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2026 SESSION OPERATING BUDGET AMENDMENT PROPOSAL

OFFERED IN: The House Finance Subcommittee for the Judiciary (Court System)

TO: HB 263 / HB 265

OFFERED BY: Rep. Andrew Gray

FISCAL YEAR: FY27

DEPARTMENT: Judiciary (Court System)

APPROPRIATION: Alaska Court System

ALLOCATION: Trial Courts

ADD: 363.5 Gen Fund (UGF), INC, code 1004

POSITIONS: n/a

EXPLANATION: For FY26, the legislature denied the Governor's request of additional funding for contracted Court Visitors. Court Visitors are investigators in guardianship and conservatorship cases who provide information to the judicial officer about the protected person's status regarding medical treatment, housing, education, and finances. The total contracted hours for Court Visitors increased by 33% from FY23 to FY24, which the Courts attributed to efforts to address the backlog of Court Visitor work and the increasing number of cases involving these protective proceedings.

Per the court system, hours billed for the Court Visitor program continue to be higher than what they currently receive for the program.