

2018 SESSION OPERATING BUDGET AMENDMENT

OFFERED IN: The Senate Finance Committee

TO: HB 286

OFFERED BY: Senator Olson

DEPARTMENT: Public Safety
APPROPRIATION: Village Public Safety Officer Program
ALLOCATION: Village Public Safety Officer Program

ADD: \$1,500,000 1004 Gen Fund (UGF)

EXPLANATION: This funding, if approved, will be used to improve law enforcement access to rural communities by Alaska State Troopers (AST) and by Village Public Safety Officers (VPSOs). With the shortage of both ASTs and VPSOs, adding the travel funds will allow existing positions to go where they are needed in rural Alaska. ASTs and VPSOs have had severe problems with recruitment and retention, which has left many villages without any public protection. So these funds will allow for travel to villages that need those services, and will improve the response time to emergency calls; which will enhance the level of service provided and thus the level of public safety in rural Alaska.

ADD LEGISLATIVE INTENT: Village Public Safety Officer Program
Appropriation

It is the intent of the legislature that the amount of \$1,500,000 be used only for travel to rural communities by VPSOs or Alaska State Troopers. It is also the intent of the legislature that the Department support VPSO contractors' efforts to provide public safety services to the maximum geographic area surrounding their duty station.

EXPLANATION: The provision of public safety in remote rural Alaska comes with challenges related to distance. VPSO rovers and travel from village to village provides a significantly broader reach for the Department. The intent is to ensure that these additional funds are used only for travel and travel related costs to rural communities, to ensure greater public safety in rural Alaska where distance creates challenges and there are problems with recruitment and retention of VPSOs to provide public safety services.