

Chair:

Rep. Andy Josephson Capitol Room 505 465-4939

Members:

Rep. Andrew Gray Capitol Room 118 465-4940

Rep. Chuck Kopp Capitol Room 204 465-3892

Rep. Ted Eischeid Capitol Room 412 465-2095

Rep. Genevieve Mina Capitol Room 416 465-3424

Rep. Sarah Vance Capitol Room 114 465-2689

Rep. Mia Costello Capitol Room 404 465-6641

Rep. Jubilee Underwood Capitol Room 112 465-2186

Committee Aide:

Alexander Schroeder 465-1452

34th Alaska State Legislature House Finance Budget Subcommittee Department of Law FY26 Operating Budget

Department of Law FY26 House Finance Budget Subcommittee Narrative Report February 28th, 2025

The House Finance Budget Subcommittee for the Department of Law held a total of four meetings and submits the following recommended operating budget for FY26 to the House Finance Committee:

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Fund Source: (dollars are in thousands)	
Unrestricted General Funds (UGF)	\$84,799.1
Designated General Funds (DGF)	\$3,016.8
Other Funds	\$42,482.1
Federal Funds	\$2,452.3

Total \$132,750.3

Compared to the FY26 Governor's Amended budget, the Subcommittee recommendations represent a decrease of -\$500.0 (-0.6%) in Unrestricted General Funds, for a total of -\$500.0 (-0.4%) in all funds.

Positions:

Permanent Full-Time	611
Permanent Part-Time	0
Temporary	29

Total 640

BUDGET ACTIONS

The subcommittee only addressed the Governor's items as no other items were proposed.

The subcommittee adopted all the Governor's proposed Budget Action items except

• <u>Item 5</u>: Continued Statehood Defense Efforts Across Multiple Agencies Supporting Alaska's Statehood Sovereignty (FY26-FY27)

The department will already receive \$500.0 from a temporary increment in the base budget (FY25-FY27). Furthermore, \$3,700.0 in previously appropriated statehood defense monies are unspent. The department testified that statehood defense costs the state an estimated \$2,000.0 - \$3,000.0 per year (since FY22) on average. Therefore, the subcommittee was not convinced that the department required another \$1 million over the next two fiscal years.

Highlights- Approved Budget Action Items

- Criminal Division
 - o Funded 5 new Permanent Full-Time positions to reduce increased caseloads to manageable levels (\$1,194.1 UGF)
 - Funded an Attorney 5 position dedicated to complex "Brady Case" disclosures (\$279.9 UGF)
 - Funded an Attorney 5 position and a Law Office Assistant position for postconviction relief cases (\$387.3 UGF)
- Civil Division
 - Approved the transfer in of funding for Labor Relations Analysts from the Department of Administration in conjunction with the Governor's Administrative Order 356
 - Funded an Attorney 5 position to assist with labor relations work (\$279.9 UGF)

SUBCOMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

The Chair set an amendment deadline, welcomed amendments from all members, and the subcommittee received no amendments.

ATTACHED REPORTS

The House Finance Budget Subcommittee for the Department of Law adopted the attached reports:

- LAW Agency Totals
- LAW Transaction Compare: Adjusted Base+ to House Subcom
- LAW Transaction Compare: GovAmend to House Subcom

Respectfully Submitted,

andy Josephson

Representative Andy Josephson

Chair, House Finance Budget Subcommittee for the Department of Law