



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF  
BUDGET AND PROGRAM PLANNING

## Fiscal Note 2027 Biennium

Bill#/Title: **HB0312: Revise speed limit laws**

Primary Sponsor: **Jedediah Hinkle**

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**

	<b><u>FY 2026</u></b> <b><u>Difference</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2027</u></b> <b><u>Difference</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2028</u></b> <b><u>Difference</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2029</u></b> <b><u>Difference</u></b>
<b>Expenditures</b>				
State Special Revenue (02)	\$4,135	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Revenues</b>				
State Special Revenue (02)	(\$1,690)	(\$1,690)	(\$1,690)	(\$1,690)
<b>Net Impact</b>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
<b>General Fund Balance</b>				

### **Description of fiscal impact**

HB 312 requires speed limit increases for daytime and nighttime speeds on national highways that have been expanded to four lanes, except in special speed zones. These speed limit increases would require Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) to install new speed limit signs on these portions of highway. HB 312 may lead to a slight reduction in fine revenue for the Department of Justice, Montana Highway Patrol.

### **FISCAL ANALYSIS**

#### **Assumptions**

#### **Department of Transportation**

1. There are three National Highways in Montana that have been expanded to four lanes and are at least 15 miles long. They are US 93 from Hamilton Urban Area to Missoula Urban Area (40.6 miles), US 12 east of Elliston to Helena Urban Area (16.6 miles), and US 287 south of Townsend to about 3 miles north of I-90 (23.14 miles).
2. The Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) assumes that areas with special speed zones are excluded but any length of highway between special speed zones would be included.
3. There are three signs per location which are: speed limit, night-time speed limit, and truck speed limit. The cost per location would be approximately \$217.61, which includes the labor, materials, and the replacement and installation at each location.
4. For US 93 from Hamilton Urban Area to Missoula Urban Area there are 13 locations for a total cost of \$2,828.93 (\$217.61 x 13).
5. For US 12 east of Elliston to Helena Urban Area there are four locations for a total cost of \$870.44 (\$217.61 x 4).
6. For US 287 south of Townsend to about 3 miles north of I-90 there are two locations for a cost of \$435.22 (\$217.61 x 2).

**Department of Justice**

7. HB 312 will affect portions of US 287, US 12, and US 93.
8. In the affected areas, 641 citations were written for 0-10 over the speed limit during daylight hours in 2024. There were 202 0-10 nighttime violation citations were written.
9. The Montana Highway Patrol assumes that 20% of these citations would no longer be written due to speed limits changing.
10. This would reduce revenue of \$1,690 per year.  $(641 + 202 = 843)(843 * 20\% = 674 \text{ citations})(843 - 674 = 169 \text{ citations no longer written})(169 * \$20 = \$3,380)(\$3,380 * 50\% = \$1,690)$
11. When citations were written, 50% of the revenue goes to the county in which the citation was written and 50% goes to the general fund.

**Fiscal Analysis Table**

	<b>FY 2026 Difference</b>	<b>FY 2027 Difference</b>	<b>FY 2028 Difference</b>	<b>FY 2029 Difference</b>
<b><u>Fiscal Impact</u></b>				
<b><u>Expenditures</u></b>				
Personal Services	\$873	\$0	\$0	\$0
Operating Expenses	\$3,262	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL Expenditures</b>	<b>\$4,135</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b><u>Funding of Expenditures</u></b>				
State Special Revenue (02)	\$4,135	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL Funding of Expenditures</b>	<b>\$4,135</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b><u>Revenues</u></b>				
State Special Revenue (02)	(\$1,690)	(\$1,690)	(\$1,690)	(\$1,690)
<b>TOTAL Revenues</b>	<b>(\$1,690)</b>	<b>(\$1,690)</b>	<b>(\$1,690)</b>	<b>(\$1,690)</b>
<b><u>Net Impact to Fund Balance (Revenue minus Funding of Expenditures)</u></b>				
State Special Revenue (02)	(\$5,825)	(\$1,690)	(\$1,690)	(\$1,690)

**Effect on County or Other Local Revenues or Expenditures**

The 50% of fine revenue that goes to the county in which the citation revenue is reduced by an estimated \$1,690.

**NOT SIGNED BY SPONSOR**  
 Sponsor's Initials \_\_\_\_\_ Date 2/3/25

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

1/31/2025  
 Date