

Fiscal Note

State of Alaska
2025 Legislative Session

Bill Version: SB 44
Fiscal Note Number: _____
() Publish Date: _____

Identifier: SB044-DOH-HFLC-01-24-25
Title: MINORS & PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITALS
Sponsor: CLAMAN
Requester: (S) HSS

Department: Department of Health
Appropriation: Health Care Services
Allocation: Health Facilities Licensing and Certification
OMB Component Number: 2944

Expenditures/Revenues

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

(Thousands of Dollars)

	FY2026 Appropriation Requested	Included in Governor's FY2026 Request	Out-Year Cost Estimates				
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2026	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	FY 2031
Personal Services	172.1		172.1	172.1	172.1	172.1	172.1
Travel							
Services	35.0		35.0	35.0	35.0	35.0	35.0
Commodities	5.0		2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
Capital Outlay							
Grants & Benefits							
Miscellaneous							
Total Operating	212.1	0.0	209.1	209.1	209.1	209.1	209.1

Fund Source (Operating Only)

1004 Gen Fund (UGF)	212.1		209.1	209.1	209.1	209.1	209.1
Total	212.1	0.0	209.1	209.1	209.1	209.1	209.1

Positions

Full-time	1.0		1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Part-time							
Temporary							

Change in Revenues

None							
Total	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY2025) cost: 0.0 (separate supplemental appropriation required)

Estimated CAPITAL (FY2026) 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If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed? 07/01/26

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version/comments:

Not applicable, initial version.

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Agency: Department of Health

Phone: (907)602-0049
Date: 01/24/2025
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FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA
2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. SB044

Analysis

This bill establishes that a minor who is undergoing evaluation or inpatient treatment in a psychiatric hospital has the right to communication, one cumulative hour per week, divided into no more than four sessions, with a parent or guardian and that the hospital must facilitate the communication. It also establishes two new licensing requirements – semi-annual licensing inspections and interviews with fifty percent of residents during each inspection of psychiatric hospitals where minors have stayed for more than three nights in the preceding year. Further, the bill establishes that a petition for a court order can be filed if a psychiatric hospital denies entry by a state licensing official seeking to enter for inspection purposes.

This bill will require one full-time Nurse Consultant 1, within Health Facilities Licensing and Certification (HFLC) allocation to perform the semi-annual inspections, interviews, and any investigations. The purpose of the HFLC allocation is to inspect health facilities across the state to determine whether they meet state and federal standards. In addition, the team investigates complaints made against health facilities and agencies licensed or certified under the program. The purpose of the inspections is to determine a health care provider's ability to give services which are safe and of an acceptable quality.

HFLC staff are clinically trained and will not need additional training to prepare them to perform interviews with minors with psychiatric conditions except for trauma informed care and cultural awareness training. This training is important and necessary to maintain professional boundaries and safety for the staff and client. The key to successful interaction with a psychiatric patient is to be aware of behaviors, triggers, and diagnosis. This training is offered in-person and would be assigned to all staff to ensure there is always staff prepared to manage this workload regardless of vacancies.

This bill also requires a treatment facility to notify the Department of Health, in writing, after each use of seclusion or restraint of a resident and requires notification of the resident's parent or guardian within one business day. It also adds a requirement for the Department of Health to annually publish a report with aggregate totals by hospital; findings from the department's inspections of psychiatric hospitals; data on minors receiving care in psychiatric hospitals as provided by the Department of Family and Community Services, which is required to collect and share data annually with the Department of Health regarding the number of minors receiving residential care in in-state and out-of-state psychiatric hospitals and the duration of their stays.

This bill will require the Division of Health Care Services to amend regulations; the associated costs can be absorbed.

Financial Breakdown

The Division of Health Care Services, Health Facilities Licensing and Certification allocation will require one Nurse Consultant 1 beginning in year one. This position will assist with program development, create regulations, design necessary forms, provide training, and other necessary framework to support this legislation.

The costs associated with this position and the necessary support infrastructure include:

- Personal Services: \$172.1 annually for one Nurse Consultant 1 (including benefits) at range 24 in Anchorage.
- Services: \$20.0 annually for office space, phone, and reimbursable service agreements to support the position. And \$15.0 annually for two Nurse Consultant 1s to attend trauma informed care and cultural awareness training.
- Commodities: \$2.0 annually for office supplies.
- One-Time Commodities Cost: \$3.0 one-time, in FY2026, for computer, software, and office equipment.

This fiscal note is general fund because this legislation addresses state licensure, rather than a Medicaid requirement.