



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF
BUDGET AND PROGRAM PLANNING

Fiscal Note 2027 Biennium

Bill#/Title: **HB0143: Revise definition of treating physician to include physician assistants without regard to proximity of other providers**

Primary Sponsor: Jodee Etchart 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><u>\$0</u></u>	<u><u>\$0</u></u>	<u><u>\$0</u></u>	<u><u>\$0</u></u>

Description of fiscal impact

HB 143 revises the definition of "Treating Physician" in regards to Physician Assistants. The bill enables a claimant or insurer, or both to obtain an impairment rating from a licensed physician assistant within their scope of practice regardless of their proximity to another provider.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

Assumptions

Department of Labor and Industry


1. HB 143 revises the definition of "Treating Physician" to include physician assistants without regard to the proximity of other providers. This change does not fiscally impact the department.

Montana State Fund

2. The bill will increase the number of qualified providers available to complete impairment ratings as required on workers' compensation claims for injuries and for injured employees to return to work.
3. Under current law, a physician assistant may only provide an impairment rating if there is not a physician with admitting privileges to practice in one or more hospitals in the area where the physician is located. This proximity restriction will be removed by this legislation.
4. Though difficult to quantify the fiscal impact, Montana State Fund expects that this change would reduce claim costs. Increasing the number of providers for injured workers to access will reduce wait times to receive impairment ratings, in turn reducing claim durations and claim costs.

Fiscal Note Request - As Introduced


(continued)



Sponsor's Initials

15.1.2025

Date



Budget Director's Initials

1/14/2025

Date