



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF
BUDGET AND PROGRAM PLANNING

Fiscal Note 2027 Biennium

Bill#/Title: **HB0245: Revise the Montana HELP Act workforce development provisions and termination date**

Primary Sponsor: Ed Buttrey 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

	FY 2026 Difference	FY 2027 Difference	FY 2028 Difference	FY 2029 Difference
Expenditures				
State Special Revenue (02)	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$125,000
Revenues				
State Special Revenue (02)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Net Impact	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
General Fund Balance				

Description of fiscal impact

HB 245 continues the community engagement activity requirements for individuals participating in the Medicaid Expansion program, if not exempted for reasons stated in the legislation. The costs to implement this bill will come from existing appropriation in the Department of Health and Human Services (DPHHS). The Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) estimates removing the restriction to use contracted services would allow them to serve additional individuals and will utilize an additional \$125,000 in state special revenue authority.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

Assumptions

Department of Labor and Industry

1. Section 39-12-103, MCA of the bill removes the requirement to contract out employment services. DLI assumes it will begin serving clients directly again through the agency's 18 job service offices, contracting as needed. DLI assumes continuation of established employer grants processes and administration.
2. DLI anticipates being able to serve more participants with the changes in HB 245. By increasing the participants served, the agency will need additional state special revenue appropriation of \$125,000 each year for FY 2026 through FY 2029 for grants.

Department of Public Health and Human Services

1. The amendments in HB 245 does not alter existing Medicaid benefits and will have no fiscal impact to the department.

Fiscal Analysis Table

	<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>
Fiscal Impact				
Expenditures				
Grants	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$125,000
TOTAL Expenditures	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$125,000
Funding of Expenditures				
State Special Revenue (02)	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$125,000
TOTAL Funding of Expenditures	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$125,000
Revenues				
Net Impact to Fund Balance (Revenue minus Funding of Expenditures)				
State Special Revenue (02)	(\$125,000)	(\$125,000)	(\$125,000)	(\$125,000)

Technical Concerns

Department of Health and Human Services

1. The bill removes the sunset date of June 30, 2025, previously applied to certain sections of the law regarding fraud prevention in unemployment insurance (lines 9-10). In addition, section 2 of the bill (page 3, lines 12-14) repeals provisions adopted in 2015, 2019, and 2021 that, respectively, created and then extended the sunset/termination dates contained in the HELP Act, which effectuated Medicaid expansion in Montana. This includes MCA 53-6-1315, adopted in 2019, which created a Montana HELP Act account in the state special revenue fund for DPHHS to fund the benefits and administrative costs of providing health care services under the HELP Act. (Between 2015 and 2019, MCA 53-6-1304 provided for a federal special revenue fund to pay the costs (including benefits and administrative costs), of providing health care services under the HELP Act.) The net effect of the repealer in section 2 of the bill appears to make Medicaid expansion in Montana subject to the appropriation of the Legislature.
2. The repealer in section 2 of the bill is identical to the repealer in section 14 of HB 230.
3. HB 245's only impact on the operations of the Medicaid Expansion program for DPHHS is removal of the termination date, therefore DPHHS assumes the program will continue to operate as it does today.

Department of Labor and Industry

1. The bill removes the sunset date of June 30, 2025, previously applied to certain sections of the law regarding fraud prevention in unemployment insurance (lines 9-10).



 Sponsor's Initials

1/28/25

 Date



 Budget Director's Initials

1/28/2025

 Date