

Fiscal Note

State of Alaska
2026 Legislative Session

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

Identifier: HB188CS(STA)-DOLWD-OCA-4-14-26
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 Appropriation Requested	Included in Governor's FY2027 Request	Out-Year Cost Estimates					
			FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	FY 2031	FY 2032
OPERATING EXPENDITURES								
Personal Services	562.6	388.0	950.6	950.6	950.6	950.6	950.6	950.6
Travel	24.0	2.9	26.9	26.9	26.9	26.9	26.9	26.9
Services	90.0	65.1	155.1	155.1	155.1	155.1	155.1	155.1
Commodities	37.1	22.9	48.0	48.0	48.0	48.0	48.0	48.0
Capital Outlay								
Grants & Benefits	2,999.5		2,999.5	2,999.5	2,999.5	2,999.5	2,999.5	2,999.5
Miscellaneous								
Total Operating	3,713.2	478.9	4,180.1	4,180.1	4,180.1	4,180.1	4,180.1	4,180.1

Fund Source (Operating Only)

1002 Fed Rcpts (Fed)	3,481.1		3,469.1	3,469.1	3,469.1	3,469.1	3,469.1
1004 Gen Fund (UGF)	232.1	478.9	711.0	711.0	711.0	711.0	711.0
Total	3,713.2	478.9	4,180.1	4,180.1	4,180.1	4,180.1	4,180.1

Positions

Full-time	4.0	3.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0
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? **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If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed?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:

The original fiscal note increased the position count by one. This fiscal note adds three additional positions (four in total) and updates the personal services and associated costs accordingly. It also adds federal authority for potential grant and program administration.

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Division:	Office of the Commissioner	Date:	04/14/2026
Approved By:	Dan DeBartolo, Administrative Services Director	Date:	04/14/26
Agency:	Labor and Workforce Development		

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA
2026 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. CSHB188

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, which establishes the Welcoming Alaska Office (WAO) under the department of Labor 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 thirteen-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 commissioner-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.

This legislation also tasks the WAO with administering the refugee services programs, including refugee support services and refugee cash and medical assistance programs. With the acceptance of cash and medical assistance programs, the department would be eligible to receive federal financial support for the U.S. Department of Health's Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) eligible populations, which include refugees, persons granted asylum, Cuban/Haitian entrants, and similarly situated individuals from other countries. Not all services provided by the WAO would be eligible for federal financial support; any work supporting persons with J-1, H-1B, H-2A, or H-2B visas would not be eligible for federal funding. Therefore, this fiscal note adds positions that are federally funded to support the administration of refugee support services and cash and medical assistance, and retains the former OCA positions and funding required to support all the objectives of the WOA.

The WAO and any 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. The department can efficiently enact this legislation by renaming the existing budgetary component from the Office of Citizenship Assistance to the Welcoming Alaska Office. This allows the department to seamlessly retain financial structures and OCA staff currently in place.

The out years of this fiscal note reflect the new ongoing cost to meet all additional requirements, and new positions, as outlined in this legislation.

The absorbed costs and positions of the OCA (totaling \$478.9) to the WAO includes the following:

- Personal Services: \$388.0 and 3 full-time employees (FTE) (filled positions reestablished in the new WAO)
- Travel: \$2.9
- Services: \$65.1
- Commodities: \$22.9

The establishment of the Welcoming Alaska Office and refugee services includes the following additional costs above the amount absorbed from OCA:

- Personal Services: \$562.6 (\$379.2 FED, \$183.4 UGF) and +4 FTE
- Travel: \$24.0 (\$5.0 FED)
- Services: \$90.0 (\$62.1 FED)
- Commodities: \$25.1 (\$22.0 FED)
- Grants: \$2,999.5 (All FED)

The necessity of regulations under AS 23.05.131 is unclear. However, the department will target adoption by 1/1/2027