

# Fiscal Note

State of Alaska  
2026 Legislative Session

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

Identifier: SB123-FCS-FCBR-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 Base Rate  
OMB Component Number: 3315

**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
<b>OPERATING EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>FY 2027</b>	<b>FY 2027</b>					
Personal Services	***		***	***	***	***	***
Travel							
Services							
Commodities							
Capital Outlay							
Grants & Benefits							
Miscellaneous							
<b>Total Operating</b>	***	<b>0.0</b>	***	***	***	***	***

**Fund Source (Operating Only)**

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

**Positions**

Full-time							
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>

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If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed?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

Initial version.
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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.

- Unique count of children out-of-home in FY2025 - 3453
- Unique count of children with trial home visits in FY2025 - 997
- Unique count of children out-of-home less trial home visits - 2456

If children remain in foster care for additional days as a result of delayed permanency, there will be additional costs associated with foster care payments. For example:

- Assume delayed permanency for 60 days - 147,360 days total
- Assume average cost per day of \$37.79 (whole dollars) to maintain a child in foster care x increase length of time in foster care  $\$37.79 \times 147,360 = \$5,567.7$  (in thousands)

Currently 51% of children will be eligible for IV-E reimbursement:

- Federal reimbursement - 25.5% = \$1419.8
- General fund match - 25.5% = \$1419.8
- General Fund - 49% = \$2728.1

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.