

Fiscal Note

State of Alaska
2025 Legislative Session

Bill Version: SB 88
Fiscal Note Number: _____
() Publish Date: _____

Identifier: SB088-FCS-FLSW-2-21-25
Title: CHILD PLACEMENT; DILIGENT SEARCH
Sponsor: BJORKMAN
Requester: (S)Health and Social Services

Department: Department of Family and Community Services
Appropriation: Children's Services
Allocation: Front Line Social Workers
OMB Component Number: 3318

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 | 164.7 | | 164.7 | 164.7 | 164.7 | 164.7 | 164.7 |
| Travel | | | | | | | |
| Services | 720.0 | | 700.0 | 700.0 | 700.0 | 700.0 | 700.0 |
| Commodities | 7.0 | | | | | | |
| Capital Outlay | | | | | | | |
| Grants & Benefits | | | | | | | |
| Miscellaneous | | | | | | | |
| Total Operating | 891.7 | 0.0 | 864.7 | 864.7 | 864.7 | 864.7 | 864.7 |

Fund Source (Operating Only)

| | | | | | | | |
|----------------------|--------------|------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1002 Fed Rcpts (Fed) | 44.0 | | 40.5 | 40.5 | 40.5 | 40.5 | 40.5 |
| 1003 GF/Match (UGF) | 60.0 | | 60.0 | 60.0 | 60.0 | 60.0 | 60.0 |
| 1004 Gen Fund (UGF) | 787.7 | | 764.2 | 764.2 | 764.2 | 764.2 | 764.2 |
| Total | 891.7 | 0.0 | 864.7 | 864.7 | 864.7 | 864.7 | 864.7 |

Positions

| | | | | | | | |
|-----------|-----|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Full-time | 2.0 | | 2.0 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 2.0 |
| 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? No
If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed? N/A

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version/comments:

This is the initial version.

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Approved By: Kyle Scherrer, Division Operations Manager
Agency: Department of Family and Community Services

Phone: (907)419-4439
Date: 02/21/2025 01:00 PM
Date: 02/21/2025

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA
2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. SB0088A

Analysis

Legal Services Impact:

SB88 modifies CINA proceedings by:

- Giving foster parents the right to request court hearings on child placement transfers, increasing court expenses.
- Introducing new "best interest" determinations in placement and permanency decisions.
- Expanding requirements for searching and documenting efforts to locate family members of children in state custody, leading to additional court hearings.
- Adjusting statutory placement preferences to give some foster parents the same priority as adult family members, potentially increasing litigation.
- Estimating the fiscal impact on legal services is challenging, as CINA cases involve frequent litigation, particularly regarding placement decisions. The department projects an increase of \$687.0 in legal costs.

Diligent Relative Search:

SB88 requires expanded documentation and reporting on relative searches, including court oversight, necessitating two additional Social Service Associate positions at a total cost of \$123.0.

The division's Comprehensive Child Welfare Information System will require modifications to support new reporting requirements, with an estimated \$20.0 in contract costs for design, development, testing, and reporting.

Alaska Tribal Child Welfare Compact:

The new diligent search requirements will apply to services under the Alaska Tribal Child Welfare Compact, requiring renegotiation of the scope of work, which may affect service delivery.

Potential Impact on Permanency Timelines:

Increased court hearings and litigation related to SB88 may extend the time required to achieve permanency for children in state custody. The department has not estimated the cost implications of these delays.

Total Costs:

- \$687.0 in legal services (services)
- \$164.7 in personnel costs (personal services)
- \$20.0 in one-time programming costs (services)
- \$13.0 in position chargeback costs (services)
- \$7.0 in position IT equipment and additional office supplies