

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2012 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Bill Version **SB138**
Fiscal Note Number _____
() Publish Date _____

Identifier (file name) SB138-DCCED-RCA-01-27-12 Dept. Affected **DCCED**
Title **Third-party charges on telephone bills** Appropriation **Regulatory Commission of Alaska**
Allocation **Regulatory Commission of Alaska**
Sponsor **Senators Wielechowski, Davis, and Egan**
Requester **Senate Labor & Commerce** OMB Component Number **2417**

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

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

	FY13 Appropriation Requested	Included in Governor's FY13 Request	Out-Year Cost Estimates				
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY13	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18
Personal Services	80.5		80.5	93.2	93.2	93.2	93.2
Travel	0.0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Services	15.0		10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
Commodities	0.0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Capital Outlay							
Grants, Benefits							
Miscellaneous							
TOTAL OPERATING	95.5	0.0	90.5	103.2	103.2	103.2	103.2

FUND SOURCE		(Thousands of Dollars)					
1002	Federal Receipts						
1003	GF Match						
1004	GF						
1141	RCA Rcpts (DGF)	95.5	90.5	103.2	103.2	103.2	103.2
1037	GF/MH (UGF)						
1178	temp code (UGF)						
TOTAL		95.5	0.0	90.5	103.2	103.2	103.2

POSITIONS							
Full-time							
Part-time	3		3	2	2	2	2
Temporary							

CHANGE IN REVENUES	125.5		110.5	113.2	113.2	113.2	113.2
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Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY12) operating costs 0.0 (separate supplemental appropriation required,
(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

Estimated CAPITAL (FY13) costs 0.0 (separate capital appropriation required,
(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version (if initial version, please note as such)

Not applicable, initial version

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Commerce, Community, and Economic Development

Phone 276-6222
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Date 1/28/2012

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Analysis

This legislation relates to the inclusion of charges of a vendor of goods or services on the bills of certain telecommunications carriers; and adding an unlawful act to the Alaska Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Act. This fiscal note assumes that the RCA would hire one quarter-time Hearing Examiner I (Range 24), one quarter-time Communications Common Carrier Specialist II (Range 20), and one quarter-time Consumer Protection and Information Officer I (Range 16) for drafting regulations and initial assistance on case analysis. After regulations are adopted it is projected the RCA will require the services of one half-time Communications Common Carrier Specialist II (Range 20) and one half-time Consumer Protection and Information Officer I (Range 16) for ongoing case analysis and review of consumer complaints.

Services costs include \$10.0 of on-going costs and \$5.0 one time start up costs.

The RCA's budget is funded through Regulatory Cost Charges (RCC) and direct charge mechanisms. The RCC is recalculated each year and allows the agency to recover its operating expenses through an assessment on the revenues of regulated utilities and pipeline carriers. Utilities exempt from economic regulation by the RCA do not pay RCCs, but may be required to pay the actual costs of services provided by the RCA.

RCCs are capped by statute (AS 42.05.254(a)). The current RCC cap is 0.7%, and an increase to the statutory cap may be necessary to fund the additional positions.