

Fiscal Note

State of Alaska
2026 Legislative Session

Bill Version: SB 251
Fiscal Note Number: _____
() Publish Date: _____

Identifier: SB251-JUD-ACS-02-20-26
Title: REPEAL WORKERS' COMP APPEALS
COMMISSION
Sponsor: WIELECHOWSKI
Requester: Senate Judiciary Committee

Department: Judiciary
Appropriation: Alaska Court System
Allocation: Trial Courts
OMB Component Number: 768

Expenditures/Revenues

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below. (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY2027 Appropriation Requested	Included in Governor's FY2027 Request	Out-Year Cost Estimates					
			FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	FY 2031	FY 2032
OPERATING EXPENDITURES								
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	0.0

Fund Source (Operating Only)

None								
Total	0.0	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	0.0

Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY2026) cost: 0.0 *(separate supplemental appropriation required)*

Estimated CAPITAL (FY2027) 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? N/A
If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed?

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version/comments:

Initial version

Prepared By: Nancy Meade, General Counsel	Phone: (907)463-4736
Division: Alaska Court System	Date: 02/20/2026 04:00 PM
Approved By: Stacey Marz, Administrative Director	Date: 02/20/26
Agency: Alaska Court System	

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA
2026 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. SB 251

Analysis

Senate Bill 251 would eliminate the Alaska Workers' Compensation Appeals Commission currently housed within the Department of Labor, and transfer jurisdiction over appeals pending in that Commission and all future appeals from the decisions of the Workers' Compensation Board to the superior court.

Although current data is not yet available, according to a 2019 Legislative Research Services Report, an average of 32 appeals per year were handled by the Commission over the preceding 12-year period. Using this information, the court system would anticipate that, under SB 251, the superior court would be handling an additional 32 administrative appeals from the Board each year, on average. These additional cases would be presided over by a superior court judge and we anticipate that the impact of these new cases would be spread across jurisdictions. Though these case types are very time-consuming and more difficult for judges than typical cases, with the information we have available at this time, the court anticipates that they could be handled by our superior court judges without additional resources.

The court system does not anticipate that this bill would change the caseload of the Supreme Court, which already currently handles appeals from the Commission. Its jurisdiction would not be altered under this bill; the supreme court appeals would simply come from the superior court instead of from the Commission.

At this time, the court system submits this zero fiscal note. If this bill becomes law, the court system will monitor the actual number of workers' compensation appeals that are filed in the superior court to determine whether the impacts exceed current expectations.