



THE STATE  
of ALASKA

GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

Department of Public Safety

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

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February 16, 2016

The Honorable Mark Neuman  
Co-Chair, House Finance Committee  
Alaska State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 505  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

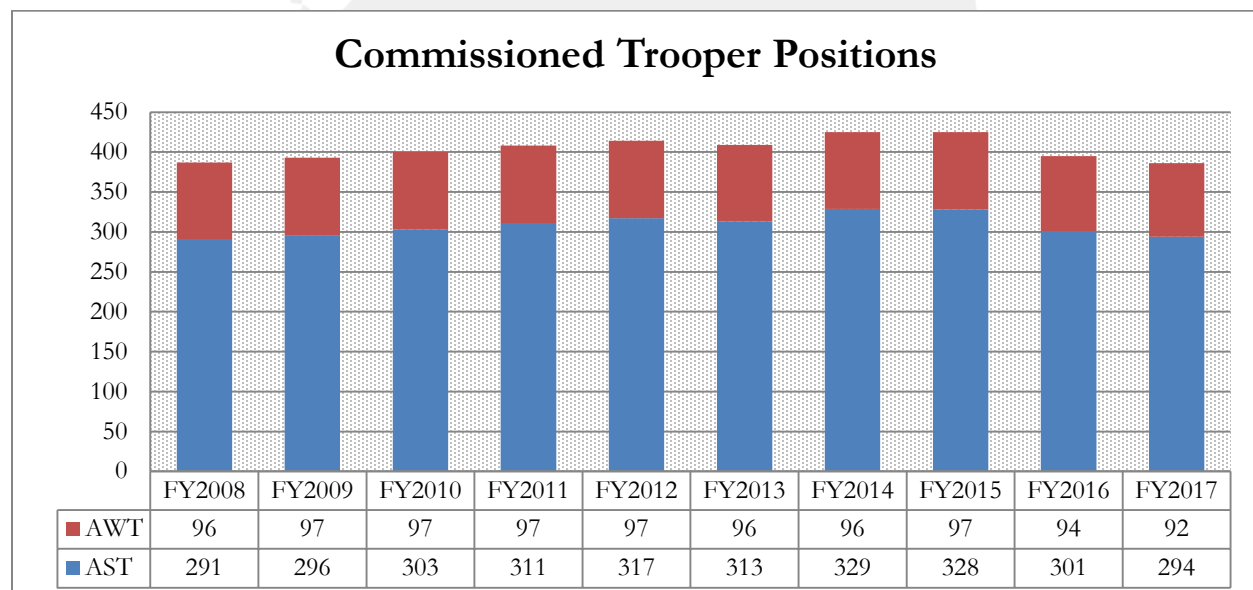
The Honorable Steve Thompson  
Co-Chair, House Finance Committee  
Alaska State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 515  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Co-Chair Neuman and Co-Chair Thompson,

Thank you for the opportunity to present the Department of Public Safety's (DPS) FY 2017 budget overview to the House Finance committee on January 28, 2016. This letter provides responses to the questions asked by committee members during that meeting.

**Co-Chair Neuman asked for the number of troopers now versus ten years ago:**

As the graph below shows, from FY2008 to proposed FY2017 there was a net increase of three (3) permanent full-time fully commissioned Alaska State Trooper positions, and a net decrease of four (4) permanent full-time fully commissioned Alaska Wildlife Troopers.



**Representative Wilson asked what the department has done to ensure coverage since the patrol vessel Woldstad has been in dry dock:**

With the transfer of the Stimson to Kodiak, the Alaska Wildlife Troopers (AWT) are covering some of the fisheries that used to be covered by the Woldstad with that platform. However, AWT has had to reduce the number of patrol days across the board due to budget cuts and none of the boats have the coverage that they have had in past years.

**Representative Wilson asked whether authorized individuals, specifically Office of Children's Services staff, are able to access the Alaska Public Safety Information Network (APSIN) outside of regular business hours using mobile devices or through other means:**

A limited number of Office of Children's Services (OCS) employees have access to run a person through APSIN (Alaska Public Safety Information Network) to review criminal history records for emergency placement of foster children. Access to APSIN is not available through mobile devices for any authorized user, including Alaska State Troopers (AST) and other law enforcement officers. However, OCS staff is able to access this information after hours by contacting AST dispatch in Fairbanks.

**Representative Saddler asked about the difference in staffing levels between the Alaska Fire Standards Council versus the Alaska Police Standards Council:**

The staffing level for each of these councils is based on the scope of their responsibilities and the size of the population group they serve:

Under AS 18.65.220 the Alaska Police Standards Council (APSC):

- Establishes minimum standards for employment as a police officer, probation officer, parole officer, municipal correctional officer, and correctional officer;
- Establishes minimum criminal justice curriculum requirements for basic, specialized, and in-service courses for the specific purpose of training police recruits, police officers, probation officers, parole officers, municipal correctional officers, and correctional officers;
- Certifies police, probation, parole, and correctional officers that meet minimum standards and training requirements; and
- Investigates when there is reason to believe that a police officer, probation officer, parole officer, municipal correctional officer, or correctional officer does not meet the minimum standards for employment.

Alaska law requires an individual to be certified by the APSC to be employed as a police officer, probation officer, parole officer, municipal correctional officer, or correctional officer. There are currently 5,206 certified police officers (1,328 active), 13 certified village police officers (4 active), 543 certified probation and parole officers (191 Active), 2,667 certified correctional officers (998 active), and 115 certified municipal corrections officers (65 active). Additionally, 104 certificates have been revoked and nearly 30 revocation investigations are underway with pending action.

Under AS 18.70.350 the Alaska Fire Standards Council (AFSC):

- Establishes minimum training and performance standards for fire service personnel;
- Establishes minimum fire training curriculum requirements and certification of fire services training programs; and
- Governs the procedure for certification and decertification of fire service personnel.

The AFSC supports over 230 Alaska fire departments in improving community fire protection through an internationally accredited training and certification program. Though Alaska law does not require an individual providing fire services to be certified by the AFSC, an entity for which a person performs fire services as an employee or volunteer may require it. There are currently 6,927 certified fire service personnel and the AFSC has issued a total of 17,217 individual certifications.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these responses. Please let me know if I can provide further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Gary Folger". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gary Folger  
Commissioner

cc: Adam Bryan, Capital Budget Coordinator, Office of Management and Budget  
Kelly Cunningham, Fiscal Analyst, Legislative Finance Division  
Kelly Howell, Administrative Services Director, DPS