

Fiscal Note

State of Alaska
2015 Legislative Session

Bill Version: HB 22
Fiscal Note Number: _____
() Publish Date: _____

Identifier: HB022-DOC-OC-02-21-15
Title: PROBATION AND PAROLE OFFICERS'
CASELOADS
Sponsor: TUCK
Requester: House State Affairs

Department: Department of Corrections
Appropriation: Administration and Support
Allocation: Office of the Commissioner
OMB Component Number: 694

Expenditures/Revenues

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below. (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY2016	Included in	Out-Year Cost Estimates				
	Appropriation Requested	Governor's FY2016 Request	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2016	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
Personal Services	***		***	***	***	***	***
Travel							
Services							
Commodities							
Capital Outlay							
Grants & Benefits							
Miscellaneous							
Total Operating	***	0.0	***	***	***	***	***

Fund Source (Operating Only)

None							
Total	***	0.0	***	***	***	***	***

Positions

Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							

Change in Revenues

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Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY2015) cost: 0.0 *(separate supplemental appropriation required)*
(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

Estimated CAPITAL (FY2016) cost: 0.0 *(separate capital appropriation required)*
(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If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed?

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version:

This is the initial fiscal note.

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Division: <u>Administrative Services - Department of Corrections</u>	Date: <u>02/21/2015 11:00 AM</u>
Approved By: <u>Remond Henderson</u>	Date: <u>02/21/15</u>
Agency: <u>Department of Corrections</u>	

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA
2015 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB22

Analysis

This legislation addresses the caseload of a probation officer supervising probationers and/or the combined caseload of a probation officer or parole officer supervising probationers and persons on parole. The intent is to not exceed 60 cases per probation officer.

Currently, the Department of Corrections has probation and parole officers in various areas of the department such as: Probation and Parole, Institutions, Electronic Monitoring, and the Parole Board. The duties of the probation officers in each area varies from; community supervision, institution classification and programming, furlough eligibility, electronic monitoring, to administering the functions of the parole board. Additionally, the probation officers within each of these entities must deal with large caseload sizes and the growing threat of a diverse population of offenders. This has led to probation officers responding to offenders who pose greater community safety threats and have more criminogenic needs, than in the past. They may be gang members, sex offenders, or domestic violence offenders, and require more probation officer time to provide adequate supervision, treatment, and enforcement of conditions, as well as behavior change.

This bill would ensure that caseload sizes throughout the department are capped to allow each of the areas the opportunity to implement evidence-based practices that will lead to successful offender outcomes and ultimately improve public safety. Additionally, national research on evidence-based practices have shown that reduced caseloads and increased supervision intensity for medium and high risk offenders actually result in higher probation officer job retention, greater identification of offender treatment needs, increased access to resources for those offenders with the greatest need, and an overall reduction in criminal recidivism.

The department currently supervises the following types of caseloads:

Generic: A default supervision category that includes anyone placed on probation or parole, excluding sex offenders. Offenders are categorized by risk and supervised consistent with policy guidelines.

Interstate: Parole and probation supervision cases that have been referred for supervision to the State of Alaska through the Interstate Compact.

Mental Health: Offenders that have been diagnosed with an Axis I diagnosis, have an active mental health condition, or who have been identified as a mental health offender.

Domestic Violence: Offenders whose present offense is of a domestic violence nature.

PACE: Offenders who have an identified substance abuse issue or whose crime of conviction may have centered on substance abuse issues. Offenders must have conditions that include prohibiting the possession or use of alcohol and drugs, testing for alcohol and drugs, and substance abuse treatment.

Pre-sentence: Caseload consists of all new pre-sentence report orders generated by the superior court.

Sex Offender: Offenders placed on probation or parole supervision for a sexual offense or those that have sex offender treatment conditions.

Administrative Bank: Low-risk offenders who do not have a reporting requirement and are managed by Criminal Justice Technicians.

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA
2015 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB22

Analysis Continued

The department uses the *Level of Service Inventory – Revised* (LSIR) as the primary assessment tool to determine the overall risk of the offender and to identify the offender’s program needs. The LSI-R assesses each offender as high-, medium-, or low-risk in terms of likelihood to engage in further criminal behavior. Consistent with national practices, the department utilizes the results of this assessment for the purpose of planning the level of required supervision.

Guidelines developed by the National Institute of Corrections for the generic caseloads are:

<u>CASE TYPE</u>	<u>CASE TO STAFF</u>
Intensive	20:1
Moderate to Hight	50:1
Low Risk	200:1
Administrative	No Limit

Source: American Probation & Parole Association

A review is needed to be able to apply a realistic maximum caseload by incorporating a range based on risk levels and not total cases.

The fiscal impact of this legislation cannot be accurately determined at this time. However, the estimated annual cost for each Adult Probation Officer II position needed would be \$111,577.00 for salary and operating costs excluding the one-time start-up costs.