

2025 Biennium 5% Base Budget Reduction Form
[17-7-111-3\(f\)](#)

AGENCY CODE & NAME: 41100 Department of Justice (DOJ)

		Minimum Requirement	
		General Fund	State Special Revenue Fund
TARGETED REDUCTION TO EQUAL 5% OF CURRENT BASE BUDGET		\$ 1,739,654	\$ 3,761,479
Div Priority:		General Fund Annual Savings	State Special Revenue Annual Savings
	SERVICE(S) TO BE ELIMINATED OR REDUCED		
1	LEGAL SERVICES DIVISION	\$ 394,483	\$ 50,725
2	MONTANA HIGHWAY PATROL	\$ 97,058	\$ 2,387,182
3	DIVISION OF CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION	\$ 21,341	\$ (11)
4	GAMBLING CONTROL DIVISION	\$ -	\$ 120,238
5	FORENSIC SCIENCE DIVISION	\$ 338,416	\$ 91,357
6	MOTOR VEHICLE DIVISION	\$ 393,517	\$ 698,242
7	CENTRAL SERVICES DIVISION	\$ 394,144	\$ 246,288
8	POST	\$ -	\$ 28,325
9	MONTANA LAW ENFORCEMENT ACADEMY	\$ 7,500	\$ 125,113
10	BOARD OF CRIME CONTROL	\$ 93,196	\$ 14,020
	TOTAL SAVINGS	\$ 1,739,655	\$ 3,761,479
	DIFFERENCE	-1	0

Form A

5% Base Budget Reduction Form

AGENCY CODE & NAME: 41100 Department of Justice (DOJ)

Legal Services Division

#1 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF SERVICE TO BE CONSIDERED FOR ELIMINATION OR REDUCTION:

LSD will reduce general fund authority by reducing major litigation and other operating expenditures.

#2 THE SAVINGS THAT ARE EXPECTED:

\$394,483

#3 THE CONSEQUENCES OR IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED ELIMINATION OR REDUCTION:

Reducing the major litigation appropriation will not impact the division as the Attorney General is required per statute to represent the State of Montana. If major litigation expenses exceeded available appropriation the department would have to seek a supplemental appropriation.

#4 HOW THE IMPACT TO CONSTITUENTS AND STAFF MIGHT BE MITIGATED:

N/A

#5 WHETHER THE SERVICE IS SPECIFICALLY REQUIRED BY STATE & /OR FEDERAL STATUTE - YES OR NO:

2-15-501, MCA

Form B

5% Base Budget Reduction Form

AGENCY CODE & NAME: 41100 Department of Justice (DOJ)

Office of Consumer Protection

#1 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF SERVICE TO BE CONSIDERED FOR ELIMINATION OR REDUCTION:

Reduce the benefit and claims in the special revenue fund.

#2 THE SAVINGS THAT ARE EXPECTED:

\$50,725

#3 THE CONSEQUENCES OR IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED ELIMINATION OR REDUCTION:

Prior to the distribution to the beneficiaries, the settlements would be processed through the Governor's Office.

#4 HOW THE IMPACT TO CONSTITUENTS AND STAFF MIGHT BE MITIGATED:

N/A

#5 WHETHER THE SERVICE IS SPECIFICALLY REQUIRED BY STATE & /OR FEDERAL STATUTE - YES OR NO:

Yes, 30-14-143, MCA.

Form B

5% Base Budget Reduction Form

AGENCY CODE & NAME:

Montana Highway Patrol

#1 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF SERVICE TO BE CONSIDERED FOR ELIMINATION OR REDUCTION:

Remove the Montana Highway Patrol (MHP) obligation to pay for persons arrested and purchase 18 fewer vehicles.

#2 THE SAVINGS THAT ARE EXPECTED:

This 5% reduction will consist of a savings of \$226,155 from general fund and \$2,387,182 from the state special revenue fund in operating and asset costs each year of the 2027 biennium. \$226,155 is eliminated from the general fund and \$1.2M from a state special revenue account in operating costs from removing the MHP obligation to pay for persons arrested by MHP. An additional \$1.2M is reduced from a state special revenue account by purchasing 18 fewer vehicles and the materials to outfit the vehicles (i.e. radio, lights, gun rack, printer, etc.)

#3 THE CONSEQUENCES OR IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED ELIMINATION OR REDUCTION:

By removing the MHP obligation to pay for persons arrested, counties and/or another entity would bear the cost of holding persons arrested by the Montana Highway Patrol. Reducing the number of vehicles purchased would mean maintaining the current fleet of vehicles for a longer mileage life. A larger purchase of vehicles in a future FY may be necessary to replace aging and dysfunctional vehicles. Response time may increase due to a lack of reliable vehicles or a sharing of vehicles between troops.

#4 HOW THE IMPACT TO CONSTITUENTS AND STAFF MIGHT BE MITIGATED:

Half of the fine revenue of tickets written by the Montana Highway Patrol goes to the county the ticket was written in and the other half goes to the general fund. This 50/50 split could be modified to give counties a larger piece and/or fine amounts could be increased. If enough vehicles became unreliable, troops may need to share vehicles.

#5 WHETHER THE SERVICE IS SPECIFICALLY REQUIRED BY STATE & /OR FEDERAL STATUTE - YES OR NO:

Yes, MCA 7-32-2242(2)(a)

Form B

5% Base Budget Reduction Form

41100 Department of Justice
Investigations

#1

#2

#3

#4

#5

Form B

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF SERVICE TO BE CONSIDERED FOR ELIMINATION OR REDUCTION:

The overall 5% of base cost savings, totaling \$21,341 would reduce general fund operating and equipment budget for the Montana Child Sexual Abuse (MCSART) program; thereby reducing direct services provided to local law enforcement, prosecutors, and other professionals responsible for protecting Montana's kids against child sexual abuse, and other related crimes.

THE SAVINGS THAT ARE EXPECTED:

This 5% reduction will consist of a savings of \$21,341 of general fund in operating costs, and equipment each year of the 2027 biennium.

THE CONSEQUENCES OR IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED ELIMINATION OR REDUCTION:

Reductions in the MCSART program will directly affect local city and county agencies' ability to successfully investigate and prosecute crimes against children. Training, equipment, and other specialized assistance will no longer be available in Montana.

HOW THE IMPACT TO CONSTITUENTS AND STAFF MIGHT BE MITIGATED:

N/A

NO:

No, duties defined per Title 44, MCA

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Gambling Control Division

#1 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF SERVICE TO BE CONSIDERED FOR ELIMINATION OR REDUCTION:

The program proposes potentially closing a regional compliance office and/or reducing compliance staff. As an alternative or in conjunction with a reduction in compliance staff, the program proposes the elimination of one Electronics Engineer position in the Technical Services Section.

#2 THE SAVINGS THAT ARE EXPECTED:

A savings of \$120,238 in state special revenue could be saved if we reduced compliance staff and eliminated an Electronics Engineer position (which would include a reduction in force of 2.00 FTE and related operating expenses).

#3 THE CONSEQUENCES OR IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED ELIMINATION OR REDUCTION:

The closure of a regional office/reduction of compliance staff would inherently result in increased travel costs for the other offices and delays in gambling, alcoholic beverage, and tobacco license investigations, inspections, and criminal investigations due to reduced staff and travel time. Our enforcement presence in those areas would be compromised opening the possibility of illegal activity. The reduction of staff available to work on tobacco tax enforcement cases could have a negative impact on the Master Settlement Agreement lawsuits facing the state. The elimination of an Electronics Engineer position would cause delays in the approval of manufacturer submitted video gambling machine software and devices. Those licensees would be financially impacted by the delay in getting their product on the market. All proposed reductions would cause licensees and the public to see a decrease in services and responsiveness from the division.

#4 HOW THE IMPACT TO CONSTITUENTS AND STAFF MIGHT BE MITIGATED:

Delays in licensing would result in delays in the applicants' ability to operate gaming and alcoholic beverage establishments until licensing is complete (which would also have an impact on tax collections). In order to prevent delays, when possible, constituents may be asked to come to division offices more often if staff is not able to travel to them.

#5 WHETHER THE SERVICE IS SPECIFICALLY REQUIRED BY STATE & /OR FEDERAL STATUTE - YES OR NO:

Yes, 23-5-115, 23-5-113, 23-5-631, and 16-4-402, MCA.

Form B

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Form

AGENCY CODE & NAME:
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Forensic Science Division

#1 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF SERVICE TO BE CONSIDERED FOR ELIMINATION OR
REDUCTION:

Cancel/Delay plans to lease/purchase instrumentation; Reduce FTE or postpone re-hiring position vacancies; Reduce costs of consumables by either reducing our services and/or deferring kit supply costs to LEAs

#2 THE SAVINGS THAT ARE EXPECTED:

429773

#3 THE CONSEQUENCES OR IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED ELIMINATION OR
REDUCTION:

Aging instrumentation will not be replaced causing potential increases in repairs, delays in evidence processing, and delaying technical advancements; Loss in FTE increases turn-around times for evidence processing and could increase outsourcing costs; Changes in services and deferring costs project further burden on the local municipalities

#4 HOW THE IMPACT TO CONSTITUENTS AND STAFF MIGHT BE MITIGATED:

N/A

#5 WHETHER THE SERVICE IS SPECIFICALLY REQUIRED BY STATE & /OR
FEDERAL STATUTE - YES OR NO:

No

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Motor Vehicle Division

#1 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF SERVICE TO BE CONSIDERED FOR ELIMINATION OR REDUCTION:

Reduction of Call Center Staff

#2 THE SAVINGS THAT ARE EXPECTED:

This 5% reduction will consist of a savings of \$121,569 from general fund appropriations in personal services each year of the 2027 biennium by reducing the call center and reducing of equipment purchases in the general fund.

#3 THE CONSEQUENCES OR IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED ELIMINATION OR REDUCTION:

Over 15,000 customers call the MVD Call Center every month to schedule appointments in driver license stations where appointments are available or to ask driver licensing, driver record, or miscellaneous MVD-related questions. If the Call Center was reduced, appointments would be scheduled either online or by phone with Records and Driver's Control. Since Call Center personnel also prepare customers for their appointments by explaining what documents are needed for the appointment or other requirements, customers could be less prepared when they arrive for their appointments and they may not be able to complete their transaction, causing a return trip to the driver license station. For those who have questions, they will have to seek information via the internet or telephone numbers within individual work units for information. Productivity in those units could be decreased, as employees respond to the increased volume of calls.

#4 HOW THE IMPACT TO CONSTITUENTS AND STAFF MIGHT BE MITIGATED:

All non-appointment calls would have to be absorbed by remaining staff, increasing incidence of customer frustration at wait times or by getting a busy signal, difficulty in finding right contact within division to answer questions, and frustrated customers calling elsewhere in state government, attorney generals office, citizen's advocate, consumer protection, in search of answers and to voice frustrations.

#5 WHETHER THE SERVICE IS SPECIFICALLY REQUIRED BY STATE & /OR FEDERAL STATUTE - YES OR NO:

Not mandated by statute.

Form B

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Motor Vehicle Division

#1 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF SERVICE TO BE CONSIDERED FOR ELIMINATION OR REDUCTION:

Reduce funding in SITSD costs, grants, and training

#2 THE SAVINGS THAT ARE EXPECTED:

MVD will reduce of SSR budget appropriations by eliminating Chrome for Kids funding (\$54,000), requiring the counties to pay 100% of their SITSD networking and hosting costs (\$216,000), reducing "Staff Augmentation" for CARS once released (\$250,000).

#3 THE CONSEQUENCES OR IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED ELIMINATION OR REDUCTION:

Substantial cost shift to local government, lower grant authority, and less staff to manage extra workloads in all departments.

#4 HOW THE IMPACT TO CONSTITUENTS AND STAFF MIGHT BE MITIGATED:

Chrome for Kids awardees would not be receiving grant money. Staff training, morale and connectivity to MVD Mission would be jeopardized. Local governments would absorb more costs than their budgets may allow. Increase stress on existing staff due to increase in workloads.

#5 WHETHER THE SERVICE IS SPECIFICALLY REQUIRED BY STATE & /OR FEDERAL STATUTE - YES OR NO:

Yes, statutory mandate is for the department of justice to "maintain" the motor vehicle titling and registration system.

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Justice Information Technology Services Division

#1

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF SERVICE TO BE CONSIDERED FOR *ELIMINATION* OR *REDUCTION*:

JITSD will reduce, eliminate, and/or renegotiate hardware/software maintenance contract costs. In addition, JITSD will work towards consolidating applications to reduce infrastructure needs such as multi-user computers. JITSD will reduce travel and training expenses by fore-going conferences and utilizing on-line and/or free education.

#2 THE SAVINGS THAT ARE EXPECTED:

Operating: Contract Maintenance = \$180,941 ; Multi-User Computers = \$67,203 ; Equipment = \$104,000 ; Education = \$22,000 ; Travel = \$20,000

#3

THE CONSEQUENCES OR IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED *ELIMINATION* OR *REDUCTION*:

Software support for major systems may be eliminated and applications upgrades will be delayed. Critical support terms for Microsoft products such as Service Manager will need to be renegotiated. Applications may need to share hardware and experience performance delays. DOJ application upgrades will be delayed due to staff availability. It will take longer to get staff training in technical skills. Technical staff may need to spend time reconfiguring applications and resolving problems without assistance from the vendors. Several equipment upgrades will be delayed.

#4 HOW THE IMPACT TO CONSTITUENTS AND STAFF MIGHT BE MITIGATED:

DOJ could consider hosting some applications in the cloud to potentially reduce software and hardware demands. Staff will need to enroll in free or self-study classes. Reducing or eliminating certain service contracts could potentially slow applications which would affect user (constituent) experience.

#5 WHETHER THE SERVICE IS SPECIFICALLY REQUIRED BY STATE & /OR FEDERAL STATUTE - YES OR NO:

No. Per state and federal policy.

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Central Services Division

#1 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF SERVICE TO BE CONSIDERED FOR ELIMINATION OR REDUCTION:

Reduction of FTE or postpone rehiring position vacancies, reducing operating costs.

#2 THE SAVINGS THAT ARE EXPECTED:

The reductions would create a state special funding savings of \$246,288 each year of the 2027 biennium.

#3 THE CONSEQUENCES OR IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED ELIMINATION OR REDUCTION:

Turnaround time for general ledger accounting, budgeting, reconciliation and human resource functions will be increased.

#4 HOW THE IMPACT TO CONSTITUENTS AND STAFF MIGHT BE MITIGATED:

NA

#5 WHETHER THE SERVICE IS SPECIFICALLY REQUIRED BY STATE & /OR FEDERAL STATUTE - YES OR NO:

No

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AGENCY CODE & NAME: 41100
Department of Justice (DOJ)

Montana Law Enforcement Academy

- #1 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF SERVICE TO BE CONSIDERED FOR ELIMINATION OR REDUCTION:
Reduce state special revenue by eliminating 1 (one) of the Law Enforcement Basic programs reducing operating costs. Reduction of 1 (one) FTE or postpone position vacancies. Defer maintenance on building and infrastructure to reduce the general fund.
- #2 THE SAVINGS THAT ARE EXPECTED:

These reduction would create a state special fund saving of \$125,113 and general fund of \$7500.
- #3 THE CONSEQUENCES OR IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED ELIMINATION OR REDUCTION:

Eliminating a Law Enforcement Basic would directly affect all law enforcement agencies across the state. Training 66 fewer law enforcement officers each year would create both public and officer safety issues. Agencies would not be able to fully staff their departments with calls being delayed. By deferring maintenance, MLEA's 100+ year old infrastructure would be neglected. With no current maintenance fund repairs would not be able to be completed resulting the buildings not being able to run in a safe and efficient manor.
- #4 HOW THE IMPACT TO CONSTITUENTS AND STAFF MIGHT BE MITIGATED:

The impact of eliminating the Law Enforcement Basic Program can not be mitigated. Currently there is a waiting list to enroll officers into the academy meaning MLEA should be increasing programs. With deferring maintenance, officers may have to live in substandard conditions.
- #5 WHETHER THE SERVICE IS SPECIFICALLY REQUIRED BY STATE & /OR FEDERAL STATUTE - YES OR NO:
Yes MCA 7-32-303

Form B