



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF  
BUDGET AND PROGRAM PLANNING

## Fiscal Note 2027 Biennium

Bill#/Title: HB0084: Revise liability, training for prescribed fires

Primary Sponsor: Steve Gist 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>
<b>Expenditures</b>				
Existing Statutory Appropriation	\$302,864	\$297,264	\$300,103	\$302,985
<b>Revenues</b>				
Existing Statutory Appropriation	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Net Impact</b>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
<b>General Fund Balance</b>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>

### Description of fiscal impact

HB 84 allows the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation(DNRC) to implement a prescribed fire management program. Costs are shown for informational purposes only. DNRC does not require an appropriation as it will utilize the existing statutory appropriation from the 2023 Legislature's HB 883.

### FISCAL ANALYSIS

#### Assumptions

#### Department of Natural Resources and Conservation

1. HB 84 allows the Department to create a prescribed fire manager certification program.
2. The DNRC is not requesting additional funding. The functions in this bill will be paid using the existing statutory appropriation under 76-13-150 (4)(b) and/or (4)(h), MCA, which allows funding for fuel reduction, mitigation, and fire preparedness.
3. The DNRC anticipates the following expenses:
  - a. 2.00 FTE Program Specialist 2 statutory modified positions budgeted at an estimated cost of \$189,264 in FY 2026 and FY 2027, with an inflationary rate of 1.5% in FY 2028 and FY 2029.
  - b. One-time-only costs for two position's equipment and computer at \$2,800 each for a total of \$5,600 in FY 2026.
  - c. Contracted services of \$100,000 per fiscal year to support counties in modernization for burn permit systems and reporting mechanisms for prescribed fire activity.
  - d. Travel costs of \$8,000 per fiscal year to support counties.

**Fiscal Analysis Table**

**Department of Natural Resources and Conservation**

	<u>FY 2026 Difference</u>	<u>FY 2027 Difference</u>	<u>FY 2028 Difference</u>	<u>FY 2029 Difference</u>
<b><u>Fiscal Impact</u></b>				
FTE	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00
<b>TOTAL Fiscal Impact</b>	<b>2.00</b>	<b>2.00</b>	<b>2.00</b>	<b>2.00</b>
<b><u>Expenditures</u></b>				
Personal Services	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Program Specialist 2	\$189,264	\$189,264	\$192,103	\$194,985
Operating Expenses	\$113,600	\$108,000	\$108,000	\$108,000
<b>TOTAL Expenditures</b>	<b>\$302,864</b>	<b>\$297,264</b>	<b>\$300,103</b>	<b>\$302,985</b>
<b><u>Funding of Expenditures</u></b>				
State Special Revenue (02)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Existing Statutory Appropriation	\$302,864	\$297,264	\$300,103	\$302,985
<b>TOTAL Funding of Expenditures</b>	<b>\$302,864</b>	<b>\$297,264</b>	<b>\$300,103</b>	<b>\$302,985</b>
Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b><u>Revenues</u></b>				
<b><u>Net Impact to Fund Balance (Revenue minus Funding of Expenditures)</u></b>				
State Special Revenue (02)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Existing Statutory Appropriation	(\$302,864)	(\$297,264)	(\$300,103)	(\$302,985)
Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

  
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 Sponsor's Initials

1-8-25  
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 Date

  
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 Budget Director's Initials

1/7/2025  
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 Date