



The Big Sky Country

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SPONSOR'S REBUTTAL TO FISCAL NOTE

House Bill Number: HB 28

Date Requested:

(4 day turnaround per Joint Rule 40-110)

Short Title: Clarify timelines and opening procedures for public charter schools.

Fiscal Note version:

Sponsor: David Bedey

Original **Revised**

Generally, why do you disagree with the fiscal note?

The number of charter school districts assumed to be open is inflated. This in turn leads to an overestimate of the net impact on the general fund.

Specifically, what in the fiscal note do you feel is flawed?

The fiscal note assumes (assumption 9) that four public charter school districts will be created in FY 2026. In fact, zero districts will be created in FY 2026, based on decisions made by the Board of Public Education on January 24, 2025, at which time the Board disapproved the single application that had been put forward for consideration. This was the second round of applications for this program. In the first round, which occurred a year ago, no charter district applications were considered. Based on these two data points, it might be reasonable to assume one district for operation in FY 2027.

What is your estimate of the fiscal impact?

FY 2026: zero

FY 2027: \$427,233, assuming one district is approved during the next application window.

Sponsor Signature: _____

David Bedey