



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF
BUDGET AND PROGRAM PLANNING

Fiscal Note 2027 Biennium

Bill#/Title: HB0560.01: Establish the Montana hunters and anglers community fund

Primary Sponsor: Tom France 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	\$10,104	\$20,960
State Special Revenue (02)	\$0	\$0	\$180,031	\$75,013
Revenues				
General Fund (01)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
State Special Revenue (02)	\$30,005	\$75,013	\$75,013	\$75,013
Net Impact	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>(\$10,104)</u>	<u>(\$20,960)</u>
General Fund Balance				

Description of fiscal impact

HB 560 creates the Hunters' and Angler's Community Fund and Grant Program administered by the Department of Commerce. The grant program would be funded by donations of no less than \$1 from persons purchasing a wildlife conservation license or a combination license that includes a conservation license. 10% of revenue collected would be allowed to be used for administration of the program.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

Assumptions

Department of Commerce (DOC)

1. Based on Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) estimates, \$30,005 would be transferred to the department throughout FY 2026, and \$75,013 would be transferred throughout each subsequent fiscal year until the termination date of 6/30/2029.
2. The department would allow funds to build during FY 2026 and begin granting out funds in FY 2028.
3. The department assumes 0.25 FTE would be needed beginning in FY 2028 to establish program guidelines, develop communications materials, accept and review applications, organize and coordinate the board, administer awards, and solicit contributions. The department estimates the associated personal services and overhead costs would be \$23,634 in FY 2028 and \$23,988 in FY 2029.
4. Education materials would be mainly disseminated electronically (e.g. DOC agency website, email).
5. Beginning in FY 2028, the department estimates the seven-member Hunters' and Anglers' Community Fund Board created by this bill would need to meet annually.
6. The bill does not explicitly state that the board is entitled to per diem and travel reimbursement, however for the purposes of this fiscal year it is assumed reimbursement is provided.

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7. Based on current state per diem and travel reimbursement rates it is assumed the cost to meet once annually would be \$4,612 each year.
8. Total department and board expenses are therefore estimated to total \$28,107 in FY 2028, and \$28,461 in FY 2029.
9. The bill allows the department to use 10% of the money in the grant account for administrative costs. It is assumed that administrative costs exceeding 10% would be paid from the general fund.
10. Beginning FY 2028, the department would grant out remaining funds (revenue minus the 10% allowance for administrative expenses) to communities.
11. The department does not know how many entities will apply. For the purposes of this fiscal note, the department assumes all funds will be awarded for the full amount listed in the table below:

	FY 2028	FY 2029
Beginning Grant Fund Balance	\$180,031	\$75,013
10% Administrative Allowance	\$18,003	\$7,501
Funds Available to Grant Out	\$162,028	\$67,512

Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks

12. HB 560 will allow a person who purchases a wildlife conservation license, or a combination license that includes a conservation license, to donate \$1 or more to the Montana Hunters' and Anglers' Community Fund.
13. The Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (FWP) currently has three programs funded by donations made during the purchasing process for conservation, hunting, and fishing licenses.
14. In 2024, an average of 17,174 people donated to these three programs, and the average donation was \$4.37 per person.
15. FWP assumes the same average number of people will choose to donate \$4.37 each to the Montana Hunters' and Anglers' Community Fund, for annual donation amount of \$75,013.
16. This bill is effective July 1, 2025. Based on the average percentage of license sales, FWP assumes donations would be 40% of the annual \$75,013 in FY 2026, which is \$30,005.
17. The department assumes this donation estimate to be high, as it is uncertain if the same number of existing donors would donate to a new fund in addition to their donation to the existing three programs mentioned above.
18. The donations received will be sent to the Department of Commerce for their administration of the Montana Hunters' and Anglers' Community Fund.
19. The bill provides a termination date of June 30, 2029.

Fiscal Analysis Table**Department of Commerce**

	FY 2026 Difference	FY 2027 Difference	FY 2028 Difference	FY 2029 Difference
<u>Fiscal Impact</u>				
FTE	0.00	0.00	0.25	0.25
TOTAL Fiscal Impact	0.00	0.00	0.25	0.25
<u>Expenditures</u>				
Personal Services	\$0	\$0	\$20,413	\$20,708
Operating Expenses	\$0	\$0	\$7,694	\$7,753
Grants	\$0	\$0	\$162,028	\$67,512

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(continued)

TOTAL Expenditures	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$190,135</u>	<u>\$95,973</u>
<u>Funding of Expenditures</u>				
General Fund (01)	\$0	\$0	\$10,104	\$20,960
State Special Revenue (02)	\$0	\$0	\$180,031	\$75,013
TOTAL Funding of Expenditures	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$190,135</u>	<u>\$95,973</u>
<u>Revenues</u>				
State Special Revenue (02)	\$30,005	\$75,013	\$75,013	\$75,013
TOTAL Revenues	<u>\$30,005</u>	<u>\$75,013</u>	<u>\$75,013</u>	<u>\$75,013</u>
<u>Net Impact to Fund Balance (Revenue minus Funding of Expenditures)</u>				
General Fund (01)	\$0	\$0	(\$10,104)	(\$20,960)
State Special Revenue (02)	\$30,005	\$75,013	(\$105,018)	\$0

Technical Concerns

Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks

1. The Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) will not transfer funds collected twice per year. Instead, Department of Commerce will establish the fund and FWP will deposit all donations into the fund as donations are received.

NOT SIGNED BY SPONSOR

Sponsor's Initials

Date

2/28/25

Budget Director's Initials

2/27/2025

Date