



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF  
BUDGET AND PROGRAM PLANNING

## Fiscal Note 2027 Biennium

Bill#/Title: HB0044: Revise laws related to tampering with evidence connected to a homicide

Primary Sponsor: Denise Baum

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>
<b>Expenditures</b>				
General Fund (01)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Revenues</b>				
General Fund (01)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Net Impact</b>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
<b>General Fund Balance</b>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>

### **Description of fiscal impact**

HB 44 revises laws related to tampering with evidence in a homicide case. Neither the Department of Justice or the Department of Corrections anticipates a fiscal impact.

### **FISCAL ANALYSIS**

#### **Assumptions**

#### **Department of Justice**

1. The Montana Highway Patrol wrote 14 citations for 45-7-207, MCA, in calendar year 2024, none of which would have fallen under the proposed revision. It is unknown how many future citations would be written under the new section.
2. Half of the revenue received from imposed fines is deposited to the general fund and half to the county the fine was written in.
3. It is anticipated that any citations written under the new section would come from the county attorney.

#### **Department of Corrections**

1. The Department of Corrections (DoC) assumes that cases where the offender was convicted of homicide and tampering would not see an increase in sentence time, as those sentences are currently at a similar or higher level.
2. Using current data and the above assumption, DoC assumes one (1) offender per year would be affected by the increase in maximum penalty. The cost of the extended sentences would not impact DoC until 2035.

  
Sponsor's Initials

01-07-25  
Date

  
Budget Director's Initials

12/31/2024  
Date