

Fiscal Note

State of Alaska
2026 Legislative Session

Bill Version: HB 157
 Fiscal Note Number: _____
 () Publish Date: _____

Identifier: HB157-ACS-JUD-04-01-26
 Title: EFFECT OF ADOPTION DECREE ON SIBLINGS
 Sponsor: GRAY
 Requester: House Health and Social Services 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	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	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

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 If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed?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

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Division: <u>Alaska Court System</u>	Date: <u>04/01/2026 12:00 PM</u>
Approved By: <u>Stacey Marz, Administrative Director</u>	Date: <u>04/01/26</u>
Agency: <u>Alaska Court System</u>	

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA
2026 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB 157

Analysis

House Bill 157 states that the legislative intent is that the court will encourage the parties involved in an adoption to consider the benefits to the child being adopted of facilitating post-adoption contact between siblings, to promote a larger focus by the courts on the interests of the adopted child related to siblings, and to encourage courts to include provisions in the adoption decree that support post-adoption contact between siblings. Section 1.

Section 2 of the bill states that if the adoptee is a child in state custody (that is, a child involved in a child in need of aid case (CINA)), the court shall make a documented finding as to whether post-adoption visitation with siblings is in the adoptee's best interests.

Further, the bill amends the provision stating that an adoption severs the legal relationships between the adopted person and their biological family, to provide an exception for siblings, so that siblings' legal relationships are not severed upon adoption. Section 3. This provision applies to all adoptions of all persons, whether the adoptee is a child in state custody or otherwise.

Finally, the bill defines "sibling" for purposes of AS 25.23.130 broadly to include any person related as a child of one or both parents, plus any persons raised together for any period of time in the same household. This presumably would cover step-siblings, half-siblings, and later-born siblings (any children of the biological parent(s), even if born after the adoption is complete). It also could potentially include cousins, friends, or unrelated persons who live in the same household for any period of time. Section 4.

Implementing House Bill 157 will require, first, an identification of who fits the definition of sibling for all adoptees. Then, if the adoptee is a minor in state custody, the court will need to determine whether contact with those identified "siblings" is in the adoptee's best interests. That determination must be included in the adoption decree. Finally, the court would potentially determine whether the adoption decree should allow post-adoption visitation with each sibling, and, if so, to what extent.

The court system anticipates that adoption cases for all persons, including those involved in a CINA case and all other adoptions, will include additional questions and concerns, and potential extra hearings and litigation, about identifying individuals who fit the broad definition of sibling. It will also require the court to consider and decide the new best interests finding required by section 2. The court anticipates increased motion practice and increased workload from these additional considerations, but anticipates at this time that it can absorb the added tasks without fiscal impact. The court will monitor the impacts of the changes in HB 157 to determine if they do cause a fiscal impact on the courts in the future.