

Fiscal Note

State of Alaska
2019 Legislative Session

Bill Version:	SB 33
Fiscal Note Number:	2
(S) Publish Date:	1/23/2019

Identifier: 0030-DPS-PT-01-22-19
Title: ARREST;RELEASE;SENTENCING;PROBATION
Sponsor: RLS BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR
Requester: Governor

Department: Department of Public Safety
Appropriation: Alaska State Troopers
Allocation: Prisoner Transportation
OMB Component Number: 512

Expenditures/Revenues

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

(Thousands of Dollars)

	FY2020 Appropriation Requested	Included in Governor's FY2020 Request	Out-Year Cost Estimates				
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2020	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
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

Fund Source (Operating Only)

None							
Total	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Positions

Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							

Change in Revenues

None							
Total	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY2019) cost: 0.0 (separate supplemental appropriation required)

Estimated CAPITAL (FY2020) cost: 0.0 (separate capital appropriation required)

Does the bill create or modify a new fund or account? No
(Supplemental/Capital/New Fund - discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

ASSOCIATED REGULATIONS

Does the bill direct, or will the bill result in, regulation changes adopted by your agency? No
If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed?

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version/comments:

Not applicable, initial version.

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FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA
2019 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Analysis

This bill amends Alaska Court Rule 38.2(b), Alaska Rules of Criminal Procedure, by requiring, when the technology is available, in-custody defendants to appear by television for all hearings except for trial and sentencing.

Under AS 33.30.081, the Department of Public Safety (DPS) is responsible for transporting prisoners to and from the court having jurisdiction over the prisoner, and for delivering a prisoner to a correctional facility upon temporary or final commitment by a court, or upon transfer of a prisoner from one correctional facility to another either inside or outside the state. Additionally, DPS is responsible for return transportation to the place of arrest for a prisoner who is released from custody before admission to a state correctional facility.

Videoconferencing is currently in use between the courts and several correctional facilities across the state. Current court rules require misdemeanor defendants to appear by videoconference for arraignments, pleas, and non-evidentiary bail reviews. Felony defendants are required to appear by videoconference for initial appearance hearings, non-evidentiary bail reviews, and not guilty plea arraignments. This is only in areas where a videolink exists between the court and the correctional facility.

Should this bill pass, the number of pretrial hearings conducted via videoconferencing would increase, and there would be some decrease in the need for the physical transportation of prisoners. However, DPS transports prisoners for a myriad of reasons beyond pretrial hearings, often at the direction of the court.

While passage of this bill would result in improved efficiency of the criminal justice system including better allocation of manpower and resources for DPS, most of the costs associated with prisoner transportation are outside the control of DPS. Therefore, a zero fiscal note is being submitted.