

# FISCAL NOTE

**STATE OF ALASKA**  
**2001 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

Fiscal Note Number: 1  
 Bill Version: CSHB 172(JUD)  
 (H) Publish Date: 3/26/01

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): \_\_\_\_\_ Dept. Affected: Administration  
 Title: "An Act relating to therapeutic courts for  
offenders and to the authorized numb BRU: Legal & Advocacy  
 Sponsor: Representative Porter Component: Public Defender Agency  
 Requester: House Judiciary Committee Component Number: 1631

**Expenditures/Revenues** (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007
Personal Services	321.7	375.8	375.8	54.1	0.0	0.0
Travel	11.8	13.6	13.6	1.8	0.0	0.0
Contractual	88.6	101.7	101.7	13.1	0.0	0.0
Supplies	7.1	8.1	8.1	1.0	0.0	0.0
Equipment	29.2	3.2	3.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>458.4</b>	<b>502.4</b>	<b>502.4</b>	<b>70.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>						
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<b>CHANGE IN REVENUES ( )</b>						
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**FUND SOURCE** (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF	458.4	502.4	502.4	70.0	0.0	0.0
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type)						
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>458.4</b>	<b>502.4</b>	<b>502.4</b>	<b>70.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

Estimate of any current year (FY2001) cost: 0.0

**POSITIONS**

Full-time	5	5	5	1	0	0
Part-time						
Temporary						

**ANALYSIS:** (Attach a separate page if necessary)

PLEASE SEE ATTACHED

Prepared by: Barbara Brink, Director Phone 907 334-4414  
 Division: Public Defender Agency Date/Time 3/20/01 12:00 AM  
 Approved by: Jim Duncan, Commissioner Date 3/21/01  
 Agency: Department of Administration

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ANALYSIS: HB 172 (continued)

This bill would authorize the Alaska Court System to set up two pilot therapeutic courts. The courts would be located in Anchorage and Bethel and would be for alcohol and drug dependent defendants. These therapeutic courts would be based on models that have been shown to be effective in Alaska and other states. The Anchorage court would commence on the date this bill is effective. The Bethel court would start on January 2, 2002. The pilot programs end three years after commencement. Two new superior court judges would be added – one in Anchorage, one in Bethel. The judges would handle other matters, including criminal cases, juvenile delinquency cases, and child in need of aid cases.

The Public Defender Agency attorneys assigned to these courts would have intensive workloads. Therapeutic courts require frequent court appearances and a great deal of monitoring and referral to be successful. We estimate that the therapeutic courts will be operating about one-half of the time. But the addition of new superior court judges will result in additional work in the other types of cases because the new judges will be handling these cases as well. Our experience has shown that four attorneys are needed for each superior court judge.

Based on these factors, in Anchorage, the Public Defender Agency will need two full-time attorneys and one three-quarter time attorney starting in the beginning of Fiscal Year 2002. The two full-time attorneys will handle criminal cases, while the three-quarter time attorney will handle civil cases initiated by the Civil Division, Human Services section of the Department of Law. Clerical support and one-time equipment costs are included for these attorneys.

In Bethel, the therapeutic court will begin operations in January 2, 2002. The court system has informed us that the judge will use current facilities and a current district court judge will be filling the position. Therefore, we are requesting only one full-time attorney in Bethel. Again, clerical support and one-time equipment costs are included. Because the court will not begin operations until the second half of Fiscal Year 2002, only half the funding will be needed for that year. However, the Bethel pilot project will extend into FY 2005.