



MEMO

To: Montana State Library Commission
From: Jennie Stapp, State Librarian
Subject: 69th Legislative Session summary
Date: June 1, 2025

The following information summarizes key outcomes for the Montana State Library (MSL) from the 2025 Legislative Session:

Budget

- House Bill 2, the state budget bill, includes fixed costs, inflationary, and pay increases approved by the Governor's office and the Legislature. MSL's budget includes no new proposals.
- HB 13, the state pay plan bill, provides that eligible state employees will receive a pay increase of \$1.00/hour or 2.5%, whichever is greater, on July 1, 2025, and July 1, 2026. The bill also increases in-state travel per diem to match 70% of the Federal Standard Rate. Previously the State determined its own per diem rates. Finally, the bill increases the monthly state health plan employer contributions by 2.5% in January 2026 and January 2027.
 - As a reminder, HB 2 provides General Fund dollars and spending authority for other sources of revenue (State Special, Federal, and Proprietary) to cover the costs of these increases, however these costs not funded by General Fund must be funded by existing dollars, reducing the amount of operational funds available from those sources of revenue.
- HB 192 increased the Montana Geospatial Information Act recordation fee, along with the fees received by Clerks and Recorders. MSL's GIS recordation fee increased by \$.75/page and the County GIS account fee increased by \$.25/page effective October 1, 2025. The legislation also adds an inflationary factor to be calculated by the Department of Revenue to help the fees keep pace with rising costs.



Policy

- The Education Budget Subcommittee adopted a revised organizational structure for the State Library. Instead of considering MSL one program, Statewide Library Resources, our budget and financial reporting will now be broken out into three programs, Central Services, Patron and Local Library Development Services, and GIS, Data, and Information Programs.

Interim

- HB 864, the Section E budget companion bill, includes a requirement for the Education Interim Budget Committee to study statewide interlibrary resource sharing programs.

In order to respond to questions, MSL Consultants will familiarize themselves with legislation that may impact local library operations including a public records bill, a bill regarding recording public events, and local government revenue bills.

Finally, the Department of Administration has scheduled a meeting for agency directors on June 24, 2025 to review legislation that impacts all state agencies. If warranted, I will share additional legislative updates after that date.