

Fiscal Note

State of Alaska
2026 Legislative Session

Bill Version: HB 262
Fiscal Note Number: _____
() Publish Date: _____

Identifier: HB262-JUD-ACS-01-23-26

Department: Judiciary

Title: NUMBER OF SUPERIOR COURT JUDGES

Appropriation: Alaska Court System

Sponsor: RLS BY REQUEST

Allocation: Trial Courts

Requester: House Judiciary

OMB Component Number: 768

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				
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2027	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	FY 2031	FY 2032
Personal Services	667.2		667.2	667.2	667.2	667.2	667.2
Travel							
Services	8.8		8.8	8.8	8.8	8.8	8.8
Commodities	99.5		4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
Capital Outlay							
Grants & Benefits							
Miscellaneous							
Total Operating	775.5	0.0	680.0	680.0	680.0	680.0	680.0

Fund Source (Operating Only)

1004 Gen Fund (UGF)	775.5		680.0	680.0	680.0	680.0	680.0
Total	775.5	0.0	680.0	680.0	680.0	680.0	680.0

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	0.0	0.0	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? 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If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed?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: 01/23/2026 04:00 PM
Date: 01/23/26

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA
2026 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB 262

Analysis

House Bill 262 amends AS 22.10.120 to increase the number of superior court judges in the state from 45 to 46, and specifies that the one added judge will be assigned to the Third Judicial District. Specifically, the new judge will be assigned to serve in the Palmer courthouse.

Adding a new superior court judge will require a total of four new court employees. First, the cost of the judge will include the salary, benefits (health care, retirement system contributions, SBS), supplies (desk, chair, computer, books, miscellaneous), and contractual services/licenses (Westlaw, Courtview, etc.). The total for the judge would be \$356,000.

In addition, a judge requires a *judicial assistant* (a Range 12 employee) to handle administrative tasks. Superior court judges work closely with their *judicial law clerk* (a Range 13 employee), who does legal research and helps with drafting certain documents. Finally, the judge requires an *in-court clerk* (a Range 12 employee) who handles courtroom management, including recordings, exhibits, calendaring, and in-court documents. The total for these three positions, including annual salary, benefits, supplies, and contractual services/licenses is \$324,000.

In addition, in the initial year, one-time funding would be needed to purchase software licenses, furniture, computers, sound/recording systems, and other electronics for the courtroom and offices. The total for these costs is \$95,500 in year one only.

In sum, adding a new superior court judge in Palmer will have a fiscal impact of \$775,500 in the initial year (total costs for the four positions and one-time expenditures), and ongoing costs for future years of \$680,000. Therefore, these amounts are reflected in this fiscal note from the court system.