

Fiscal Note

State of Alaska
2025 Legislative Session

Bill Version: HB 36
Fiscal Note Number: _____
() Publish Date: _____

Identifier: HB036-JUD-ACS-02-25-25
Title: FOSTER CHILDREN PSYCHIATRIC TREATMENT
Sponsor: GRAY
Requester: House Health and Social Services Committee
Department: Judiciary
Appropriation: Alaska Court System
Allocation: Trial Courts
OMB Component Number: 768

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							
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 (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? N/A
If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed?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.

Prepared By: Nancy Meade, General Counsel
Division: Alaska Court System
Approved By: Stacey Marz, Administrative Director
Agency: Alaska Court System
Phone: (907)463-4736
Date: 02/25/2025 12:00 PM
Date: 02/25/25

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA
2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB 36

Analysis

House Bill 36 would require the Office of Children's Services to notify the court and all parties to an ongoing child in need of aid case within 24 hours of placing a child who is in state custody into an acute psychiatric hospital. (Sec. 3, new AS 47.10.087(f)). Then the court must review the placement within seven calendar days of receiving the notification, and notify the parties of the time and place of the hearing. (Sec. 3, new AS 47.10.087(g)). The court must make specified findings and then review a placement that has been approved every 30 days and when requested by the child or a party, if the court finds good cause to do so. (Sec. 3, new AS 47.10.087(g)-(h)).

In addition, HB 36 would amend the court's Child in Need of Aid Rule 12(b) to require the court to appoint an attorney for a child who is ten years old or older when the child has been placed in an acute psychiatric hospital. (Sec. 5).

This bill will require more and more frequent hearings in CINA cases, on an expedited basis, when a child is placed in a facility as described in the bill. The Office of Children's Services has estimated that a child in state custody is admitted for psychiatric treatment approximately 90 times per year, and further estimates that approximately 20 of these stay long enough to require a review hearing. The court therefore estimates having about 110 additional hearings in CINA cases to consider and review these placements.

This bill would therefore add to the court system's workload, but the court anticipates at this time that it will be able to absorb the additional tasks without fiscal impact.

Finally, the court rule change in section 5 of House Bill 36 will not have a fiscal impact on the court system; the court appoints an attorney from the Office of Public Advocacy for children in these cases. The court system does not incur any costs in making the attorney appointments.

The court therefore submits this zero fiscal note.