

Fiscal Note

State of Alaska
2026 Legislative Session

Bill Version: HB 252
Fiscal Note Number:
() Publish Date:

Identifier: HB252-DCCED-RCA-01-23-26
Title: ELECTRIC UTILITY FIRE PREVENTION PLAN
Sponsor: HOLLAND
Requester: (H) ENERGY

Department: Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development
Appropriation: Regulatory Commission of Alaska
Allocation: Regulatory Commission of Alaska
OMB Component Number: 2417

Expenditures/Revenues

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

(Thousands of Dollars)

	FY2027 Appropriation Requested	Included in Governor's FY2027 Request	Out-Year Cost Estimates				
			FY 2027	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2027						
Personal Services							
Travel							
Services							
Commodities							
Capital Outlay							
Grants & Benefits							
Miscellaneous							
Total Operating	0.0		0.0		0.0		0.0

Fund Source (Operating Only)

None							
Total	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

Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY2026) cost: 0.0 *(separate supplemental appropriation required)*

Estimated CAPITAL (FY2027) 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If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed?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:

Not applicable, initial version.

Prepared By: John M. Espindola, RCA Chair
Division: Regulatory Commission of Alaska
Approved By: Hannah Lager, Administrative Services Director
Agency: Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development

Phone: (907)276-6222
Date: 01/23/2026
Date: 01/23/26

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA
2026 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB 252

Analysis

House Bill 252 adds two new sections to the Alaska Statute:

- AS 09.65.086 in Title 9 – to address the civil liability of electric utilities for contact between vegetation and utility facilities.
- AS 42.05.352 in the Alaska Public Utilities Regulatory Act – to require electric utilities to adopt and maintain a wildland fire mitigation plan.

AS 09.65.086

This new section provides that a public electric utility holding a certificate of public convenience and necessity may not be held liable for costs, property damage, death, or personal injury resulting from a wildland fire caused by contact between vegetation and the utility's electrical service facilities unless the vegetation ignited originated within the utility's boundaries, the utility caused the contact while working outside those boundaries, or the utility itself caused vegetation to touch its equipment.

House Bill 252 limits the liability of the utility for any injuries resulting from vegetation mitigation performed under an approved wildland fire mitigation plan and presumes a utility is not negligent if it substantially complies with that plan. Utilities are not liable for punitive or non-economic damages unless they acted with gross negligence, recklessness, or intentional misconduct.

This bill presumes a utility is not negligent in causing or failing to prevent a wildland fire if it has an approved mitigation plan by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and substantially complies with AS 42.05.352. Utilities are also not liable for punitive or non-economic damages unless they acted with gross negligence, recklessness, or intentional misconduct. The bill further allows utilities to extend their mitigation plans to adjacent properties and limits the liability of those property owners when utilities perform work on their land.

AS 42.05.352

The proposed AS 42.05.352 requires utilities to adopt a wildland fire mitigation plan, update it annually and after each risk assessment, and obtain approval from DNR. The plan must define utility boundaries, identify high-risk areas, outline vegetation management procedures, establish power-shutoff and fire-notification protocols, and detail steps to reduce fire risk. Before interrupting power, utilities must weigh life-safety impacts. Utilities must also notify adjacent property owners and DNR when fire risk is high and take action to limit that risk.

House Bill 252 does not require RCA regulatory changes, though regulated utilities may need to update tariffs. Non-regulated certificated utilities may face additional administrative burden. The RCA does not anticipate fiscal impact from this legislation.