

Fiscal Note

State of Alaska
2026 Legislative Session

Bill Version: SB 123
Fiscal Note Number: _____
() Publish Date: _____

Identifier: SB123-FCS-FCAR-4-3-26
Title: CINA: CITIZENS' REVIEW PANELS
Sponsor: MYERS BY REQUEST
Requester: (S)HSS

Department: Department of Family and Community Services
Appropriation: Children's Services
Allocation: Foster Care Augmented Rate
OMB Component Number: 3316

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 |
| OPERATING EXPENDITURES | FY 2027 | FY 2027 | | | | | | |
| Personal Services | *** | | *** | *** | *** | *** | *** | *** |
| Travel | | | | | | | | |
| Services | | | | | | | | |
| Commodities | | | | | | | | |
| Capital Outlay | | | | | | | | |
| Grants & Benefits | | | | | | | | |
| Miscellaneous | | | | | | | | |
| Total Operating | *** | 0.0 | *** | *** | *** | *** | *** | *** |

Fund Source (Operating Only)

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If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed?

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version/comments:

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|------------------|
| Initial version. |
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|--------------|---|--------|---------------------|
| Prepared By: | Bruce Downes, Social Services Program Officer | Phone: | (907)419-4439 |
| Division: | Children's Services | Date: | 04/03/2026 12:00 AM |
| Approved By: | Kyle Scherrer, Division Operations Manager | Date: | 04/03/26 |
| Agency: | Department of Family and Community Services | | |

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA
2026 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. SB 123

Analysis

SB 123 establishes citizen review panels for permanency planning for certain children in state custody.

Section 5 establishes a citizen's review panel for permanency planning within the Department of Administration. Section 5 also establishes local review panels in each judicial district. The panels will review child welfare cases, case plans, case progress reports from the department or the assigned guardian ad litem, court records, and other relevant information about a child and the child's family. The panels will determine whether a child has a case plan that is designed to achieve placement that is the least restrictive and close to the child's parents, appropriateness of the child's placement, the extent of compliance with the child's case plan, the extent of progress that has been made toward mitigating the causes that necessitated a placement away from the child's parents, ascertain if the child is likely to return home or placed in an adoption or guardianship, determine compliance with federal law and the Indian Child Welfare Act, and determine if requirements within AS 47.10.080(f) and (l) and 47.10.142(h) have been met.

The requirement for panel reviews, along with the obligation for courts and the department to cooperate with those reviews and communicate with case participants, may negatively impact permanency for children in out-of-home placement by creating unanticipated delays. Such delays may inadvertently affect: (1) the amount of time a child remains in out-of-home care while awaiting permanency through reunification with the child's parent(s) or exit from foster care through adoption or guardianship; or (2) the department's ability to maintain reasonable or active efforts, which could impact federal reimbursement for maintenance and administrative costs.

The fiscal impact of this legislation is indeterminate because the department does not know to what extent permanency delays would occur as a result of panel review.

The department will continue to monitor this legislation and may offer an updated fiscal note if further clarity is provided regarding potential delays in permanency.