

Fiscal Note

State of Alaska
2019 Legislative Session

Bill Version: HB 20
Fiscal Note Number: _____
() Publish Date: _____

Identifier: SSHB020-DOA-PDA-3-15-19
Title: SEXUAL ASSAULT EXAMINATION KITS
Sponsor: TARR
Requester: House State Affairs

Department: Department of Administration
Appropriation: Legal and Advocacy Services
Allocation: Public Defender Agency
OMB Component Number: 1631

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	***	***	***	***	***

Fund Source (Operating Only)

None							
Total	***	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If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed?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 based on the 2-13-19 Governor's FY2020 request.

Prepared By: Quinlan Steiner, Public Defender
Division: Public Defender Agency
Approved By: Kelly Hanke, Legislative Liaison
Agency: Administration

Phone: (907)334-4414
Date: 03/15/2019
Date: 03/15/19

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA
2019 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. SSHB 20

Analysis

This bill provides timeliness requirements and guidelines for the testing of sexual assault examination kits, as well as guidelines for the reporting of data related to the testing. This bill radically changes the definition of consent as it relates to sex assault allegations. The bill removes language that references conduct "without consent" and instead requires "words or overt actions that indicate freely given agreement" to sexual contact.

This change to the way sexual assault is defined will have tremendous impacts on the way sexual assault cases are litigated. When litigating these cases there will be increased scrutiny and focus on the conduct of complainants and whether the nuances of their words and actions indicate agreement. There will be disparate outcomes between individual cases and between communities. The definition lacks the clarity that would allow for consistent application of the law.

Cases, like sexual assault cases, with increased penalties and higher charging levels require more litigation throughout all stages of litigation, but particularly increase jury trials, contested hearings, and post-conviction litigation. Both the resources needed to litigate these cases, and the associated workload, can be expected to increase with this statutory change. Additionally, the agency cannot predict the number of new cases that will be charged under this definition and how many of those new cases will be appointed a public defender. Therefore, the agency submits an indeterminate fiscal note.