



30th Alaska State Legislature
House Finance Budget Subcommittee
Department of Law
FY19 Operating Budget

Chair:

Rep. Jason Grenn
Capitol Room 418
465-3892

Members:

Rep. Matt Claman
Capitol Room 118
465-4919

Rep. David Eastman
Capitol Room 114
465-2186

Rep. Zach Fansler
Capitol Room 416
465-4942

Rep. Chuck Kopp
Capitol Room 13
465-4993

Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins
Capitol Room 411
465-3732

Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux
Capitol Room 216
465-4998

Rep. Lora Reinbold
Capitol Room 409
465-3822

Committee Aide:

Ryan Johnston
465-6641

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 19, 2018

TO: LAW Budget Subcommittee Members

FROM: Representative Jason Grenn, Chair

RE: FY19 Subcommittee Process and Resources

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason Grenn".

The purpose of this memo is to outline the procedures of the FY19 Department of Law Budget Subcommittee, as well as resources available to members throughout the budget process.

Subcommittee Focus

The role of this subcommittee is to review the numbers section, or section one, of the Department of Law's operating budget. This year's discussion will focus on budget detail transactions and looking for efficiencies within the department.

Throughout the process, members may continue to examine programs, services and components within the Department, whether or not they match the core mission, how efficiently they serve the people of Alaska, and if they should be eliminated or reduced because they do not fulfill the mission.

Resources Available to Members

The Legislative Finance Division (LFD) has professional, non-partisan staff that provide general budget analysis for members of the legislature. Amanda Ryder, LFD's fiscal analyst for the Department of Law, is a valuable resource and can meet directly with member offices upon request. For questions or to set up a meeting, please contact Amanda Ryder directly at (907) 465-5411 or Amanda.Ryder@akleg.gov.

Prior to our first meeting, please read both the introduction of LFD's *Overview of the Governor's Request*, as well as the section that pertains to the Department of Law. Copies of both will be provided in the subcommittee resource binders distributed to each member office.

For a list of additional budget resources not included in subcommittee binders that may be of interest to members, please see the "Additional Resources" tab of your binder.

Subcommittee Proposals and Amendments

On Wednesday, February 21st, the subcommittee will consider amendments. An amendment could be in the form of a traditional budget amendment, or that of a proposal recommending statutory changes that will result in budget savings. All subcommittee members can introduce, debate, and vote on amendments to the department's operating budget.

Procedure

Please note that the hard deadline for submitting amendments will be **5:00pm Friday, February 16th**. Any amendments that do not match the scope of our examination of the Department of Law may be ruled out of order. Additionally, amendments that are incorrectly drafted may also be voided. Therefore, amendments are strongly encouraged to be submitted by **5:00pm Wednesday, February 14th**. If an amendment submitted by Wednesday, February 14th is found to be out of order, the Chair's office will happily work with the sponsor to more closely craft the amendment to the subcommittee's focus, or correct any technical errors.

When submitting budget amendments or statutory change proposals, please submit to the Chair's office using the forms attached to this memo.

Scope

To fulfill the goals of this subcommittee, we will only focus on amendments that fit the scope of our inquiry into the Department. The Chair retains the authority to rule amendments out of order. As a rule, amendments that make unallocated, across-the-board reductions or additions to the department will not be accepted.

If an amendment is offered that reduces funding for a program, service or activity that the department is statutorily required to provide, the sponsor should cite that statute. Members should be familiar with statutory obligations and how they affect the department's budget.

Additionally, if there is a formal or informal legal services opinion regarding a proposed amendment that indicates there may be constitutional or statutory concerns, the sponsor of the amendment is strongly encouraged to provide this information to the subcommittee.

Subcommittee Vote

Proposed subcommittee amendments will be discussed and voted on in our Wednesday, February 21st meeting.

All amendments that pass will be presented to the full Finance Committee by the Subcommittee Chair in the form of amendments and a final narrative report describing any statutory change recommendations being referred to the policy committee.

Subcommittee amendments that do not pass will be available online, through the subcommittee documents posted on BASIS, for other members and the public to review. If a subcommittee member would like to re-submit a budget amendment that does not make it to full Finance Committee, that amendment will need to be drafted through LFD's online amendment system by a House Finance member. The online amendment system is for House Finance Committee use only. The House Finance member that introduces the amendment to full Finance on behalf of the subcommittee member will need to be prepared to speak to and support the amendment during House Finance Committee.

Alternatively, amendments that do not have sufficient support for a House Finance member to introduce in committee can be offered by a Representative on the floor.

Closeout

A brief closeout meeting will occur on Friday, February 23rd starting at 1:00pm, at which time the Subcommittee's report will be adopted and transmitted to House Finance.