

Fiscal Note

State of Alaska
2015 Legislative Session

Bill Version: HB 27
Fiscal Note Number: _____
() Publish Date: _____

Identifier: HB027SS-DHSS-FP-02-23-15
Title: DHSS DUTIES;CINA; FOSTER CARE; ADOPTION
Sponsor: GARA
Requester: House HSS Committee

Department: Department of Health and Social Services
Appropriation: Children's Services
Allocation: Family Preservation
OMB Component Number: 1628

Expenditures/Revenues

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

(Thousands of Dollars)

	FY2016 Appropriation Requested	Included in Governor's FY2016 Request	Out-Year Cost Estimates				
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	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Fund Source (Operating Only)

None							
Total	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	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? yes
If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed? 04/19/17

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version:

This version of HB 27 has removed all mandates that reflected divisional fiscal responsibility. It removed the requirement for the department to pay to the child the cost of maintenance, in addition to all of the cost to support foster children attending full-time in-state undergraduate college course (books, tuition, rent, etc.).

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Phone: (907)451-2096
Date: 02/18/2015 04:14 PM
Date: 02/23/15

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA
2015 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. SSHB027

Analysis

This version of HB 27 would expand the department's duties, impose additional requirements on the department when making placement decisions, make changes to statutes governing the confidentiality of departmental records, and change the procedure for releasing a youth from state custody. It broadens the scope of the department's duties by requiring the department to recruit foster parents and adoptive parents when a shortage of foster parents or adoptive parents exists.

This bill mandates that, as during emergency custody, should a child transfer from one out-of-home placement to another, the Department shall search for an appropriate placement with an adult family member or family friend who meets the foster care licensing requirements. Should the child transfer from one placement to another, this bill mandates that if it is reasonable, the department shall, immediately and in advance of the transfer, coordinate with the child's school to ensure they are able to continue attendance through the end of the school term, if the child's transfer is in the same municipality and connected by the road system. If federal or school district funds are not available to pay for the cost of the child's transportation to this school, the department shall pay for the transportation costs.

This version of HB 27 would amend AS 47.10.093 requiring the department to adopt regulations to allow disclosure of appropriate confidential information to Alaska Native villages or Native organizations if (1) the department has entered into a confidentiality agreement with the Alaska Native village or Native Organization under AS 47.14.100(g); (2) the department finds that disclosing the information is in the best interests of the child; and (3) disclosing the information is necessary to protect the child's safety and to help meet the child's potential for a healthy and successful childhood and adulthood. Additionally, the department would adopt regulations that allow disclosure of confidential information to Alaska Native Villages or Native organizations that assist in evaluating whether a family should be licensed for foster care and considered a placement option. This includes information regarding denials of foster care licenses and department decisions not to place a child with a person who has requested placement.

In this version of HB 27 the department is mandated to continue searching for suitable adoptive or permanent legal guardianship for a child in custody who is under 21 years of age, and adds language so that these statutes apply to a "child or person." Also, HB 27 changes the age and requires consent for a person, age 19 or older, to be released from the department's custody.

This bill expands the department's responsibility from not only providing educational and vocational training, but also assisting the child in obtaining such training. Should there be insufficient appropriations available to meet the purpose of the foster care transition program, the department shall submit a written report to the legislature articulating the department's efforts to use existing funds, and the opportunities and services the department will be unable to provide under the current appropriation level.

The court shall also make findings, if the child remains in out-of-home placements, that the department has made reasonable efforts to find a permanent placement for the child and submits supporting evidence. If the court finds that the department made all reasonable efforts, the court shall order the department to do so unless the current placement is in the best interests of the child. With this addition, this bill also amends Rule 17.2 of CINA court rules.

This version of HB 27 removes the amendment to AS 47.14.100(b) which originally required the department to pay to the child, in addition to the costs of maintenance, the costs associated with placement in dormitories and attending undergraduate in-state full-time college courses, including food, lodging, and other necessities of life. This section was removed, as was any related fiscal responsibility, making this a zero fiscal note.