



Fiscal Note 2027 Biennium

Bill#/Title: SB0320.01: Create Montana-Ireland trade commission

Primary Sponsor: Mike Cuffe 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)	\$39,197	\$27,197	\$27,581	\$27,971
Revenues				
State Special Revenue (02)	\$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

SB 320 establishes the Montana – Ireland trade commission and attaches it to the Department of Commerce for administrative purposes. The activities of the commission are entirely dependent on fundraising. The estimated fiscal impact is \$39,197 in FY 2026, \$27,197 in FY 2027, \$27,581 in FY 2028, and \$27,971 in FY 2029, contingent upon equivalent funds being raised.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

Assumptions

Department of Commerce

- Section 1 of the bill establishes a nine-member commission. Members would serve without compensation but would be entitled to travel reimbursements depending on available funds. Commission activities, meetings, and travel reimbursements would be entirely dependent on funding raised by the commission through direct solicitation or other fundraising events.
- Since activities are dependent on fundraising, the agency is unable to accurately predict the amount of funds that will be raised. The department will assume, for the purpose of this fiscal note, that the commission would meet in person four times each year, similar to other boards and commissions attached to the department.
- Based on current reimbursement rates, travel expenses for four in person meetings with nine members, plus one admin staff are estimated to be \$21,500 in each FY 2026 and FY 2027, \$21,823 in FY 2028 and \$22,150 in FY 2029.
- Additional expenses would include meeting room rental, supplies, remote meeting license fees, as well as personal services related to administrative staff required to post meeting notices, arrange travel and meeting rooms, set up audio/video equipment, take and post minutes, and otherwise update the commission's

website, and assist with the annual report required in Section 7. These duties would likely be performed by existing staff and their payroll expenses charged to the special revenue account established in Section 6. These additional expenses are estimated to total \$5,697 in each FY 2026 and FY 2027, \$5,758 in FY 2028 and \$5,821 in FY 2029.

5. It is estimated a one-time expense of \$12,000 would be necessary to develop a website for posting public meeting notices, meeting minutes, and other commission records which must be made public per Section 5 of the bill.
6. It is assumed that the agency would wait to incur costs until adequate funds were raised to fund commission work.

Fiscal Analysis Table

	FY 2026 Difference	FY 2027 Difference	FY 2028 Difference	FY 2029 Difference
<u>Fiscal Impact</u>				
<u>Expenditures</u>				
Personal Services	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,045	\$3,091
Operating Expenses	\$36,197	\$24,197	\$24,536	\$24,880
TOTAL Expenditures	\$39,197	\$27,197	\$27,581	\$27,971
<u>Funding of Expenditures</u>				
State Special Revenue (02)	\$39,197	\$27,197	\$27,581	\$27,971
TOTAL Funding of Expenditures	\$39,197	\$27,197	\$27,581	\$27,971
<u>Revenues</u>				
<u>Net Impact to Fund Balance (Revenue minus Funding of Expenditures)</u>				
State Special Revenue (02)	(\$39,197)	(\$27,197)	(\$27,581)	(\$27,971)

 2/24
 Sponsor's Initials Date

 2/21/2025
 Budget Director's Initials Date