



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF  
BUDGET AND PROGRAM PLANNING

## Fiscal Note 2025 Biennium

**Bill information:**

HB0961 - Create the Montana Energy and Infrastructure Fund (Walsh, Kenneth )

**Status:** As Introduced

- Significant Local Gov Impact     
 Needs to be included in HB 2     
 Technical Concerns  
 Included in the Executive Budget     
 Significant Long-Term Impacts     
 Dedicated Revenue Form Attached

### FISCAL SUMMARY

|   | <u>FY 2024</u><br><u>Difference</u> | <u>FY 2025</u><br><u>Difference</u> | <u>FY 2026</u><br><u>Difference</u> | <u>FY 2027</u><br><u>Difference</u> |
|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Expenditures:</b>                    |                                     |                                     |                                     |                                     |
| General Fund                            | \$75,000                            | \$75,000                            | \$0                                 | \$0                                 |
| State Special Revenue                   | \$0                                 | \$0                                 | \$0                                 | \$0                                 |
| <b>Revenue:</b>                         |                                     |                                     |                                     |                                     |
| General Fund                            | \$0                                 | \$0                                 | \$0                                 | \$0                                 |
| State Special Revenue                   | \$0                                 | \$0                                 | \$0                                 | \$0                                 |
| <b>Net Impact-General Fund Balance:</b> | <u>(\$75,000)</u>                   | <u>(\$75,000)</u>                   | <u>\$0</u>                          | <u>\$0</u>                          |

**Description of fiscal impact:** HB 961 establishes the Montana Energy and Infrastructure fund at the Department of Commerce; creates the Montana Energy and Infrastructure Advisory Commission administered by the Department of Commerce; and appropriates \$150,000 from the general fund to the Department of Commerce for the implementation of the bill.

### FISCAL ANALYSIS

**Assumptions:**

- The department would utilize the \$150,000 general fund appropriation to administer the commission and the fund during the initial stand up. However, it is expected that the department would expect to switch over to federal, philanthropic, or other funding sources identified and secured by the fund. Since these funding sources have yet to be identified or secured the fiscal impact of the bill, beyond the initial appropriation, cannot be estimated with any degree of accuracy at this time.

|   | <u>FY 2024</u><br><u>Difference</u> | <u>FY 2025</u><br><u>Difference</u> | <u>FY 2026</u><br><u>Difference</u> | <u>FY 2027</u><br><u>Difference</u> |
|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b><u>Fiscal Impact:</u></b>  |                                     |                                     |                                     |                                     |
| FTE   | 0.00                                | 0.00                                | 0.00                                | 0.00                                |
| <b><u>Expenditures:</u></b>   |                                     |                                     |                                     |                                     |
| Personal Services   | \$37,500                            | \$37,500                            | \$0                                 | \$0                                 |
| Operating Expenses  | \$37,500                            | \$37,500                            | \$0                                 | \$0                                 |
| <b>TOTAL Expenditures</b>   | <b>\$75,000</b>                     | <b>\$75,000</b>                     | <b>\$0</b>                          | <b>\$0</b>                          |
| <b><u>Funding of Expenditures:</u></b>  |                                     |                                     |                                     |                                     |
| General Fund (01)   | \$75,000                            | \$75,000                            | \$0                                 | \$0                                 |
| <b>TOTAL Funding of Exp.</b>  | <b>\$75,000</b>                     | <b>\$75,000</b>                     | <b>\$0</b>                          | <b>\$0</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)   | (\$75,000)                          | (\$75,000)                          | \$0                                 | \$0                                 |

**Technical Notes:**

1. The Department of Environmental Quality is the State of Montana’s designated state energy office and is already engaged in assessing new energy programs under the Inflation Reduction Act that would be directed their way from the U.S. Department of Energy.

*Henry M. Wolfe* 3/29/2023

Sponsor’s Initials

Date

*AO*

Budget Director’s Initials

3-29-23

Date