Multiple Agency Fiscal Note Summary

Bill Number: 2579 HB	**Title:** Public media grants

Estimated Cash Receipts

Agency Name	2025-27			2027-29			2029-31		
	GF-State	NGF-Outlook	Total	GF-State	NGF-Outlook	Total	GF-State	NGF-Outlook	Total
Office of State Treasurer	Non-zero but indeterminate cost and/or savings. Please see discussion.								
Department of Revenue	0	0	10,200,000	0	0	50,300,000	0	0	51,800,000
Total $	**0**	**0**	**10,200,000**	**0**	**0**	**50,300,000**	**0**	**0**	**51,800,000**

Agency Name	2025-27		2027-29		2029-31	
	GF- State	Total	GF- State	Total	GF- State	Total
Local Gov. Courts						
Loc School dist-SPI						
Local Gov. Other	No fiscal impact					
Local Gov. Total						

Estimated Operating Expenditures

Agency Name	2025-27				2027-29				2029-31			
	FTEs	GF-State	NGF-Outlook	Total	FTEs	GF-State	NGF-Outloo	Total	FTEs	GF-State	NGF-Outlook	Total
Office of State Treasurer	.0	0	0	0	.0	0	0	0	.0	0	0	0
Department of Commerce	.0	0	0	0	6.6	2,281,682	2,281,682	2,281,682	6.6	2,177,314	2,177,314	2,177,314
Department of Commerce	In addition to the estimate above,there are additional indeterminate costs and/or savings. Please see individual fiscal note.											
Department of Revenue	1.0	407,500	407,500	407,500	.4	99,800	99,800	99,800	.4	99,800	99,800	99,800
Total $	**1.0**	**407,500**	**407,500**	**407,500**	**7.0**	**2,381,482**	**2,381,482**	**2,381,482**	**7.0**	**2,277,114**	**2,277,114**	**2,277,114**

Agency Name	2025-27			2027-29			2029-31		
	FTEs	GF-State	Total	FTEs	GF-State	Total	FTEs	GF-State	Total
Local Gov. Courts									
Loc School dist-SPI									
Local Gov. Other	No fiscal impact								
Local Gov. Total									

Estimated Capital Budget Expenditures

Agency Name	2025-27			2027-29			2029-31		
	FTEs	Bonds	Total	FTEs	Bonds	Total	FTEs	Bonds	Total
Office of State Treasurer	.0	0	0	.0	0	0	.0	0	0
Department of Commerce	.0	0	0	.0	0	0	.0	0	0
Department of Revenue	.0	0	0	.0	0	0	.0	0	0
Total $	**0.0**	**0**	**0**	**0.0**	**0**	**0**	**0.0**	**0**	**0**

FNPID: 76008

FNS029 Multi Agency rollup

Agency Name	2025-27			2027-29			2029-31		
	FTEs	GF-State	Total	FTEs	GF-State	Total	FTEs	GF-State	Total
Local Gov. Courts									
Loc School dist-SPI									
Local Gov. Other	No fiscal impact								
Local Gov. Total									

Estimated Capital Budget Breakout

Prepared by: Megan Tudor, OFM	**Phone:** (360) 890-1722	**Date Published:** Final 1/29/2026

FNPID: 76008

FNS029 Multi Agency rollup

Individual State Agency Fiscal Note

Bill Number: 2579 HB	Title: Public media grants	Agency: 090-Office of State Treasurer

Part I: Estimates

☐ **No Fiscal Impact**

Estimated Cash Receipts to:

Non-zero but indeterminate cost and/or savings. Please see discussion.

Estimated Operating Expenditures from:
NONE

Estimated Capital Budget Impact:

NONE

The cash receipts and expenditure estimates on this page represent the most likely fiscal impact. Factors impacting the precision of these estimates, and alternate ranges (if appropriate), are explained in Part II.

Check applicable boxes and follow corresponding instructions:

☐ If fiscal impact is greater than $50,000 per fiscal year in the current biennium or in subsequent biennia, complete entire fiscal note form Parts I-V.

☒ If fiscal impact is less than $50,000 per fiscal year in the current biennium or in subsequent biennia, complete this page only (Part I).

☐ Capital budget impact, complete Part IV.

☐ Requires new rule making, complete Part V.

Legislative Contact:	Martha Wehling	Phone: 360-786-7067	Date: 01/19/2026
Agency Preparation:	Dan Mason	Phone: (360) 902-8990	Date: 01/29/2026
Agency Approval:	Dan Mason	Phone: (360) 902-8990	Date: 01/29/2026
OFM Review:	Megan Tudor	Phone: (360) 890-1722	Date: 01/29/2026

Part II: Narrative Explanation

II. A - Brief Description Of What The Measure Does That Has Fiscal Impact

Significant provisions of the bill and any related workload or policy assumptions that have revenue or expenditure impact on the responding agency by section number.

HB 2579 creates the public media broadcaster and digital equity account, coupled with the general fund as the recipient of the earnings from investments under RCW 43.84.092(4).

There will be some de-minimis work for OST which can be completed within current practices and resources.

II. B - Cash receipts Impact

Cash receipts impact of the legislation on the responding agency with the cash receipts provisions identified by section number and when appropriate, the detail of the revenue sources. Description of the factual basis of the assumptions and the method by which the cash receipts impact is derived. Explanation of how workload assumptions translate into estimates. Distinguished between one time and ongoing functions.

Projected cash flows are currently unavailable; therefore, estimated earnings from investments are indeterminable.

There may be an impact on the debt service limitation calculation. Changes to the earnings credited to the general fund impacts, by an equal amount, general state revenues.

II. C - Expenditures

Agency expenditures necessary to implement this legislation (or savings resulting from this legislation), with the provisions of the legislation that result in the expenditures (or savings) identified by section number. Description of the factual basis of the assumptions and the method by which the expenditure impact is derived. Explanation of how workload assumptions translate into cost estimates. Distinguished between one time and ongoing functions.

Part III: Expenditure Detail

III. A - Operating Budget Expenditures

NONE

III. B - Expenditures by Object Or Purpose

NONE

III. C - Operating FTE Detail: *FTEs listed by classification and corresponding annual compensation. Totals agree with total FTEs in Part I and Part IIIA.*

NONE

III. D - Expenditures By Program (optional)

NONE

Part IV: Capital Budget Impact

IV. A - Capital Budget Expenditures

NONE

IV. B - Expenditures by Object Or Purpose

NONE

IV. C - Capital Budget Breakout

Acquisition and construction costs not reflected elsewhere on the fiscal note and description of potential financing methods.

NONE

IV. D - Capital FTE Detail: *FTEs listed by classification and corresponding annual compensation. Totals agree with total FTEs in Part IVB.*

NONE

Part V: New Rule Making Required

Provisions of the bill that require the agency to adopt new administrative rules or repeal/revise existing rules.

Individual State Agency Fiscal Note

Bill Number: 2579 HB	Title: Public media grants	Agency: 103-Department of Commerce

Part I: Estimates

☐ **No Fiscal Impact**

Estimated Cash Receipts to:

NONE

Estimated Operating Expenditures from:

	FY 2026	FY 2027	2025-27	2027-29	2029-31
FTE Staff Years	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.6	6.6
Account					
General Fund-State 001-1	0	0	0	2,281,682	2,177,314
Total $	0	0	0	2,281,682	2,177,314

In addition to the estimates above, there are additional indeterminate costs and/or savings. Please see discussion.

Estimated Capital Budget Impact:

NONE

The cash receipts and expenditure estimates on this page represent the most likely fiscal impact. Factors impacting the precision of these estimates, and alternate ranges (if appropriate), are explained in Part II.

Check applicable boxes and follow corresponding instructions:

☒ If fiscal impact is greater than $50,000 per fiscal year in the current biennium or in subsequent biennia, complete entire fiscal note form Parts I-V.

☐ If fiscal impact is less than $50,000 per fiscal year in the current biennium or in subsequent biennia, complete this page only (Part I).

☐ Capital budget impact, complete Part IV.

☐ Requires new rule making, complete Part V.

Legislative Contact:	Martha Wehling	Phone: 360-786-7067	Date: 01/19/2026
Agency Preparation:	Christina Brelia	Phone: (509) 606-3544	Date: 01/23/2026
Agency Approval:	Regan Hesse	Phone: (360) 725-4010	Date: 01/23/2026
OFM Review:	Marie Davis	Phone: (360) 890-1163	Date: 01/29/2026

Part II: Narrative Explanation

II. A - Brief Description Of What The Measure Does That Has Fiscal Impact

Significant provisions of the bill and any related workload or policy assumptions that have revenue or expenditure impact on the responding agency by section number.

Section 2 creates a new section to RCW 43.330, The Department of Commerce (Commerce) to establish and staff a Public Media Broadcaster Program that annually awards funding to eligible entities so that Washingtonians have access to noncommercial media that informs, educates and connects communities across the state.

Section 2 (2) Commerce must identify eligibility criteria for the Public Media Broadcaster Program and prioritize applications from entities that serve statewide or regional audiences.

Section 2 (3) requires that Commerce develops and maintains award criteria to prioritize awards for at least two categories of grants: broadcasters with a budget over $1 million, and less than $1 million.

Section 2 (4) requires that Commerce seek gifts, grants and other contributions from nonstate sources for the grant program.

Section 3 adds a new section to RCW 43.330, The Department of Commerce, and requires that Commerce would establish and staff a Digital Equity Program that annually awards funding to eligible entities so that every Washingtonians has resources to safely and effectively access the internet and noncommercial media that informs, educates, and connects Washington communities.

Section 3(2): Commerce must identify eligibility criteria for the Digital Equity Program and shall prioritize applications from community anchor institutions, accountable communities of health, public access and government television stations, workforce development councils, and Washington State University (WSU) extension offices.

Section 3(3-4): Commerce must provide Digital Access Resource Coordinators to work with coalitions, networks, and broadband action teams (BATs) to provide online skill building to create safe ways to engage and educate communities about artificial intelligence and online safety.

Section 3(5-6): Commerce must provide multimedia producers and trainers to increase capacity and support existing community and government media and stations with technical expertise and training.

Section 3(7): The Digital Equity Program must provide space for trainings, computer labs, studios, pods, booths, and mobile recording and broadcast equipment.

Section 3(8): In accordance with its authority under RCW 43.330.040, Director Power and Duties, the Department shall seek gifts, grants, and other contributions from nonstate sources to support the purposes of this section.

Section 4-7: Establish a new Public Media Broadcast and Digital Equity Tax to be collected by the Department of Revenue.

II. B - Cash receipts Impact

Cash receipts impact of the legislation on the responding agency with the cash receipts provisions identified by section number and when appropriate, the detail of the revenue sources. Description of the factual basis of the assumptions and the method by which the cash receipts impact is derived. Explanation of how workload assumptions translate into estimates. Distinguished between one time and ongoing functions.

II. C - Expenditures

Agency expenditures necessary to implement this legislation (or savings resulting from this legislation), with the provisions of the legislation that result in the expenditures (or savings) identified by section number. Description of the factual basis of the assumptions and the method by which the expenditure impact is derived. Explanation of how workload assumptions translate into cost estimates. Distinguished between one time and ongoing functions.

Commerce assumes the program will begin in FY28, since FY27 revenues will not be sufficient to support the planning or

administrative startup. Therefore, no administrative costs were assigned to FY27.

Commerce Staffing Needs

Positions starting July 1, 2028; costs cannot be absorbed. All positions would be new, permanent and on-going.

2 FTE – Commerce Specialist 2
3 FTE – Commerce Specialist 3
0.5 FTE – Commerce Specialist 5
0.2 FTE – Management Analyst 4
0.3 FTE (first two years), then 0.2 FTE ongoing – Washington Management Service Band 3

Key Responsibilities for each position

Commerce Specialist 2: (4,176 hours annually) FY28 and ongoing thereafter to partner with community media organizations, identify apprenticeships, provide training, explore creative economy opportunities, support local content creation and small business growth. They would also foster collaboration and capacity building in community media and government stations while serving as multimedia producers and trainers as required in Section 3(5-6).

Commerce Specialist 3 (4,176 hours) FY28 and ongoing thereafter to manage contracts and share resources, build partnerships, and promote community engagement based on Section 3(3-4). Staff would serve as digital access resource coordinators, as required in Section 3(3-4) and coordinate content and manage a central resource database, build referral networks, produce events and share strategies with broadband action teams, provide culturally responsive information, and notify communities about funding opportunities. Staff would also support opportunities to seek non-state funding to finance this grant program, under Section 3(8), including to research funding opportunities and draft grant proposals.

Commerce Specialist 3 (2088 hours) to establish and manage the Public Media Broadcaster Grant Program and manage around 30 contracts. Section 2 (3).

Commerce Specialist 5 (1044 hours) in FY28 and ongoing thereafter for staff supervision, review of prospective funding proposals and oversight of all grant funding and digital resource coordinators. This includes assigning contracts and program planning elements to staff. Staff will present advanced technical business information to BATs, community anchor institutions, workforce development councils, communities and other community partners.

Management Analyst 4 (209 hours) in FY28 and ongoing thereafter to collect data for reporting requirements noted in Section 3(e). Develop and manage reporting and annual service and impact reports in Section 2 (2) (j).

WMS 2 in first year, .2 in subsequent years to oversee program development and fundraising required in Section 2 (4).

Budget Analyst 4: provides financial management support, including budget development, allotment.

Benefits (B) are calculated at 48% of salaries

Goods and Services (E) are estimated at $5,000 per FTE annually

Printing Costs (E): Commerce assumes it will need to translate program materials to ensure culturally responsive communication. This includes translating one document per year into eight languages, at a cost of $1,725 per document, for a total annual cost of $13,800.
Commerce assumes the program must provide space for trainings, computer labs, studios, pods, booths, and mobile recording and broadcast equipment Section 3(7).

Rent (E): The Liaison/Approver Final Recommendation Department assumes that public libraries and other publicly or non-profit funded community anchor institutions will provide additional free spaces for community engagement events

and activities statewide. Commerce assumes that the average statewide cost to rent a training space is $150 per hour and will convene 12 in-person training events, each lasting 2 hours, annually from FY28–FY31, for a total annual cost of $3,600.

Travel (G) Commerce assumes travel is required to support in-person community engagement as outlined in Section 3 (3-4) and Section 3 (5-6).
The estimated annual costs for each travel requirement include:

For Section 3 (3-4):
Lodging: $110 per night × 12 nights × 2 staff = $2,640
Meals and incidentals: $51 per day × 12 days × 2 staff = $1,224
Travel (motor pool use): $39 per day × 12 days × 2 staff = $936
Total annual cost: $4,800

For Section 3 (5-6):
Lodging: $110 per night × 12 nights × 2 staff = $2,640
Meals and incidentals: $51 per day × 12 days × 2 staff = $1,224
Travel (motor pool use): $39 per day × 12 days × 2 staff = $936
Total annual cost: $4,800

Combined total travel cost for FY28 through FY31: $9,600 annually.

Capital outlays (J) of $45,000 are included in the first fiscal year for computers and equipment for the nine new positions.

Grants, benefits & Client Services (N) Object N Costs are indeterminate due to unknown legislative grant appropriations, resulting in a partially indeterminate fiscal note.

Intra-Agency Reimbursements (T) are calculated at 31.7% and applied only to Objects A and B.

Part III: Expenditure Detail

III. A - Operating Budget Expenditures

Account	Account Title	Type	FY 2026	FY 2027	2025-27	2027-29	2029-31
001-1	General Fund	State	0	0	0	2,281,682	2,177,314
		Total $	0	0	0	2,281,682	2,177,314

In addition to the estimates above, there are additional indeterminate costs and/or savings. Please see discussion.

III. B - Expenditures by Object Or Purpose

	FY 2026	FY 2027	2025-27	2027-29	2029-31
FTE Staff Years				6.6	6.6
A-Salaries and Wages				1,088,510	1,058,566
B-Employee Benefits				522,486	508,112
C-Professional Service Contracts					
E-Goods and Other Services				95,800	94,800
G-Travel				19,200	19,200
J-Capital Outlays				45,000	
M-Inter Agency/Fund Transfers					
N-Grants, Benefits & Client Services					
P-Debt Service					
S-Interagency Reimbursements					
T-Intra-Agency Reimbursements				510,686	496,636
9-					
Total $	0	0	0	2,281,682	2,177,314

In addition to the estimates above, there are additional indeterminate costs and/or savings. Please see discussion.

III. C - Operating FTE Detail: *List FTEs by classification and corresponding annual compensation. Totals need to agree with total FTEs in Part I and Part IIIA*

Job Classification	Salary	FY 2026	FY 2027	2025-27	2027-29	2029-31
Budget Analyst 4					0.1	0.1
Commerce Specialist 2					2.0	2.0
Commerce Specialist 3					3.0	3.0
Commerce Specialist 5					1.0	1.0
Management Analyst 4					0.2	0.2
Washington Management Service Band 2					0.3	0.3
Total FTEs					6.6	6.6

III. D - Expenditures By Program (optional)

Program	FY 2026	FY 2027	2025-27	2027-29	2029-31
Community Services Division (300)				624,916	550,548
Local Government Division (600)				1,656,766	1,626,766
Total $				2,281,682	2,177,314

Part IV: Capital Budget Impact

IV. A - Capital Budget Expenditures

NONE

IV. B - Expenditures by Object Or Purpose

NONE

IV. C - Capital Budget Breakout

Acquisition and construction costs not reflected elsewhere on the fiscal note and description of potential financing methods.

NONE

IV. D - Capital FTE Detail: *FTEs listed by classification and corresponding annual compensation. Totals agree with total FTEs in Part IVB.*

NONE

Part V: New Rule Making Required

Provisions of the bill that require the agency to adopt new administrative rules or repeal/revise existing rules.

Department of Revenue Fiscal Note

Bill Number: 2579 HB	Title: Public media grants	Agency: 140-Department of Revenue

Part I: Estimates

☐ **No Fiscal Impact**

Estimated Cash Receipts to:

Account	FY 2026	FY 2027	2025-27	2027-29	2029-31
NEW-State 01 - Taxes 17 - Excise Phone Taxes		10,200,000	10,200,000	50,300,000	51,800,000
Total $		10,200,000	10,200,000	50,300,000	51,800,000

Estimated Expenditures from:

	FY 2026	FY 2027	2025-27	2027-29	2029-31
FTE Staff Years		2.1	1.0	0.4	0.4
Account					
GF-STATE-State 001-1		407,500	407,500	99,800	99,800
Total $		407,500	407,500	99,800	99,800

Estimated Capital Budget Impact:

NONE

The cash receipts and expenditure estimates on this page represent the most likely fiscal impact. Factors impacting the precision of these estimates, and alternate ranges (if appropriate), are explained in Part II.

Check applicable boxes and follow corresponding instructions:

☒ If fiscal impact is greater than $50,000 per fiscal year in the current biennium or in subsequent biennia, complete entire fiscal note form Parts I-V.

☐ If fiscal impact is less than $50,000 per fiscal year in the current biennium or in subsequent biennia, complete this page only (Part I).

☐ Capital budget impact, complete Part IV.

☒ Requires new rule making, complete Part V.

Legislative Contact:	Martha Wehling	Phone: 360-786-7067	Date: 01/19/2026
Agency Preparation:	Diana Tibbetts	Phone: 360-534-1520	Date: 01/23/2026
Agency Approval:	Valerie Torres	Phone: 360-534-1521	Date: 01/23/2026
OFM Review:	Megan Tudor	Phone: (360) 890-1722	Date: 01/29/2026

Part II: Narrative Explanation

II. A - Brief Description Of What The Measure Does That Has Fiscal Impact

Significant provisions of the bill and any related workload or policy assumptions that have revenue or expenditure impact on the responding agency by section number.

CURRENT LAW:
Washington state does not impose a state tax to fund public media broadcasters or digital equity programs.

PROPOSAL:
This legislation creates a public media broadcaster and a digital equity tax and establishes a dedicated account to fund public media and digital equity programs to be administered by the Department of Commerce.

The bill imposes a 20-cent monthly tax on all wired, wireless, and VoIP lines, as well as on purchases of prepaid wireless services. Service providers must collect the tax from subscribers and remit the revenue to the Department of Revenue.

The bill creates the Public Media Broadcaster and Digital Equity Account in the state treasury. All tax revenues, less administrative costs, are deposited into the account. Expenditures from the account require legislative appropriation as follows:
- 80% of account revenues fund grants to public media broadcasters.
- 20% fund digital equity grant programs.

This bill allows the Department of Revenue to retain up to 3% of revenues for administrative costs associated with the evaluation and administration of the programs.

Cities, counties, and other local governments cannot impose a similar per-line tax on the same services.

EFFECTIVE DATE:
The bill takes effect 90 days after the final adjournment of the session. However, due to the time it will take to program this bill's changes, the department cannot implement the bill until January 1, 2027.

II. B - Cash receipts Impact

Cash receipts impact of the legislation on the responding agency with the cash receipts provisions identified by section number and when appropriate, the detail of the revenue sources. Description of the factual basis of the assumptions and the method by which the cash receipts impact is derived. Explanation of how workload assumptions translate into estimates. Distinguished between one time and ongoing functions.

ASSUMPTIONS:
- As the bill is written, it allows the Department of Revenue to keep the administration fees; however, the Department of Commerce will administer the Public Media Broadcaster and Digital Equity programs.
- All revenues will be deposited into the Public Media Broadcaster and Digital Equity Account, and the Department of Revenue will not retain administrative fees.
- New - Public Media Broadcaster and Digital Equity account.
- The annual growth rate reflects the non-general fund State 911 telephone tax forecast.
- The Department of Revenue will implement this bill by January 1, 2027, impacting five months of cash collections in fiscal year 2027.

DATA SOURCES:
- Department of Revenue, November 2025 Non-general fund forecast

REVENUE ESTIMATES:
This bill increases state revenues by an estimated $10.2 million in the five months of impacted collections in fiscal year 2027, and by $25 million in fiscal year 2028, the first full year of impacted collections.

TOTAL REVENUE IMPACT:

State Government (cash basis, $000):
FY 2026 - $ 0
FY 2027 - $ 10,200
FY 2028 - $ 25,000
FY 2029 - $ 25,300
FY 2030 - $ 25,700
FY 2031 - $ 26,100

Local Government, if applicable (cash basis, $000): None.

II. C - Expenditures

Agency expenditures necessary to implement this legislation (or savings resulting from this legislation), with the provisions of the legislation that result in the expenditures (or savings) identified by section number. Description of the factual basis of the assumptions and the method by which the expenditure impact is derived. Explanation of how workload assumptions translate into cost estimates. Distinguished between one time and ongoing functions.

ASSUMPTIONS:
- This bill affects 800 taxpayers.
- As written, the bill allows the Department of Revenue to retain the administration fees; however, the Department of Commerce will administer the Public Media Broadcaster and Digital Equity programs.
- All revenues will be deposited into the Public Media Broadcaster and Digital Equity Account, and the Department of Revenue will not retain administrative fees.

FIRST YEAR COSTS:
The department will not incur in fiscal year 2026.

SECOND YEAR COSTS:
The department will incur total costs of $407,500 in fiscal year 2027. These costs include:

Labor Costs – Time and effort equate to 2.06 FTEs.
- Amend one administrative rule.
- Create a special notice and update relevant information on the department's website.
- Set up, program, and test computer system changes.
- Accounting activities for the new tax; compiling receivable information for statewide financial statements and stakeholders.
- Process tax return work items, assist taxpayers with reporting questions, and respond to inquiries via email, web message, and paper correspondence.
- Examine accounts and make corrections as necessary.
- Gathering requirements, attending implementation meetings, and documenting and testing system changes.
- Respond to data requests and questions, compile statistics, and manage data.

Object Costs - $117,500.
- Computer system changes, including contract programming.
- Printing and postage.

THIRD YEAR COSTS:
The department will incur total costs of $49,900 in fiscal year 2028. These costs include:

Labor Costs – Time and effort equate to 0.4 FTE.
- Continued computer system testing, monitoring, and maintenance.
- Accounting activities for the new tax; compiling receivable information for statewide financial statements and stakeholders.

- Respond to data requests and questions, compile statistics, and manage data.

FOURTH YEAR COSTS:
The department will incur total costs of $49,900 in fiscal year 2029. These costs include:

Labor Costs – Time and effort equate to 0.4 FTE.
- Continued computer system testing, monitoring, and maintenance.
- Accounting activities for the new tax; compiling receivable information for statewide financial statements and stakeholders.
- Respond to data requests and questions, compile statistics, and manage data.

ONGOING COSTS:
Ongoing costs for the 2029-31 biennium equal $99,800 and include similar activities described in the second-year costs. Time and effort equate to 0.4 FTE per year.

Part III: Expenditure Detail

III. A - Expenditures by Object Or Purpose

	FY 2026	FY 2027	2025-27	2027-29	2029-31
FTE Staff Years		2.1	1.0	0.4	0.4
A-Salaries and Wages		184,100	184,100	64,600	64,600
B-Employee Benefits		66,300	66,300	23,200	23,200
C-Professional Service Contracts		116,700	116,700		
E-Goods and Other Services		32,300	32,300	11,200	11,200
J-Capital Outlays		8,100	8,100	800	800
Total $		$407,500	$407,500	$99,800	$99,800

III. B - Detail: *FTEs listed by classification and corresponding annual compensation. Totals agree with total FTEs in Part I and Part IIIA.*

Job Classification	Salary	FY 2026	FY 2027	2025-27	2027-29	2029-31
EMS BAND 4	139,704		0.0	0.0		
EXCISE TAX EX 2	61,639		0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1
EXCISE TAX EX 3	67,992		0.1	0.1		
EXCISE TAX EX 4	75,112		0.1	0.1		
FISCAL ANALYST 4	69,747		0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
IT B A-JOURNEY	97,570		0.8	0.4	0.1	0.1
IT QA-SR/SPEC	107,544		0.1	0.1		
IT SYS ADM-JOURNEY	102,427		0.3	0.2		
MGMT ANALYST4	80,822		0.0	0.0		
TAX POLICY SP 2	82,874		0.1	0.0		
TAX POLICY SP 3	93,800		0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1
TAX POLICY SP 4	100,981		0.0	0.0		
WMS BAND 2	100,662		0.1	0.1		
WMS BAND 3	114,564		0.0	0.0		
Total FTEs			2.1	1.1	0.4	0.4

III. C - Expenditures By Program (optional)

NONE

Part IV: Capital Budget Impact

IV. A - Capital Budget Expenditures

NONE

IV. B - Expenditures by Object Or Purpose

NONE

IV. C - Capital Budget Breakout

Acquisition and construction costs not reflected elsewhere on the fiscal note and description of potential financing methods.

NONE

Part V: New Rule Making Required

Provisions of the bill that require the agency to adopt new administrative rules or repeal/revise existing rules.

Should this legislation become law, the department will use the expedited process to amend WAC 458-20-241, titled: "Radio and television broadcasting." This rulemaking would affect service providers.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT FISCAL NOTE

Department of Commerce

Bill Number: 2579 HB	Title: Public media grants

Part I: Jurisdiction-Location, type or status of political subdivision defines range of fiscal impacts.

Legislation Impacts:

- ☐ Cities:
- ☐ Counties:
- ☐ Special Districts:
- ☐ Specific jurisdictions only:
- ☐ Variance occurs due to:

Part II: Estimates

- ☒ No fiscal impacts.
- ☐ Expenditures represent one-time costs:
- ☐ Legislation provides local option:
- ☐ Key variables cannot be estimated with certainty at this time:

Estimated revenue impacts to:

None

Estimated expenditure impacts to:

None

Part III: Preparation and Approval

Fiscal Note Analyst: Tammi Alexander	Phone: 360-725-5038	Date: 01/26/2026
Leg. Committee Contact: Martha Wehling	Phone: 360-786-7067	Date: 01/19/2026
Agency Approval: Jordan Laramie	Phone: 360-725-5044	Date: 01/26/2026
OFM Review: Megan Tudor	Phone: (360) 890-1722	Date: 01/29/2026

Part IV: Analysis

A. SUMMARY OF BILL

Description of the bill with an emphasis on how it impacts local government.

This bill would create a public media broadcaster and a digital equity tax. It also establishes a dedicated account to fund public media and digital equity programs to be administered by the Department of Commerce for community, public radio, or television organizations based in the state.

B. SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURE IMPACTS

Expenditure impacts of the legislation on local governments with the expenditure provisions identified by section number and when appropriate, the detail of expenditures. Delineated between city, county and special district impacts.

This bill would not impact local government expenditures because no action is required.

C. SUMMARY OF REVENUE IMPACTS

Revenue impacts of the legislation on local governments, with the revenue provisions identified by section number, and when appropriate, the detail of revenue sources. Delineated between city, county and special district impacts.

This bill would not impact local government revenues because it establishes a new tax that cannot be levied by counties, cities, or special districts.

Source:

Department of Revenue fiscal note, HB 2579 (2026)

Multiple Agency Ten-Year Analysis Summary

Bill Number	Title
2579 HB	Public media grants

This ten-year analysis is limited to the estimated cash receipts associated with the proposed tax or fee increases.

Estimated Cash Receipts

	Fiscal Year 2026	Fiscal Year 2027	Fiscal Year 2028	Fiscal Year 2029	Fiscal Year 2030	Fiscal Year 2031	Fiscal Year 2032	Fiscal Year 2033	Fiscal Year 2034	Fiscal Year 2035	2026-35 TOTAL
Office of State Treasurer	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Department of Commerce	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Department of Revenue	0	10,200,000	25,000,000	25,300,000	25,700,000	26,100,000	26,600,000	27,000,000	27,400,000	27,800,000	221,100,000
Total	**0**	**10,200,000**	**25,000,000**	**25,300,000**	**25,700,000**	**26,100,000**	**26,600,000**	**27,000,000**	**27,400,000**	**27,800,000**	**221,100,000**

Ten-Year Analysis

Bill Number	Title	Agency
2579 HB	Public media grants	090 Office of State Treasurer

This ten-year analysis is limited to agency estimated cash receipts associated with the proposed tax or fee increases. The Office of Financial Management ten-year projection can be found at http://www.ofm.wa.gov/tax/default.asp .

Estimates

[X] **No Cash Receipts**

[ ] **Partially Indeterminate Cash Receipts**

[ ] **Indeterminate Cash Receipts**

Name of Tax or Fee	Acct Code											

Agency Preparation: Dan Mason	Phone: (360) 902-8990	Date: 1/29/2026 9:59:24 am
Agency Approval: Dan Mason	Phone: (360) 902-8990	Date: 1/29/2026 9:59:24 am
OFM Review:	Phone:	Date:

Ten-Year Analysis

Bill Number	Title	Agency
2579 HB	Public media grants	103 Department of Commerce

This ten-year analysis is limited to agency estimated cash receipts associated with the proposed tax or fee increases. The Office of Financial Management ten-year projection can be found at http://www.ofm.wa.gov/tax/default.asp .

Estimates

[X] **No Cash Receipts**

[ ] **Partially Indeterminate Cash Receipts**

[ ] **Indeterminate Cash Receipts**

Name of Tax or Fee	Acct Code											

Agency Preparation: Christina Brelia	Phone: (509) 606-3544	Date: 1/23/2026 9:56:14 pm
Agency Approval: Regan Hesse	Phone: (360) 725-4010	Date: 1/23/2026 9:56:14 pm
OFM Review:	Phone:	Date:

Ten-Year Analysis

Bill Number	Title	Agency
2579 HB	Public media grants	140 Department of Revenue

This ten-year analysis is limited to agency estimated cash receipts associated with the proposed tax or fee increases. The Office of Financial Management ten-year projection can be found at http://www.ofm.wa.gov/tax/default.asp .

Estimates

☐ **No Cash Receipts** ☐ **Partially Indeterminate Cash Receipts** ☐ **Indeterminate Cash Receipts**

Estimated Cash Receipts

Name of Tax or Fee	Acct Code	Fiscal Year 2026	Fiscal Year 2027	Fiscal Year 2028	Fiscal Year 2029	Fiscal Year 2030	Fiscal Year 2031	Fiscal Year 2032	Fiscal Year 2033	Fiscal Year 2034	Fiscal Year 2035	2026-35 TOTAL
Excise Telephone - Taxes	New		10,200,000	25,000,000	25,300,000	25,700,000	26,100,000	26,600,000	27,000,000	27,400,000	27,800,000	221,100,000
Total			**10,200,000**	**25,000,000**	**25,300,000**	**25,700,000**	**26,100,000**	**26,600,000**	**27,000,000**	**27,400,000**	**27,800,000**	**221,100,000**
Biennial Totals		**10,200,000**		**50,300,000**		**51,800,000**		**53,600,000**		**55,200,000**		**221,100,000**

Narrative Explanation (Required for Indeterminate Cash Receipts)

CURRENT LAW:
Washington state does not impose a state tax to fund public media broadcasters or digital equity programs.

PROPOSAL:
This legislation creates a public media broadcaster and a digital equity tax and establishes a dedicated account to fund public media and digital equity programs to be administered by the Department of Commerce.

The bill imposes a 20-cent monthly tax on all wired, wireless, and VoIP lines, as well as on purchases of prepaid wireless services. Service providers must collect the tax from subscribers and remit the revenue to the Department of Revenue.

The bill creates the Public Media Broadcaster and Digital Equity Account in the state treasury. All tax revenues, less administrative costs, are deposited into the account. Expenditures from the account require legislative appropriation as follows:
- 80% of account revenues fund grants to public media broadcasters.

Ten-Year Analysis

Bill Number	Title	Agency
2579 HB	Public media grants	140 Department of Revenue

This ten-year analysis is limited to agency estimated cash receipts associated with the proposed tax or fee increases. The Office of Financial Management ten-year projection can be found at http://www.ofm.wa.gov/tax/default.asp .

Narrative Explanation (Required for Indeterminate Cash Receipts)

- 20% fund digital equity grant programs.

This bill allows the Department of Revenue to retain up to 3% of revenues for administrative costs associated with the evaluation and administration of the programs.

Cities, counties, and other local governments cannot impose a similar per-line tax on the same services.

EFFECTIVE DATE:
The bill takes effect 90 days after the final adjournment of the session. However, due to the time it will take to program this bill's changes, the department cannot implement the bill until January 1, 2027.

ASSUMPTIONS:
- As the bill is written, it allows the Department of Revenue to keep the administration fees; however, the Department of Commerce will administer the Public Media Broadcaster and Digital Equity programs.
- All revenues will be deposited into the Public Media Broadcaster and Digital Equity Account, and the Department of Revenue will not retain administrative fees.
- New - Public Media Broadcaster and Digital Equity account.
- The annual growth rate reflects the non-general fund State 911 telephone tax forecast.
- The Department of Revenue will implement this bill by January 1, 2027, impacting five months of cash collections in fiscal year 2027.

DATA SOURCES:
- Department of Revenue, November 2025 Non-general fund forecast

REVENUE ESTIMATES:
This bill increases state revenues by an estimated $10.2 million in the five months of impacted collections in fiscal year 2027, and by $25 million in fiscal year 2028, the first full year of impacted collections.

TOTAL REVENUE IMPACT:

State Government (cash basis, $000):
FY 2026 - $ 0
FY 2027 - $ 10,200
FY 2028 - $ 25,000
FY 2029 - $ 25,300

Ten-Year Analysis

Bill Number	Title	Agency
2579 HB	Public media grants	140 Department of Revenue

This ten-year analysis is limited to agency estimated cash receipts associated with the proposed tax or fee increases. The Office of Financial Management ten-year projection can be found at http://www.ofm.wa.gov/tax/default.asp .

Narrative Explanation (Required for Indeterminate Cash Receipts)

FY 2030 - $ 25,700
FY 2031 - $ 26,100

Local Government, if applicable (cash basis, $000): None.

Agency Preparation: Diana Tibbetts	Phone: 360-534-1520	Date: 1/23/2026 6:50:29 pm
Agency Approval: Valerie Torres	Phone: 360-534-1521	Date: 1/23/2026 6:50:29 pm
OFM Review:	Phone:	Date: