

Fiscal Note

State of Alaska
2026 Legislative Session

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

Identifier: HB252-DNR-DOF-1-23-26
Title: ELECTRIC UTILITY FIRE PREVENTION PLAN
Sponsor: HOLLAND
Requester: (H)Energy

Department: Department of Natural Resources
Appropriation: Fire Suppression, Land & Water Resources
Allocation: Fire Suppression Preparedness
OMB Component Number: 2705

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 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	FY 2031
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2027	FY 2027	554.4	554.4	554.4	554.4	554.4
Personal Services			60.0	60.0	60.0	60.0	60.0
Travel			40.0	40.0	40.0	40.0	40.0
Services			20.0	20.0	20.0	20.0	20.0
Commodities							
Capital Outlay							
Grants & Benefits							
Miscellaneous							
Total Operating	674.4	0.0	674.4	674.4	674.4	674.4	674.4

Fund Source (Operating Only)

1004 Gen Fund (UGF)	674.4		674.4	674.4	674.4	674.4	674.4
Total	674.4	0.0	674.4	674.4	674.4	674.4	674.4

Positions

Full-time	4.0		4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
Part-time							
Temporary							

Change in Revenues

None							
Total	0.0						

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

Estimated CAPITAL (FY2027) cost: 140.0 *(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? Yes
If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed? 12/31/2027

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version/comments:

Not applicable, initial version.

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FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA
2026 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB 252

Analysis

House Bill 252 amends AS 09.65 and AS 42.05 to condition certain civil liability limitations for regulated electric utilities on substantial compliance with a Department of Natural Resources-approved wildfire mitigation plan that utilities are required to adopt, maintain, and update. The bill establishes a new, ongoing regulatory and oversight responsibility for the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Division of Forestry & Fire Protection (DFFP), to review, approve, and oversee utility wildfire mitigation plans and annual updates.

Expenditures are based on the assumption that the bill would require DNR, DFFP to establish and administer a new statewide program to implement these responsibilities and that the workload is recurring and cannot be absorbed within existing staff and resources without impacting current core services.

Positions: The fiscal note includes four new full-time positions to implement the program statewide: two positions in the Northern Region (Fairbanks) and two in the Coastal Region (Palmer). Each region would include one Fire Planner and one Utility Forester, for a total of two Fire Planners and two Utility Foresters statewide. All positions are budgeted at the Forester 3 (Range 18, Step D) classification based on required qualifications and responsibilities associated with reviewing and approving wildfire mitigation plans. Fire Planners would support statewide strategic wildfire planning, risk assessment, and coordination with utilities and first responders. Utility Foresters would review vegetation management practices, right-of-way treatments, and mitigation measures. Salary and benefit costs are based on the most recent Statewide Scenario in Alaska Budget System (ABS) and reflect regional cost differences between Fairbanks and Palmer. Total personal services costs for the four positions are \$554.4 annually.

Other Expenditures: Operating costs include travel, services, and commodities necessary to support statewide implementation and ongoing oversight. Travel funding supports in-state travel for field inspections, site visits, and coordination with regulated utilities across geographically dispersed service areas. Services funding supports contractual and professional services necessary for plan review support and technical analysis and reflects an estimated \$10.0 per position annually. Commodities funding supports general office and field supplies required for program operations. Estimated capital costs of \$140.0 in FY2027 reflect the one-time purchase of two vehicles necessary to support fieldwork in each region and are requested as a separate capital appropriation.

Computations: Personal services costs reflect salary and benefit costs for four Forester 3 positions based on the most recent Statewide Scenario in ABS. Non-personnel operating costs were calculated on a per-position basis and multiplied by four to reflect total program costs. All fiscal note figures reflect total program costs for four positions.

Funding and Revenues: The fiscal note assumes General Fund support for all operating expenditures. The bill does not establish new fees, authorize cost recovery, or direct federal funds to the department, and no change in General Fund or federal receipt revenues is anticipated as a result of the legislation.

Performance Measures: The bill adds a new programmatic responsibility to the division that may affect existing performance measures related to wildfire prevention, mitigation planning, and interagency coordination. Staff resources contributing to plan review and oversight may reduce capacity for other prevention and fuels management activities. New performance measures related to utility oversight would be developed and monitored.

Economic Impact: The bill may result in increased compliance costs for regulated electric utilities, which could be reflected in utility rates. Over time, improved wildfire mitigation planning may reduce wildfire-related damages and associated economic impacts to communities, landowners, and critical infrastructure.