$0                                  |
| State Special Revenue (02)   | \$160,100                            | \$160,100                            | \$160,100                            | \$160,100                            |
| <b>TOTAL Funding of Expenditures</b>   | <b>\$168,220</b>                     | <b>\$160,100</b>                     | <b>\$160,100</b>                     | <b>\$160,100</b>                     |
| <b><u>Revenues</u></b>   |                                      |                                      |                                      |                                      |
| State Special Revenue (02)   | \$160,100                            | \$160,100                            | \$160,100                            | \$160,100                            |
| <b>TOTAL Revenues</b>  | <b>\$160,100</b>                     | <b>\$160,100</b>                     | <b>\$160,100</b>                     | <b>\$160,100</b>                     |
| <b><u>Net Impact to Fund Balance (Revenue minus Funding of Expenditures)</u></b> |                                      |                                      |                                      |                                      |
| General Fund (01)  | (\$8,120)                            | \$0                                  | \$0                                  | \$0                                  |

## Fiscal Note Request - As Introduced

(continued)

|                            |     |     |     |     |
|----------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| State Special Revenue (02) | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
|----------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|

**Department of Justice**

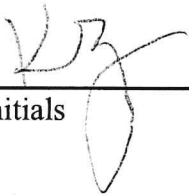
|  | <b>FY 2026<br/>Difference</b> | <b>FY 2027<br/>Difference</b> | <b>FY 2028<br/>Difference</b> | <b>FY 2029<br/>Difference</b> |
|--|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b><u>Fiscal Impact</u></b>  |                               |                               |                               |                               |
| <b><u>Expenditures</u></b>   |                               |                               |                               |                               |
| Operating Expenses   | \$120                         | \$0                           | \$0                           | \$0                           |
| <b>TOTAL Expenditures</b>  | <b>\$120</b>                  | <b>\$0</b>                    | <b>\$0</b>                    | <b>\$0</b>                    |
| <b><u>Funding of Expenditures</u></b>  |                               |                               |                               |                               |
| State Special Revenue (02)   | \$120                         | \$0                           | \$0                           | \$0                           |
| <b>TOTAL Funding of Expenditures</b>   | <b>\$120</b>                  | <b>\$0</b>                    | <b>\$0</b>                    | <b>\$0</b>                    |
| <b><u>Revenues</u></b>   |                               |                               |                               |                               |
| State Special Revenue (02)   | \$120                         | \$0                           | \$0                           | \$0                           |
| <b>TOTAL Revenues</b>  | <b>\$120</b>                  | <b>\$0</b>                    | <b>\$0</b>                    | <b>\$0</b>                    |
| <b><u>Net Impact to Fund Balance (Revenue minus Funding of Expenditures)</u></b> |                               |                               |                               |                               |
| State Special Revenue (02)   | \$0                           | \$0                           | \$0                           | \$0                           |

**STATEWIDE SUMMARY**

|  | <b>FY 2026<br/>Difference</b> | <b>FY 2027<br/>Difference</b> | <b>FY 2028<br/>Difference</b> | <b>FY 2029<br/>Difference</b> |
|--|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b><u>Fiscal Impact</u></b>  |                               |                               |                               |                               |
| <b>TOTAL Fiscal Impact</b>   | <b>0.00</b>                   | <b>0.00</b>                   | <b>0.00</b>                   | <b>0.00</b>                   |
| <b><u>Expenditures</u></b>   |                               |                               |                               |                               |
| Operating Expenses   | \$168,340                     | \$160,100                     | \$160,100                     | \$160,100                     |
| <b>TOTAL Expenditures</b>  | <b>\$168,340</b>              | <b>\$160,100</b>              | <b>\$160,100</b>              | <b>\$160,100</b>              |
| <b><u>Funding of Expenditures</u></b>  |                               |                               |                               |                               |
| General Fund (01)  | \$8,120                       | \$0                           | \$0                           | \$0                           |
| State Special Revenue (02)   | \$160,220                     | \$160,100                     | \$160,100                     | \$160,100                     |
| <b>TOTAL Funding of Expenditures</b>   | <b>\$168,340</b>              | <b>\$160,100</b>              | <b>\$160,100</b>              | <b>\$160,100</b>              |
| <b><u>Revenues</u></b>   |                               |                               |                               |                               |
| State Special Revenue (02)   | \$160,220                     | \$160,100                     | \$160,100                     | \$160,100                     |
| <b>TOTAL Revenues</b>  | <b>\$160,220</b>              | <b>\$160,100</b>              | <b>\$160,100</b>              | <b>\$160,100</b>              |
| <b><u>Net Impact to Fund Balance (Revenue minus Funding of Expenditures)</u></b> |                               |                               |                               |                               |
| General Fund (01)  | (\$8,120)                     | \$0                           | \$0                           | \$0                           |
| State Special Revenue (02)   | \$0                           | \$0                           | \$0                           | \$0                           |

**Technical Concerns****Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks**

1. FWP does not have an eligible funding source to develop and administer a specialty plate. It is not a Wildlife benefit or a Wildlife program.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sponsor's Initials

3/29/25  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Budget Director's Initials

3/28/2025  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date