



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF
BUDGET AND PROGRAM PLANNING

Fiscal Note 2027 Biennium

Bill#/Title: **SB0412.01: Provide for fee waivers of government documents to former foster children**

Primary Sponsor: Laura Smith 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)	\$8,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
State Special Revenue (02)	\$12,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
Revenues				
General Fund (01)	(\$9,315)	(\$9,315)	(\$9,315)	(\$9,315)
State Special Revenue (02)	(\$235)	(\$235)	(\$235)	(\$235)
Net Impact	<u>(\$17,315)</u>	<u>(\$9,315)</u>	<u>(\$9,315)</u>	<u>(\$9,315)</u>
General Fund Balance				

Description of fiscal impact

SB 412 provides fee waivers for certain state government documents for former foster care children that have aged out of the system, but have not yet turned age 21. Waived fees include: birth certificate fees to county clerks and to the Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS); fees to the Department of Justice (DOJ) for the application, renewal, or replacement of an identification card or drivers license; and fees to the Montana University System (MUS) for a student's transcript or academic record. DOJ would incur costs for programming the Credentialing and Registration System (CARS). Costs to other entities are expected to be minimal. Costs to MUS and DPHHS are not easily quantifiable, but are anticipated to be minimal.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

Assumptions

Department of Justice

1. New Section 1 of SB 412 provides fee waivers for certain state government documents for former foster care children that have aged out of the system, but have not yet turned age 21. Waived fees include: birth certificate fees to county clerks and to the Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS); fees to the Department of Justice for the application, renewal, or replacement of an identification card or drivers license; and fees to the Montana University System for a student's transcript or academic record.
2. There is no set number of times a driver's license (DL), identification card or replacement DL is issued over a set amount of time. Fiscal impact calculations assume one initial DL issuance and two replacements over the three years a foster child is eligible.
3. According to DPHHS, 69 children age out of foster care in FY 2024. At the assumed one initial DL and

two replacements each, the number of foster children eligible for free DL, identification or replacement is estimated at 207 per fiscal year, 69 initial DLs and 138 replacements.

4. An initial 8-year driver's license with Real ID is \$66.30, \$65.00 GF and \$1.30 SSR, and a replacement Real ID driver's license is \$36.05, \$35.00 GF and \$1.05 SSR.
5. See the table below for the driver's license cost calculations:

	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
Kids Aged Out of FC	69	69	69	69
Initial Driver's License Need	69	69	69	69
Replacements (2 Each)	138	138	138	138
Total DLs Needed	207	207	207	207
Real ID Costs - Initial	\$66.30	\$66.30	\$66.30	\$66.30
Real ID - Replacement	\$36.05	\$36.05	\$36.05	\$36.05
Total Costs - Initial	\$4,575	\$4,575	\$4,575	\$4,575
Total Costs - Replacement	\$4,975	\$4,975	\$4,975	\$4,975
Total DL Costs	\$9,550	\$9,550	\$9,550	\$9,550
Lost Revenue - GF	(\$9,315)	(\$9,315)	(\$9,315)	(\$9,315)
Lost Revenue - SSR	(\$235)	(\$235)	(\$235)	(\$235)
Total	(\$9,550)	(\$9,550)	(\$9,550)	(\$9,550)

6. The Credentialing and Registration System would need to be programmed to allow for automated tracking and changes to the issuance transaction. The one-time cost is estimated to be \$20,000.

Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS/department)

7. New Section 1(2)(f) permits the Montana university system to assess fees to the DPHHS for reimbursement for the release of a student's transcript or academic record when the individual was previously a foster child but is no longer in the custody of DPHHS due to the person turning 18 years of age. Section 2 provides authorization for DPHHS to utilize federal successful transition of foster care children to adulthood funds. The Child and Family Services Division (CFSSD) currently has appropriations to fully utilize the federal successful transition of foster care children to adulthood funds. Therefore, SB 412 will not create fiscal impact for CFSD.
8. New Section 1(2)(b) prohibits DPHHS from assessing a fee for a replacement birth certificate for a former foster child. The DPHHS Office of Vital Records assumes costs will be minimal and can be absorbed with existing budget authority.

Montana University System (MUS)

9. There is no fiscal impact to the MUS since this legislation proposes a reimbursement from DPHHS for the academic documents needed by foster youth students.

Montana Association of Counties (MACO)

10. MACO assumes there are not very many instances of an eligible free birth certificate requested.

Fiscal Analysis Table

	<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>
<u>Fiscal Impact</u>				
<u>Expenditures</u>				
Operating Expenses	\$20,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
TOTAL Expenditures	\$20,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
<u>Funding of Expenditures</u>				
General Fund (01)	\$8,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
State Special Revenue (02)	\$12,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
TOTAL Funding of Expenditures	\$20,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
<u>Revenues</u>				
General Fund (01)	(\$9,315)	(\$9,315)	(\$9,315)	(\$9,315)
State Special Revenue (02)	(\$235)	(\$235)	(\$235)	(\$235)
TOTAL Revenues	(\$9,550)	(\$9,550)	(\$9,550)	(\$9,550)
<u>Net Impact to Fund Balance (Revenue minus Funding of Expenditures)</u>				
General Fund (01)	(\$17,315)	(\$9,315)	(\$9,315)	(\$9,315)
State Special Revenue (02)	(\$12,235)	(\$235)	(\$235)	(\$235)

NO SPONSOR SIGNATURE

2/28



2/28/2025

Sponsor's Initials

Date

Budget Director's Initials

Date