



Sponsor Statement

HB 150 An Act requiring the Department of Family and Community Services to adopt a uniform screening tool; requiring shelters for runaway minors to screen minors for victimization relating to sexual abuse, sex trafficking, and commercial sexual exploitation; requiring the Department of Family and Community Services to screen children in need of aid for victimization relating to sexual abuse, sex trafficking, and commercial sexual exploitation; and relating to the duty of the Department of Family and Community Services to investigate the experiences of missing children in need of aid who have been located.

“An Act requiring the Department of Family and Community Services to screen children in need of aid for victimization relating to sexual abuse, sex trafficking, and commercial sexual exploitation...”

House Bill 150 addresses a critical issue highlighted by the National Foster Youth Institute, revealing that up to 60% of child sex trafficking victims have a history in foster care. Additionally, a federal study in 2021 and 2022 found that a third of 335 at-risk youth surveyed reported running away or being expelled before falling victim to trafficking. Recognizing the heightened risk for kids in the system and runaways, this bill proposes a vital step in safeguarding their well-being.

The legislation requires the Department of Family and Community Services, along with each local office, to adopt a uniform screening tool specifically designed to identify children who are victims of sexual abuse, sex trafficking, or commercial sexual exploitation. House Bill 150 emphasizes the need for a systematic process of targeted inquiry, crucial for identifying youth who may have experienced or are at risk of experiencing child sex trafficking (CST).

The screening process becomes paramount as it can be broadly applied to all youth or a specific subset with identified risk factors. Given that youth involved in trafficking may be hesitant to disclose their experiences due to fear, shame, or mistrust, and professionals may be reluctant to broach the sensitive topic, standardized screening tools become imperative.

Legislation mandating the use of a uniform screening tool is pivotal in creating a standardized and comprehensive approach across Alaska. Such legislation underscores the commitment to child protection, ensuring that every child, regardless of their background or circumstances, is given a fair chance to disclose their experiences. By adopting this proactive approach, House Bill 150 aims to create an environment where victims feel supported and empowered to share their experiences, signaling a significant step towards protecting vulnerable youth in the state.

HOUSE BILL NO. 150

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVE VANCE

Introduced: 3/21/25

Referred: Health and Social Services, Finance

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act requiring the Department of Family and Community Services to develop a
2 shared screening methodology; requiring shelters for runaway minors to screen minors
3 for victimization relating to sexual abuse, sex trafficking, and commercial sexual
4 exploitation; requiring the Department of Family and Community Services to screen
5 children in need of aid for victimization relating to sexual abuse, sex trafficking, and
6 commercial sexual exploitation; and relating to the duty of the Department of Family
7 and Community Services to investigate the experiences of missing children in need of aid
8 who have been located."

9 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

10 * **Section 1.** AS 47.10.394(c) is amended to read:

11 (c) In this section,

12 (1) "child abuse or neglect" has the meaning given in AS 47.17.290;

1 **(2) "commercial sexual exploitation" means the sexual abuse or**
 2 **exploitation of a child for the financial benefit of any person or in exchange for**
 3 **anything of value given or received by any person.**

4 * **Sec. 2.** AS 47.10.394 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

5 (d) A shelter for runaway minors shall use the screening methods developed in
 6 AS 47.14.100(u) to screen minors receiving services to determine whether the minor is
 7 a victim, or at risk of becoming a victim, of sexual abuse, sex trafficking, or
 8 commercial sexual exploitation. A shelter for runaway minors shall screen a minor
 9 upon intake and any time the shelter receives information that circumstances exist
 10 indicating that the minor is at a heightened risk for sexual abuse, sex trafficking, or
 11 commercial sexual exploitation.

12 * **Sec. 3.** AS 47.14.100(t) is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

13 (4) "commercial sexual exploitation" means the sexual abuse or
 14 exploitation of a child for the financial benefit of any person or in exchange for
 15 anything of value given or received by any person.

16 * **Sec. 4.** AS 47.14.100 is amended by adding new subsections to read:

17 (u) The department shall work with agency partners and advocacy
 18 organizations to develop a shared screening methodology to appropriately identify
 19 whether a child is a victim of sexual abuse, sex trafficking, or commercial sexual
 20 exploitation. The methods shall support the trafficking information-gathering efforts in
 21 the state. The department shall screen a child committed to the department upon the
 22 child's initial commitment to the department and when the department receives
 23 information indicating that the child may be a victim of sexual abuse, sex trafficking,
 24 or commercial sexual exploitation.

25 (v) Upon locating a child committed to the custody of the department who was
 26 missing, abducted, or ran away, the department shall

27 (1) investigate the child's experiences while absent from the custody of
 28 the department;

29 (2) determine the primary factors that caused or contributed to the
 30 child's absence; and

31 (3) screen the child to determine whether the child is a victim of sexual

1 abuse, sex trafficking, or commercial sexual exploitation.

2 * **Sec. 5.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
3 read:

4 **TRANSITION.** The Department of Family and Community Services shall develop and
5 begin using the shared screening methodology required by sec. 4 of this Act not later than one
6 year after the date this Act takes effect.



Sectional Analysis

HB 150 CHILD TRAFFICKING SCREENING

“An Act requiring the Department of Family and Community Services to adopt a uniform screening tool; requiring shelters for runaway minors to screen minors for victimization relating to sexual abuse, sex trafficking, and commercial sexual exploitation.”

Section 1: Amends AS 47.10.394(c) to include Paragraph (2) to define “commercial sexual exploitation.”

Section 2: Amends AS 47.10.394 to include Paragraph (d) to require a shelter for runaway minors shall use the uniform screening tool adopted by DFCS.

Section 3: Amends AS 47.14.100(t) to include Paragraph (4) to define “commercial sexual exploitation.”

Section 4: Amends AS 47.14.100 to include new subsection (u) to require DFCS to adopt a uniform screening tool to screen children to identify whether a child is a victim, or at risk of becoming a victim, of sexual abuse, sex trafficking, or commercial sexual exploitation.

And, subsection (v) requires DFCS to look into the situation when a child returns from being missing, abducted, or ran away, to determine what happened while absent, to determine what led to the child’s absence; and to screen the child to determine whether the child is a victim of sexual abuse, sex trafficking, or commercial sexual exploitation.

Fiscal Note

State of Alaska
2026 Legislative Session

Bill Version: HB 150
Fiscal Note Number: _____
() Publish Date: _____

Identifier: HB0150A-FCS-DJJ-3-13-26
Title: CHILD TRAFFICKING SCREENING
Sponsor: VANCE
Requester: (H) HSS

Department: Department of Family and Community Services
Appropriation: Juvenile Justice
Allocation: Probation Services
OMB Component Number: 3314

Expenditures/Revenues

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

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

Positions

Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							

Change in Revenues

None							
Total	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? No
If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed? NA

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version/comments:

Initial version.

Prepared By: <u>David Flaten, Social Services Program Officer</u>	Phone: <u>(907)465-8466</u>
Division: <u>Juvenile Justice</u>	Date: <u>03/13/2026</u>
Approved By: <u>Kyle Scherrer, Division Operations Manager</u>	Date: <u>03/14/26</u>
Agency: <u>Department of Family and Community Services</u>	

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA
2026 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB 150

Analysis

HB 150 requires the Department of Family and Community Services to develop and implement a shared screening methodology. The bill mandates that shelters serving runaway minors screen for sexual abuse, sex trafficking, and commercial sexual exploitation; that the Department screen children in need of aid for such victimization; and that the Department investigate the experiences of missing children in need of aid who are later located.

The Department of Family and Community Services, Division of Juvenile Justice, currently uses a screening tool addressing risks of sexual abuse, trafficking, and exploitation, integrated into its Juvenile Offender Management Information System (JOMIS). No additional resources are needed for the division to collaborate with agency partners and advocacy organizations to develop and implement the shared screening methodology; therefore, a zero fiscal note is submitted.

Fiscal Note

State of Alaska
2026 Legislative Session

Bill Version: HB 150
Fiscal Note Number: _____
() Publish Date: _____

Identifier: HB0150A-FCS-OCS-3-13-26
Title: CHILD TRAFFICKING SCREENING
Sponsor: VANCE
Requester: (H) HSS

Department: Department of Family and Community Services
Appropriation: Children's Services
Allocation: Front Line Social Workers
OMB Component Number: 3318

Expenditures/Revenues

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

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

Positions

Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							

Change in Revenues

None							
Total	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? No
If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed? NA

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version/comments:

Initial version.

Prepared By: <u>Bruce Downes, Community Relations Manager</u>	Phone: <u>(907)419-4439</u>
Division: <u>Office of Children's Services</u>	Date: <u>03/13/2026 12:00 AM</u>
Approved By: <u>Kyle Scherrer, Division Operations Manager</u>	Date: <u>03/14/26</u>
Agency: <u>Department of Family and Community Services</u>	

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA
2026 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB 150

Analysis

House Bill 150 requires the Department of Family and Community Services to develop a shared screening tool by establishing a standardized methodology and coordinating with external partners. The tool would require shelters serving minors to screen for sexual abuse, sex trafficking, and commercial sexual exploitation. Additionally, the department would be required to screen children entering its custody and those returning from runaway status for such victimization.

The Department of Family and Community Services, Office of Children's Services, currently uses a screening tool that addresses sex trafficking. Screening information is documented in the Online Resource for the Children of Alaska (ORCA) through case notes and is also maintained in the hard case file. At this time, the division does not anticipate the need for additional resources to develop a shared tool with community partners. Accordingly, a zero fiscal note is submitted.