

# Fiscal Note

State of Alaska  
2023 Legislative Session

|                     |          |
|---------------------|----------|
| Bill Version:       | SB 59    |
| Fiscal Note Number: | 2        |
| (S) Publish Date:   | 2/6/2023 |

Identifier: LL0343-3-DOH-CO-1-31-2023  
Title: RUNAWAYS; DFCS/DOH:  
DUTIES/LICENSING/INFO  
Sponsor: RLS BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR  
Requester: Governor

Department: Department of Health  
Appropriation: Departmental Support Services  
Allocation: Commissioner's Office  
OMB Component Number: 317

## Expenditures/Revenues

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

(Thousands of Dollars)

|                        | FY2024<br>Appropriation<br>Requested | Included in<br>Governor's<br>FY2024<br>Request | Out-Year Cost Estimates |            |            |            |            |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|-------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| OPERATING EXPENDITURES | FY 2024                              | FY 2024  | FY 2025                 | FY 2026    | FY 2027    | FY 2028    | FY 2029    |
| Personal Services      |                                      |  |                         |            |            |            |            |
| Travel                 |                                      |  |                         |            |            |            |            |
| Services               |                                      |  |                         |            |            |            |            |
| Commodities            |                                      |  |                         |            |            |            |            |
| Capital Outlay         |                                      |  |                         |            |            |            |            |
| Grants & Benefits      |                                      |  |                         |            |            |            |            |
| Miscellaneous          |                                      |  |                         |            |            |            |            |
| <b>Total Operating</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> |

## Fund Source (Operating Only)

|              |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |
|--------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| 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> |

## 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 (FY2023) cost:** 0.0 (separate supplemental appropriation required)

**Estimated CAPITAL (FY2024) 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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Approved By: Josephine Stern, Assistant Commissioner  
Agency: Department of Health

Phone: (907)465-4636  
Date: 01/31/2023 12:00 AM  
Date: 01/31/23

## FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA  
2023 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

## Analysis

This legislation seeks to address three issues related to Executive Order 121 – first, authorization for sharing “identifiable health information” between departments; second, departmental responsibility for licensing runaway shelters; and third, the addition of the Department of Community and Family Services Commissioner to the Mental Health Trust Authority Board of Advisors.

Section 3 provides the authority to share “identifiable health information” between the Department of Health and the Department of Family and Community Services and is critical to enable both departments in their efforts to serve Alaskans touched by both departments, briefly (but not entirely) described below.

Coordinating complex care and placements – The authority would remove administrative burdens and restrictions related to communication between departmental staff regarding individuals presenting with complex behavioral health and medical needs. Communication and coordination between the Department of Family and Community Services agencies, such as the Alaska Psychiatric Institute, Alaska Pioneer Homes, Office of Children’s Services, and the Division of Juvenile Justice, and Department of Health agencies, such as the Divisions of Health Care Services, Behavioral Health, and Senior and Disabilities Services, is critically necessary to secure and ensure appropriate resources for individuals presenting with complex behavioral health issues and complex medical needs.

Coordination of Medicaid benefits, including travel – Communication between departments facilitates a reduction in unnecessary state general fund expenditures as it allows the sharing of identifiable health information relevant to securing services and reimbursement for eligible Medicaid beneficiaries (e.g., enrolled providers, covered services, and medical billing questions).

Psychotropic medication monitoring – Communication between departments is necessary to facilitate the monitoring of psychotropic medication prescribed to eligible Medicaid beneficiaries. Monitoring these prescriptions is a critical component of efforts to prevent unnecessary and potentially harmful psychotropic medication prescriptions to children and youth without ensuring such a prescription is reviewed in the context of the individual’s clinical presentation.

Sections 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 removes the licensing of runaway shelters from the purview of the Department of Family and Community Services and replaces six instances of the word “department” with “Department of Health” to provide clarity regarding the assignment of specific licensing duties in the statutes. This clarifying language aligns the statutes with existing practice and, as such, does not have a substantive, direct impact on existing department operations or financing.

Section 2 adds the Department of Family and Community Services Commissioner to the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority Board of Advisors.

The Department of Health can absorb the costs associated with implementation of this bill through existing staff and reimbursable services agreements that have been in place between the affected divisions for years.

This legislation establishes an immediate effective date.