



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF
BUDGET AND PROGRAM PLANNING

Fiscal Note 2027 Biennium

Bill#/Title: HB0332: Generally revise youth court laws

Primary Sponsor: Bill Mercer

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> |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 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

HB 332 revises the youth court act by adding additional offenses by a youth that may be filed in district court. No fiscal impact can be determined at this time, but there could be some impact beyond the timeframe of this fiscal note.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

Assumptions

Department of Corrections (DoC)

1. The DoC assumes the changes to HB 332 will not add new youth to the system but will make it easier for the county attorney to transfer a case from youth court to adult court.
2. The changes to HB 332 will create a longer length of stay for youth. Youth charged as an adult, a criminally convicted youth (CCY), in adult court serve longer sentences than those imposed if the youth were sentenced in youth court.
3. DoC assumes that while there is no immediate fiscal impact, the long-term effects on the adult system have the potential to be significant beyond FY 2029.

Department of Justice

4. The Appellate Services Bureau (ASB) may see an increase in appeals due to the proposed changes in the bill but no significant fiscal impact is expected.

Judiciary

5. HB 332 would amend 41-5-206, MCA, to add additional offenses by a youth that may be filed in district court.
6. The additional offenses are high level felonies that are rarely seen, and the branch does not anticipate a significant increase in court cases.

7. There is no fiscal impact on the Judicial Branch.

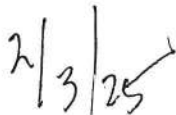
Office of Public Defender (OPD)

8. The additional transfer hearings will cost OPD \$5,000 to \$30,000 per new case for the psychological and developmental evaluations and experts necessary to successfully litigate such hearings.

9. There is no data available to determine how many cases may be involved, but it is anticipated they would be infrequent, and no fiscal impact can be determined.



Sponsor's Initials



Date



Budget Director's Initials

2/3/2025

Date