

Fiscal Note

State of Alaska
2021 Legislative Session

Bill Version: SB 14
Fiscal Note Number: _____
() Publish Date: _____

Identifier: SB014CS(JUD)-JUD-CJC-02-25-2021
Title: SELECTION AND REVIEW OF JUDGES
Sponsor: SHOWER
Requester: Senate Judiciary Committee

Department: Judiciary
Appropriation: Commission on Judicial Conduct
Allocation: Commission on Judicial Conduct
OMB Component Number: 770

Expenditures/Revenues

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

(Thousands of Dollars)

| | FY2022 Appropriation Requested | Included in Governor's FY2022 Request | Out-Year Cost Estimates | | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|-------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| OPERATING EXPENDITURES | FY 2022 | FY 2022 | FY 2023 | FY 2024 | FY 2025 | FY 2026 | FY 2027 |
| Personal Services | 58.5 | | 58.5 | 58.5 | 58.5 | 58.5 | 58.5 |
| Travel | 2.5 | | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.5 |
| Services | | | | | | | |
| Commodities | 3.0 | | | | | | |
| Capital Outlay | | | | | | | |
| Grants & Benefits | | | | | | | |
| Miscellaneous | | | | | | | |
| Total Operating | 64.0 | 0.0 | 61.0 | 61.0 | 61.0 | 61.0 | 61.0 |

Fund Source (Operating Only)

| | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|-------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1004 Gen Fund (UGF) | 64.0 | | 61.0 | 61.0 | 61.0 | 61.0 | 61.0 |
| Total | 64.0 | 0.0 | 61.0 | 61.0 | 61.0 | 61.0 | 61.0 |

Positions

| | | | | | | | |
|-----------|-----|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Full-time | | | | | | | |
| Part-time | 1.0 | | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 |
| Temporary | | | | | | | |

Change in Revenues

| | | | | | | | |
|--------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| None | | | | | | | |
| Total | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |

Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY2021) cost: 0.0 (separate supplemental appropriation required)

Estimated CAPITAL (FY2022) cost: 0.0 (separate capital appropriation required)

Does the bill create or modify a new fund or account? 0
(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? 0
If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed? N/A

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version/comments:

Updated note to reflect changes in Senate Judiciary Committee substitute.

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Agency: Judicial Conduct Commission

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Date: 02/25/2021 01:00 PM
Date: 02/25/21

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA
2021 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. SB 14

Analysis

Senate Bill 14 would substantially expand the amount of work performed by the Alaska Commission on Judicial Conduct. The Commission is currently staffed by one Executive Director and one Administrative Assistant who work exclusively on judicial ethics issues, including responding to requests from judges for ethical guidance; staffing, advising, and meeting with the full Commission 4 times per year; working with Commission members on drafting and issuing opinions on ethical issues; receiving and investigating complaints about judicial behavior and ethics; educating judicial officers and court employees on judicial ethics standards and responsibilities; and, when warranted, overseeing and working on formal disciplinary proceedings for judges accused of ethical breaches.

By adding magistrates to the Commission's ethics authority, SB 14 would expand the Commission's oversight function by more than 50%. That is, the Commission currently oversees ethics for the 74 judges, and SB 14 would add ethical oversight of the court system's 38 magistrates. This would require staff to respond to inquiries from, provide training to, investigate allegations about, and pursue discipline of 113 individuals. To do so, the Commission would need additional staff support, and would add meeting time to the existing Commission meeting schedule.

In total, the Commission would need one Range 20 PPT at 50% (\$58,530). The Commission would also require one-time initial resources of \$3,000 software and a computer in FY 2022 for the additional part-time employee. Adding one Commission meeting day to two of the Commission's quarterly meetings will require additional travel expenses of \$2,500.