

# Fiscal Note

State of Alaska  
2026 Legislative Session

Bill Version: HB 188  
 Fiscal Note Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 () Publish Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Identifier: HB188-DOLWD-OCA-3-27-26  
 Title: WELCOMING ALASKA OFFICE  
 Sponsor: MINA  
 Requester: (H) STA

Department: Department of Labor and Workforce Development  
 Appropriation: Commissioner and Administrative Services  
 Allocation: Office of Citizenship Assistance  
 OMB Component Number: 2780

**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 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	FY 2031	FY 2032
<b>OPERATING EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>FY 2027</b>	<b>FY 2027</b>	<b>FY 2027</b>	<b>FY 2028</b>	<b>FY 2029</b>	<b>FY 2030</b>	<b>FY 2031</b>	<b>FY 2032</b>
Personal Services	183.4	388.0	571.4	571.4	571.4	571.4	571.4	571.4
Travel	23.4	2.9	26.3	26.3	26.3	26.3	26.3	26.3
Services	82.1	65.1	147.2	147.2	147.2	147.2	147.2	147.2
Commodities	3.1	22.9	26.0	26.0	26.0	26.0	26.0	26.0
Capital Outlay								
Grants & Benefits								
Miscellaneous								
<b>Total Operating</b>	<b>292.0</b>	<b>478.9</b>	<b>770.9</b>	<b>770.9</b>	<b>770.9</b>	<b>770.9</b>	<b>770.9</b>	<b>770.9</b>

**Fund Source (Operating Only)**

1004 Gen Fund (UGF)	292.0	478.9	770.9	770.9	770.9	770.9	770.9	770.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>292.0</b>	<b>478.9</b>	<b>770.9</b>	<b>770.9</b>	<b>770.9</b>	<b>770.9</b>	<b>770.9</b>	<b>770.9</b>

**Positions**

Full-time	1.0	3.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
Part-time								
Temporary								

**Change in Revenues**

None								
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

**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? **Yes**  
 If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed? **01/01/27**

**Why this fiscal note differs from previous version/comments:**

Not applicable, initial version.

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Division: Office of the Commissioner	Date: 03/27/2026 09:00 AM
Approved By: Dan DeBartolo, Administrative Services Director	Date: 03/27/26
Agency: Department of Labor and Workforce Development	

## FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA  
2026 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB 188

### Analysis

This legislation repeals AS 23.05.125, Office of Citizenship Assistance (OCA), and amends AS 23.05 by adding a new section AS 23.05.131 that establishes the Welcoming Alaska Office (WAO) under the office of the commissioner to serve newcomers (defined in AS 23.05.135(1) as "anyone who moves to Alaska from another state in the preceding 36 months" and legal immigrants (defined in AS 23.05.135(2), as "an individual, or the child of an individual, who has arrived, or will arrive, to the state as an immigrant or refugee").

This legislation requires the WAO to establish the Welcoming Alaska Center under AS 23.05.134, and a nine-person Welcoming Alaska Advisory Committee with members from the legislature, private and tribal industries, and the public. The legislation also requires the addition of a governor appointed Executive Director position to oversee all functions of the office and facilitate committee success. In addition, each executive branch department will assign one staff member to serve as a liaison to the WAO.

The WAO and Welcoming Alaska Center(s) will provide employment services, reduce licensing barriers, serve in a coordinating and convening role with stakeholders to develop and implement a statewide strategy to support businesses in recruiting and retaining new Alaskans, operate a toll-free translation services hotline, and provide English and Alaska Native Language instruction. Some of these services are currently provided by OCA staff, and the department can efficiently enact this legislation by simply renaming the existing budgetary component from the Office of Citizenship Assistance to the Welcoming Alaska Office. This allows the department to seamlessly retain both financial structures and staff currently in place.

This fiscal note reflects the new ongoing cost to enact all additional requirements, and the new position, as outlined in this legislation.

The elimination of the OCA includes the following reductions:

- Personal Services: (388.0) and -3 FTE (positions reestablished in the WAO)
- Travel: (2.9)
- Services: (65.1)
- Commodities: (22.9)

The establishment of the WAO includes the following line items:

- Personal Services: \$571.4 and +4 FTE (positions formerly in OCA and an Executive Director)
- Travel: \$26.3
- Services: \$147.2
- Commodities: \$26.0

The necessity of regulations under AS 23.05.131 is unclear. However, the department will target adoption by 1/1/2027 should a clear regulatory need emerge.

Not included in this fiscal note is grant authority, subject to appropriation, to support the economic and social integration of new immigrants and newcomers that WAO may facilitate in the future.