

Fiscal Note

State of Alaska
2024 Legislative Session

Bill Version: HB 197
Fiscal Note Number: _____
() Publish Date: _____

Identifier: HB197-DOT-AMHS-1-19-2024
Title: ELECTRONIC GAMING ON AMHS FERRIES
Sponsor: SUMNER BY REQUEST
Requester: House Transportation

Department: Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
Appropriation: Marine Highway System
Allocation: Vessel Operations Management
OMB Component Number: 629

Expenditures/Revenues

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

(Thousands of Dollars)

	FY2025 Appropriation Requested	Included in Governor's FY2025 Request	Out-Year Cost Estimates				
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2025	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030
Personal Services							
Travel							
Services							
Commodities							
Capital Outlay							
Grants & Benefits							
Miscellaneous							
Total Operating	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Fund Source (Operating Only)

None							
Total	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Positions

Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							

Change in Revenues

None							
Total	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY2024) cost: 0.0 (separate supplemental appropriation required)

Estimated CAPITAL (FY2025) 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If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed?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, not applicable.

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Date: 01/19/24

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA
2024 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB 197

Analysis

As the implementation of electronic gaming on AMHS vessels requires an engineered study and approval by our regulatory agencies, such as the United States Coast Guard (USCG) and our classification society, the American Bureau of Shipping (ABS), AMHS would not seek to obtain and implement a onboard gaming until such approvals were received and logistical planning conducted after passage of this legislation.

AMHS foresees the following logistical considerations as some of the requirements necessary prior to implementation:

- An analysis of routes including identification of locations, and durations, where vessels are more than 3 nautical miles from shore.
- A full engineered plan for submittal to our regulatory bodies for approvals.
- Analysis of space needed and available for the type of activity vis-à-vis a vendor product selected (analysis will vary per vessels).
- Power and configuration requirements for potential / anticipated equipment.
- Type of vessel personnel required to manage the gaming operations including with technical support and training.
- Other vessel modifications are required (mounting of systems to ensure safety, noise barriers, furnishings, etc).

If any modifications are made to an Alaska Marine Highway Services vessel, an engineered plan is required and must be approved by the United States Coast Guard and our Classification Society, the American Bureau of Shipping. One current and significant barrier to implementation is recruitment difficulties. Adding crew at this time proves difficult as AMHS struggles to find qualified mariners to keep the six (6) vessel we currently have operating fully crewed.

Without federal approvals and detailed logistical plans of what implementation would entail, the department puts forward a zero fiscal note at this time with the understanding that, should the legislation pass and be enacted, AMHS one day look at potential implementation as an option.