



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF  
BUDGET AND PROGRAM PLANNING

## Fiscal Note 2025 Biennium

**Bill information:**

HB0586 - Allow fossils found on state lands to be housed in local museums (Oblander, Greg )

**Status:** As Introduced

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <input 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 |

|   | <u>Difference</u> | <u>Difference</u> | <u>Difference</u> | <u>Difference</u> |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Expenditures:</b>                    |                   |                   |                   |                   |
| General Fund                            | \$0               | \$0               | \$0               | \$0               |
| State Special Revenue                   | \$34,432          | \$31,632          | \$32,106          | \$32,588          |
| <b>Revenue:</b>                         |                   |                   |                   |                   |
| General Fund                            | \$0               | \$0               | \$0               | \$0               |
| State Special Revenue                   | \$0               | \$0               | \$0               | \$0               |
| <b>Net Impact-General Fund Balance:</b> | \$0               | \$0               | \$0               | \$0               |

**Description of fiscal impact:** HB 586 proposes to modify the Montana State Antiquities Act (22-3-421 through 22-3-442, MCA) by giving “priority to depositing paleontological remains in museums or qualified institutions most proximate to the excavation site.” To meet the obligation of proposed revisions, a seasonal hire will be required to travel to various local museums around the state, establish loan agreements, catalogue fossils to be loaned, and annually monitor condition of loaned fossils. If a museum or qualified institution closest to an excavation site is, or becomes, incapable of caring for state owned fossils, the seasonal hire will be responsible for finding an alternate museum or qualified institution and transporting those subject fossils between facilities.

### FISCAL ANALYSIS

**Assumptions:**

**Montana Historical Society**

1. One seasonal hire will be required to meet requirements at \$16 per hour. Operating charges in the first year for the new hire include an office package (\$2,800) expenses and travel (\$10,000). The hired seasonal assistant during summer months will establish loan agreements and annually inspect on the loaned fossils. If a museum or qualified institution closest to an excavation site is or becomes incapable of caring for state owned fossils, the seasonal hire will be responsible for finding an alternate museum or qualified institution and transporting those subject fossils between facilities.
2. The DNRC is responsible for preserving the monetary and scientific value of paleontological remains for the

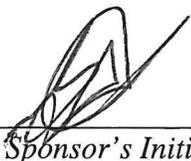
- school trust. This is achieved through agreements with institutions that meet DNRC qualifications.
- The Museum of the Rockies is DNRC’s only recognized repository for School Trust fossils. The DNRC can loan fossils to other museums and qualified individuals engaged in relevant research as long as those entities meet criteria found at Section IV of DNRC Policy titled “Department of Natural Resources and Conservation Responsibility and Policy Concerning the Inventory, Excavation, Collection, and Disposition of Cultural and Paleontologic Resources Owned by the School Trust of the State of Montana.” HB 586 would change this control.
  - Loan agreements with local museums and qualified institutions regarding storage of state fossils will be necessary. This includes long-term and intermittent monitoring of loaned fossil conditions.

|   | <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>  |                                     |                                     |                                     |                                     |
| <b>FTE</b>  | 0.50                                | 0.50                                | 0.50                                | 0.50                                |
| <b><u>Expenditures:</u></b>   |                                     |                                     |                                     |                                     |
| Personal Services   | \$21,632                            | \$21,632                            | \$21,956                            | \$22,286                            |
| Operating Expenses  | \$12,800                            | \$10,000                            | \$10,150                            | \$10,302                            |
| <b>TOTAL Expenditures</b>   | <u>\$34,432</u>                     | <u>\$31,632</u>                     | <u>\$32,106</u>                     | <u>\$32,588</u>                     |
| <b><u>Funding of Expenditures:</u></b>  |                                     |                                     |                                     |                                     |
| General Fund (01)   | \$0                                 | \$0                                 | \$0                                 | \$0                                 |
| State Special Revenue (02)  | \$34,432                            | \$31,632                            | \$32,106                            | \$32,588                            |
| <b>TOTAL Funding of Exp.</b>  | <u>\$34,432</u>                     | <u>\$31,632</u>                     | <u>\$32,106</u>                     | <u>\$32,588</u>                     |
| <b><u>Revenues:</u></b>   |                                     |                                     |                                     |                                     |
| General Fund (01)   | \$0                                 | \$0                                 | \$0                                 | \$0                                 |
| State Special Revenue (02)  | \$0                                 | \$0                                 | \$0                                 | \$0                                 |
| <b>TOTAL Revenues</b>   | <u>\$0</u>                          | <u>\$0</u>                          | <u>\$0</u>                          | <u>\$0</u>                          |
| <b><u>Net Impact to Fund Balance (Revenue minus Funding of Expenditures):</u></b> |                                     |                                     |                                     |                                     |
| General Fund (01)   | \$0                                 | \$0                                 | \$0                                 | \$0                                 |
| State Special Revenue (02)  | (\$34,432)                          | (\$31,632)                          | (\$32,106)                          | (\$32,588)                          |

**Technical Notes:**

- Specific to HB 586, the terms “museum” and “qualified institutions” are not defined.
- The proposed revisions have no provisions for fossils that are not considered palaeontologic remains.
- The criteria to be used to determine the closest museum or qualified institution to an excavation site are not defined. It is unclear whether DNRC or another entity will be responsible for conflict resolution regarding the closest museum or qualified institution to an excavation site.
- If a museum or qualified institution closest to an excavation site is incapable of caring for state owned fossils, but wants to house them, or is negligent in caring for these fossils, it is unclear whether DNRC can recover its palaeontologic remains.
- If museums and qualified institutions would be able to charge DNRC for storage and display of state-owned fossils, there is no indication of how this would be budgeted.

6. School Trust fossils at Museum of the Rockies have been prepared, catalogued, and stored for research purposes. The remains are occasionally loaned to qualified individuals for study and can be loaned to other qualified entities for display. It is unclear that this loaning service could still happen.



---

*Sponsor's Initials*

*Date*



---

*Budget Director's Initials*



---

*Date*