

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2012 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Bill Version HB 361
 Fiscal Note Number 3
 (H) Publish Date 2/29/12

Identifier (file name) LL0717-DNR-MLW -02-27-12 Dept. Affected Department of Natural Resources
 Title DNR Permitting Efficiency Bill Appropriation Land & Water Resources
 Allocation Mining Land & Water
 Sponsor Governor
 Requester Rules by Request of the Governor OMB Component Number 3002

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

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

	FY13 Appropriation Requested	Included in Governor's FY13 Request	Out-Year Cost Estimates					
			FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18
OPERATING EXPENDITURES								
Personal Services								
Travel								
Services								
Commodities								
Capital Outlay								
Grants, Benefits								
Miscellaneous								
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002	Federal Receipts							
1003	GF Match							
1004	GF							
1005	GF/Prgm (DGF)							
1037	GF/MH (UGF)							
1178	temp code (UGF)							
TOTAL		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

POSITIONS

Full-time	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Part-time	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Temporary	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

CHANGE IN REVENUES

Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY12) operating costs 0.0 (separate supplemental appropriation required)
 (discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

Estimated CAPITAL (FY13) costs 0.0 (separate capital appropriation required)
 (discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version (if initial version, please note as such)

Initial Version.

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Department of Natural Resources

Phone 269-8600
 Date/Time 2/27/12 2:00 PM
 Date 2/27/2012

Analysis

LL 0717 proposes to make changes to the Alaska Land Act that are intended to increase efficiency, certainty and timeliness of DNR's land permitting, leasing, mining and land sales programs to permitting applicants.

These proposed changes are not anticipated to have a fiscal impact on the department or the State with the exception of the proposed revision to AS 38.05.212(a), Section 12 of the bill. Under that proposed revision the department would have the authority to exempt, by regulation, small operations from the production royalty. While the definition and threshold level for consideration would need to be established through regulation, DNR anticipates that the net reduction in actual royalties paid to the state under this exemption could be around \$10,000 per year. This is because mining operations are allowed to deduct certain operating costs against any royalty due to the state and it is anticipated that the deductions allowed most small operations would equal or exceed any royalty due. Most small operations actually pay no royalty but are still required to go through the accounting and filing operations. The primary benefit of this proposed statute change would come from the cost savings of both DNR and the small operators' administrative efforts to track, calculate and report minimal royalty payments. DNR would then be able to apply this savings in staff time to other, more pressing mining issues.

Because the number of small operations and the threshold level for this exemption must be established through the regulatory process, and because of the variability of the price of metals, DNR cannot provide an estimate of the actual reduction in royalty income at this time. As such the actual reduction to the state's revenue is indeterminate.

The other sections of the bill will either create efficiencies or prevent inefficiencies. The revisions will benefit both the applicant and the State. The applicant will be saved time and cost by the changes.