



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF  
BUDGET AND PROGRAM PLANNING

## Fiscal Note 2027 Biennium

Bill#/Title: SB0487.02 (001): Revising laws related to the Montana end of watch trust

Primary Sponsor: Barry Usher Status: As Amended in House Committee

☐ 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<br/>Difference</u> | <u>FY 2027<br/>Difference</u> | <u>FY 2028<br/>Difference</u> | <u>FY 2029<br/>Difference</u> |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Expenditures         |                               |                               |                               |                               |
| Revenues             |                               |                               |                               |                               |
| Net Impact           |                               |                               |                               |                               |
| General Fund Balance | <u>\$0</u>                    | <u>\$0</u>                    | <u>\$0</u>                    | <u>\$0</u>                    |

### Description of fiscal impact

SB 487 allows the Department of Justice (DOJ) to access a fee not to exceed 15% of the interest and earnings appropriated for the purposes of administrating the end of watch trust fund.

### FISCAL ANALYSIS

#### Assumptions

#### Department of Justice

1. The current appropriation for the End of Watch Trust fund is \$400,000.
2. SB 487 allows the Department of Justice (DOJ) to access a fee not to exceed 15% of the amount appropriated for the purposes of administrating the end of watch trust fund. This would amount to a maximum of \$60,000 per fiscal year (\$400,000 x 15%).
3. An appeals process is also allowed under SB 487. DOJ is unable to quantify the number of appeals that would be received or the costs of those appeals at this time. DOJ will not handle the appeals, the End of Watch Board would seek outside counsel and need to pay outside counsel for those appeals. SB 487 allows for unexpended interest in excess of the principal of the trust to be used for these types of litigation expenses.

### Fiscal Analysis Table

|                             | <u>FY 2026<br/>Difference</u> | <u>FY 2027<br/>Difference</u> | <u>FY 2028<br/>Difference</u> | <u>FY 2029<br/>Difference</u> |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b><u>Fiscal Impact</u></b> |                               |                               |                               |                               |
| <b><u>Expenditures</u></b>  |                               |                               |                               |                               |
| Personal Services           | \$60,000                      | \$60,000                      | \$60,000                      | \$60,000                      |
| Benefits                    | (\$60,000)                    | (\$60,000)                    | (\$60,000)                    | (\$60,000)                    |
| <b>TOTAL Expenditures</b>   | <u>\$0</u>                    | <u>\$0</u>                    | <u>\$0</u>                    | <u>\$0</u>                    |

Funding of Expenditures

Revenues

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

|  |            |            |            |            |
|--|------------|------------|------------|------------|
|  | <u>\$0</u> | <u>\$0</u> | <u>\$0</u> | <u>\$0</u> |
|--|------------|------------|------------|------------|

NO SPONSOR SIGNATURE

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

4/1/25

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
3/31/2025  
Date