



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF  
BUDGET AND PROGRAM PLANNING

## Fiscal Note 2025 Biennium

**Bill information:**

HB0847 - Revise personalized vehicle license plates to display livestock brands (Dooling, Julie )

**Status:** As Introduced

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Significant Local Gov Impact | <input type="checkbox"/> Needs to be included in HB 2  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Technical Concerns   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Included in the Executive Budget        | <input type="checkbox"/> Significant Long-Term Impacts | <input type="checkbox"/> Dedicated Revenue Form Attached |

### FISCAL SUMMARY

	<u>FY 2024</u> <u>Difference</u>	<u>FY 2025</u> <u>Difference</u>	<u>FY 2026</u> <u>Difference</u>	<u>FY 2027</u> <u>Difference</u>
<b>Expenditures:</b>				
General Fund	unknown	unknown	unknown	unknown
<b>Revenue:</b>				
General Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Net Impact-General Fund Balance:</b>	unknown	unknown	unknown	unknown

**Description of fiscal impact:** The Department of Justice (DoJ) is unable to estimate the potential fiscal impact of HB 847 as implementation would require the Department of Justice to replace trooper and dispatch equipment to recognize symbols and special characters not currently available on standard office equipment. This equipment is not readily available; therefore, cost estimates are undeterminable. It is assumed that all other law enforcement agencies in the state would face the same challenges that the DoJ foresees.

### FISCAL ANALYSIS

**Assumptions:**

1. Additional programming costs with the computer aided dispatch system may be necessary to recognize valid Montana license plates. The cost of this is unknown but is assumed to be significant and is not something the DoJ can cover within existing resources.
2. All current Montana state troopers would need in-car equipment replaced to adequately ensure public safety. Dispatch equipment would also need to be replaced. The cost of this is unknown but is assumed to be significant and is not something the DoJ can cover within existing resources.

3. It is assumed that all other law enforcement agencies in the state would face the same challenges the DoJ would face.

	<u>FY 2024 Difference</u>	<u>FY 2025 Difference</u>	<u>FY 2026 Difference</u>	<u>FY 2027 Difference</u>
<b><u>Fiscal Impact:</u></b>				
<b><u>Expenditures:</u></b>				
Operating Expenses	unknown	unknown	unknown	unknown
<b>TOTAL Expenditures</b>	<b>unknown</b>	<b>unknown</b>	<b>unknown</b>	<b>unknown</b>
<b><u>Funding of Expenditures:</u></b>				
General Fund (01)	unknown	unknown	unknown	unknown
<b>TOTAL Funding of Exp.</b>	<b>unknown</b>	<b>unknown</b>	<b>unknown</b>	<b>unknown</b>
<b><u>Revenues:</u></b>				
General Fund (01)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL Revenues</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b><u>Net Impact to Fund Balance (Revenue minus Funding of Expenditures):</u></b>				
General Fund (01)	unknown	unknown	unknown	unknown

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

1. Local law enforcement agencies would need to replace equipment to recognize valid Montana license plates.
2. It doesn't appear that a traditional dispatch terminal or the system is compatible with symbols to run license plates. Therefore, law enforcement would have a difficult time running license plates with symbols to identify vehicles and ownership. This may have a significant impact on local government.

**Technical Notes:**

1. This could have a multistate impact as other states would not be set up to read or recognize brand specific symbols and characters.
2. The Department of Justice assumes if the brand is treated as a specialty plate and was printed with existing format of alpha and numeric characters this would provide law enforcement a unique identifier.

  
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 Sponsor's Initials

3-28-23  
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 Date

  
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 Budget Director's Initials

3-28-23  
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 Date