

2019 SESSION OPERATING BUDGET AMENDMENT

OFFERED IN: The House Finance Subcommittee

TO: HB 39

OFFERED BY: Rep. Andy Josephson

DEPARTMENT: Law

APPROPRIATION: Criminal Division

ADD INTENT LANGUAGE:

It is the intent of the legislature that the Department conduct and document an assessment of the benefits of locating a prosecutor and support staff in Utqiagvik in the Second Judicial District. The Department shall submit their assessment to the Legislative Budget and Audit Committee no later than September 30, 2019.

If the Department's assessment determines that Utqiagvik would be better served by adding a local prosecutor and support staff than by continuing to serve Utqiagvik from Fairbanks, the department shall use funds appropriated to the Criminal Division for FY20 to establish and staff a prosecutor's office in Utqiagvik, notwithstanding prosecutor locations authorized in the FY20 operating budget.

EXPLANATION: In CY18, 533 cases, including 59 were felony cases, were filed in the Utqiagvik court, which is the only Alaska Superior Court site lacking a prosecutor. In comparison, the Department maintains two attorney positions in Kotzebue.