



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF
BUDGET AND PROGRAM PLANNING

Fiscal Note 2027 Biennium

Bill#/Title: SB0262.01: Exempt subdivision, water/sewer plans from environmental review

Primary Sponsor: Forrest Mandeville

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

Description of fiscal impact

SB 262 reduces requirements for Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) in Subdivision and Public Water Supply review process. The bill does not have additional requirements for Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). SB 262 has no fiscal impact to DEQ.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

Assumptions

Department of Environmental Quality

1. The SB 262 exempts certain subdivision applications and water or sewer plans from environmental review requirements under Title 75, chapter 1, parts 1 and 2. Specifically, it allows the department to bypass these provisions when reviewing water or sewer system plans. Additionally, the bill amends existing sections of the Montana Code Annotated (MCA) to clarify the delegation of review authority to local governments and independent reviewers, ensuring that they can conduct reviews of small public water and sewer systems without the constraints of the Montana Environmental Policy Act.
2. Key amendments include the removal of the requirement for compliance with the Montana Environmental Policy Act during the review process for subdivisions and the establishment of new rules for local departments or boards of health that employ certified professionals. The bill also introduces provisions for independent reviewers, allowing them to conduct reviews under certain conditions, while ensuring they adhere to public information request laws.

NO SPONSOR SIGNATURE 2/7
Sponsor's Initials Date

RD 2/6/2025
Budget Director's Initials Date