

LFC Requester: _____

AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS - 2026 REGULAR SESSION

WITHIN 24 HOURS OF BILL POSTING, UPLOAD ANALYSIS TO

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(Analysis must be uploaded as a PDF)

SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION

{Indicate if analysis is on an original bill, amendment, substitute or a correction of a previous bill}

Date Prepared: 2/6/2026 *Check all that apply:*
Bill Number: H178 Original Correction
 Amendment Substitute

Sponsor: Rep. Mason **Agency Name and Code Number:** DFA-341
Short Title: SUN SHADES FOR RURAL PARKS & RECREATION **Person Writing Analysis:** George Hypolite
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SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY26	FY27		
\$3,000		Nonrecurring	LGD-DFA

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY26	FY27	FY28		
(\$3,000)			Nonrecurring	GF

(Parenthesis () indicate revenue decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY26	FY27	FY28	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total	\$52.5	\$52.5	\$52.5	\$157.5	NR	GF

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates/Conflicts with/Companion to/Relates to:
Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

SECTION III: NARRATIVE

HHHC Committee Substitute for House Bill 178

Bill Summary

Synopsis:

The House Health and Human Services Committee's Substitute for House Bill 178 (HB178) allocates \$3,000,000 from the general fund to the Department of Finance and Administration's Local Government Division (DFA). These funds are intended to build and install shade structures in rural public parks and outdoor recreation areas to reduce ultraviolet (UV) radiation exposure, a major environmental risk factor for skin cancer.

- **Funding Allocation:** The appropriation is for fiscal year 2026 and subsequent years, with no reversion of unexpended funds to the general fund.
- **Project Prioritization:** The division will prioritize sites with inadequate existing shade, significant UV radiation exposure risks, and feasible project plans that include design, cost estimates, and timelines.
- **Cost-Effectiveness:** Proposed solutions must maximize UV radiation protection benefits while being cost-effective.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

HB178 requires a substantial upfront investment but has the potential to yield public health benefits and economic activity in rural communities.

- **Appropriation:** HB178 allocates \$3,000,000 from the general fund for the construction and installation of shade structures in FY26 and beyond. This represents a direct expenditure from state resources and will reduce the general fund accordingly.
- **Non-Reversion of Funds:** Any unexpended balance at the end of a fiscal year will not revert to the general fund, so the allocated funds will remain available for use in subsequent years. This could affect the availability of funds for other state programs or initiatives.
- **Administrative Costs:** DFA will incur administrative costs related to managing the allocation, prioritizing projects, and overseeing implementation.
 - DFA anticipates the administrative requirements to take 350 work hours per fiscal year (\$52,500 [\$150 per hr.]).
- **Long-Term Savings:** While the initial expenditure is significant, HB178 could lead to

long-term savings in healthcare costs by reducing skin cancer cases and other UV radiation-related health issues. This could alleviate financial pressure on public health systems in local communities.

- **Economic Impact:** The construction of shade structures may generate economic activity in rural areas, including job creation for local contractors and suppliers.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

N/A.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

HB178 has the potential to improve public health, enhance community spaces, and address equity concerns, provided the projects are implemented effectively and monitored for performance.

- **Improved Public Health Outcomes:** By reducing exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation in rural public parks and outdoor recreation areas, HB178 aims to lower the risk of skin cancer and other UV-related health issues, contributing to better overall public health.
- **Enhanced Usability of Outdoor Spaces:** The installation of shade structures may increase the usability and attractiveness of rural parks and recreation areas, encouraging more outdoor activities and community engagement.
 - HB178 prioritizes rural areas with inadequate existing shade and significant UV exposure risks, potentially addressing disparities in access to safe outdoor spaces.
- **Project Effectiveness:** The requirement for feasible project plans, including design, cost estimates, and timelines, ensures that projects are well-planned and likely to succeed. Cost-effective solutions that maximize UV protection could enhance the initiative's overall impact.
 - DFA will need to establish mechanisms to monitor the implementation and effectiveness of funded projects, ensuring that the intended benefits are realized.
- **Community Impact:** The shade structures could foster a sense of community by providing safer spaces for gatherings, recreation, and outdoor activities, which may have positive social and mental health effects.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

HB178 will likely increase DFA's administrative workload, requiring careful planning, coordination, and monitoring to ensure successful implementation and accountability.

- **Project Management Responsibilities:** DFA will be responsible for managing fund allocation, prioritizing project sites, and overseeing the construction and installation of shade structures.

- **Evaluation and Prioritization:** DFA must evaluate project proposals using criteria such as inadequate existing shade, significant UV radiation exposure risk, feasibility of project plans, cost estimates, timelines, and cost-effectiveness.
- **Monitoring and Reporting:** DFA will need to monitor the progress of funded projects to ensure compliance with requirements and effectiveness in reducing UV exposure. This may include regular reporting and site inspections.
- **Coordination with Local Governments:** DFA will need to work closely with local governments to ensure proper implementation of the projects, which may require additional staffing or resources for communication and collaboration.
- **Budget Management:** Since the funds do not revert to the general fund at the end of the fiscal year, the division is responsible for tracking and utilizing the allocated funds.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

N/A.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

N/A.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

N/A.

ALTERNATIVES

N/A.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

N/A.

AMENDMENTS

N/A.