

2017 SESSION OPERATING BUDGET AMENDMENT PROPOSAL

OFFERED IN: House Finance Subcommittee for Department of Administration

TO: HB 57

OFFERED BY: Representative Jason Grenn

DEPARTMENT: Department of Administration

APPROPRIATION: Centralized Administrative Services

ALLOCATION: Labor Agreements Miscellaneous Items

DELETE: <50.0> 1004 Gen Fund (UGF) Services

EXPLANATION:

The Department of Administration historically spends an average of 37.2 in the Services line item of Labor Agreements Miscellaneous Items. This allocation is identified by the Department of Administration as funding “training, educational conferences, agency memberships, and employee tuition.” While accommodating provisions in certain bargaining unit agreements, these services are not statutorily required and are in excess to the Department’s mission and efficiency goals. Eliminating the FY18 general fund authorization for Services will encourage the Department to operate more efficiently to meet their mission of providing consistent and efficient support services to state agencies. It is the expectation of the Legislature that the Department will work to absorb these training costs by utilizing existing resources in the Division of Personnel, and consider the reduction of these obligations during future bargaining negotiations.

2017 SESSION OPERATING BUDGET STATUTORY CHANGE PROPOSAL

OFFERED IN: House Finance Subcommittee for Department of Administration

TO: AS 15.13.374(c)

OFFERED BY: Representative Jason Grenn

DEPARTMENT: Department of Administration

APPROPRIATION: Alaska Public Offices Commission

RECOMMENDED STATUTE CHANGE:

Revise AS 15.13.374(c) to extend the response time for advisory opinion requests from seven days to ten working days.

EXPLANATION:

Current statute dictates that after receiving a request for an advisory opinion, the executive director of the Alaska Public Offices Commission has seven days to fulfill this request with a draft advisory opinion for consideration by the Commission. Extending the turnaround time from seven days to ten “working” days will allow the Commission enough additional time to increase efficiencies by avoiding pulling staff from one time-sensitive project to another, while still fulfilling requests within a reasonable timeframe.

2017 SESSION OPERATING BUDGET STATUTORY CHANGE PROPOSAL

OFFERED IN: House Finance Subcommittee for Department of Administration
TO: AS 15.13.030(7), AS 15.13.040(g), AS 15.13.040(k), AS 15.13.090(c)
OFFERED BY: Representative Jason Grenn

DEPARTMENT: Department of Administration
APPROPRIATION: Alaska Public Offices Commission

RECOMMENDED STATUTE CHANGE:

Consider amending AS 15.13.030(7), AS 15.13.040(g) and AS 15.13.090(c) and repealing AS 15.13.040(k) with input from the Alaska Public Offices Commission.

EXPLANATION:

It has become apparent that certain redundancy and inefficiencies in reporting requirements may exist within statute impacting the functions of the Alaska Public Offices Commission. Considering changes to these statutes may help to streamline reporting and filing requirements, thus allowing APOC to better focus on its mission, while operating under a reduced budget.

Examples of reforms that may be desirable include, but are not limited to:

- AS 15.13.030(7) to ease report auditing requirements by removing the requirement that “all” documents be examined, investigated and compared
- AS 15.13.040(g) to extend the exemption from filing reports to state candidates and groups with small campaigns
- AS 15.13.040(k) to remove the Statement of Contributions reporting requirement; contributions are already disclosed by the recipients
- AS 15.13.090(c) to add clarification regarding size requirements for paid for by identifiers

2017 SESSION OPERATING BUDGET STATUTORY CHANGE PROPOSAL

OFFERED IN: House Finance Subcommittee for Department of Administration

TO: AS 15.13

OFFERED BY: Representative Jason Grenn

DEPARTMENT: Department of Administration

APPROPRIATION: Alaska Public Offices Commission

RECOMMENDED STATUTE CHANGE:

Consider adding a new subsection to formally define the term “entity” in AS 15.13.400 as “a person, other than an individual or group as defined in AS 15.13.400(8), whose principal purpose is other than influencing the outcome of an election, but who takes action to influence the outcome of an election.”

Also add a new subsection within AS 15.13.050 instituting a registration fee for groups, nongroup entities and “entities” to be paid to the Alaska Public Offices Commission in each year they are required to file a report with the commission.

EXPLANATION:

Since the Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission decision in 2010, the Alaska Public Offices Commission has seen the arrival of a new classification of persons making independent expenditures intended to influence the outcome of elections and ballot propositions. While the contributions associated with these individuals are currently tracked by the Alaska Public Offices Commission, these persons do not technically fall within current statute definitions of “group” or “nongroup entity,” and therefore need to be defined.

Since the FY15 Management Plan, the Alaska Public Offices Commission budget has seen a 42% reduction in general funds, resulting in a reduction of six positions (5 PFT, 1 PPT). While the Commission’s GF/Program receipt authority has been increased from \$120,000 to \$245,300 proposed, the additional receipts are uncollectable without increasing the statutory authority to increase current, or establish new, fees.

Given the Alaska Public Offices Commission’s mission is to “encourage the public’s confidence in their elected and appointed officials,” it is imperative they have the ability to collect the necessary and reasonable fees to support their operations. Implementing a fee for groups, nongroup entities, and “entities” would bring in additional revenues from user groups.

2017 SESSION OPERATING BUDGET STATUTORY CHANGE PROPOSAL

OFFERED IN: House Finance Subcommittee for Department of Administration

TO: AS 15.13

OFFERED BY: Representative Jason Grenn

DEPARTMENT: Department of Administration

APPROPRIATION: Alaska Public Offices Commission

RECOMMENDED STATUTE CHANGE:

Also add new subsections within AS 15.13 instituting a fee for Public Officials Financial Disclosures, Legislative Financial Disclosures and Candidate Registrations to be paid to the Alaska Public Offices Commission in each year they are required to file a report with the commission.

EXPLANATION:

Since the FY15 Management Plan, the Alaska Public Offices Commission budget has seen a 42% reduction in general funds, resulting in a reduction of six positions (5 PFT, 1 PPT). While the Commission's GF/Program receipt authority has been increased from \$120,000 to \$245,300 proposed, the additional receipts are uncollectable without increasing the statutory authority to increase current, or establish new, fees.

Given the Alaska Public Offices Commission's mission is to "encourage the public's confidence in their elected and appointed officials," it is imperative they have the ability to collect the necessary and reasonable fees to support their operations. Implementing a fee for public officials, legislators and candidates would bring in additional revenues from user groups.

2017 SESSION OPERATING BUDGET STATUTORY CHANGE PROPOSAL

OFFERED IN: House Finance Subcommittee for Department of Administration

TO: AS 18.65.310(g)

OFFERED BY: Representative Jason Grenn

DEPARTMENT: Department of Administration

APPROPRIATION: Motor Vehicles

RECOMMENDED STATUTE CHANGE:

Amend AS 18.65.310(g) to change eligibility for identification card fee waivers from 60 years and older to 65 years and older.

EXPLANATION:

Under current statute, state identification fees for residents age 60 are reduced from \$15 to \$0. As other DMV-related statutes, such as AS 28.10.411(f), have a qualifying age of 65, adjusting the minimum age for this waiver would help increase consistency for the Division in granting exemptions for this population.

2017 SESSION OPERATING BUDGET STATUTORY CHANGE PROPOSAL

OFFERED IN: House Finance Subcommittee for Department of Administration

TO: AS 28.10.421(d)

OFFERED BY: Representative Jason Grenn and Representative Adam Wool

DEPARTMENT: Department of Administration

APPROPRIATION: Motor Vehicles

RECOMMENDED STATUTE CHANGE:

Amend AS 28.10.421(d) to increase the vehicle registration fee for municipal governments and charitable organizations from \$10 to \$50.

EXPLANATION:

Under current statute, vehicle registration fees for municipalities, charitable, non-profit, and church/religious organizations are reduced from \$100 to \$10 per vehicle. In FY15, this \$90 discount was used for 5,543 vehicles, resulting in lost annual revenue of \$498,870. A \$10 to \$50 increase would provide additional general fund revenues of \$40 per vehicle, while still offering a discount for these organizations. In the January 2017 Indirect Expenditure Report, Legislative Finance also recommended a review and modification of this discount rate, noting it was originally enacted in 1978.

2017 SESSION OPERATING BUDGET STATUTORY CHANGE PROPOSAL

OFFERED IN: House Finance Subcommittee for Department of Administration

TO: AS 18.85.120(d)

OFFERED BY: Representative Jason Grenn

DEPARTMENT: Department of Administration

APPROPRIATION: Legal and Advocacy Services

RECOMMENDED STATUTE CHANGE:

Examine whether it is desirable to institute a requirement that persons requesting a public defender must sign an affidavit showing that they qualify for a public defender based on their assets.

EXPLANATION:

Currently it is unclear in AS 18.85.120(d) whether a person must provide information to the court when seeking a public defender. It may be desirable to provide extra confirmation that people seeking public defenders are actually indigent in order to avoid burdening the public defender agency with clients who are actually capable of paying for their own attorneys.

2017 SESSION OPERATING BUDGET STATUTORY CHANGE PROPOSAL

OFFERED IN: House Finance Subcommittee for Department of Administration

TO: Appellate Rule 209, AS 18.85.500

OFFERED BY: Representative Jason Grenn

DEPARTMENT: Department of Administration

APPROPRIATION: Legal and Advocacy Services

RECOMMENDED STATUTE CHANGE:

Consider amending Appellate Rule 209 and AS 18.85.500 to include a nominal fee for appealing a Child In Need of Aid case to the Alaska Supreme Court.

EXPLANATION:

According Department of Law testimony, between 20 and 30 Child In Need of Aid (CINA) cases are appealed to the Supreme Court each year, and the decisions are rarely reversed (roughly one each year). Public defenders can counsel a parent that their chance of winning on appeal is extremely low, but if the parent decides to appeal, the public defender must comply. These appeals consume significant resources in courts--the Supreme Court has hired staff with the sole task of dealing with CINA appeals. They consume roughly half of the budget of the Department of Law's Opinions, Appeals, and Ethics section. They also burden the Public Defender agency. It may be worth investigating the benefit of instituting a nominal fee to help ensure CINA case appeals that go forward are those that have the greatest chance of success.