

2017 SESSION OPERATING BUDGET AMENDMENT PROPOSAL

Amendment 1

OFFERED IN: The House Finance Subcommittee for the Judiciary

TO: HB 57 / HB 59

OFFERED BY: Representative Gara

DEPARTMENT: Judiciary

APPROPRIATION: Alaska Court System

ALLOCATION: Not applicable (Appropriation level conditional language)

DELETE CONDITIONAL LANGUAGE:

Budget requests from agencies of the Judicial Branch are transmitted as requested.

EXPLANATION:

OMB attaches this conditional language every budget cycle to reflect that the Judiciary's operating budget request is unchanged from the original request. The legislature traditionally removes it during the subcommittee process.

2017 SESSION OPERATING BUDGET AMENDMENT PROPOSAL

Amendment 2

OFFERED IN: The House Finance Subcommittee for the Judiciary

TO: HB 57 / HB 59

OFFERED BY: Representative Gara

DEPARTMENT: Judiciary

APPROPRIATION: Alaska Court System

ADD INTENT LANGUAGE:

It is the intent of the legislature that the court system raise the filing fee from \$200 to \$500 for Superior Court monetary damage claims of \$100,000 or more.

EXPLANATION:

The subcommittee recommends language be added to request that the court system raise one court filing fee for higher monetary value cases. It is proposed that court fees increase for Superior Court civil cases requesting monetary damages (claims of \$100,000 and above) from \$200 to \$500.

In a time of budget challenges, this is roughly estimated by the court system to produce \$240,000 in revenue for the General Fund, minus what would not be received by filers who qualify for the court system's current waiver of fees allowed to those who prove indigency.

2017 SESSION STATUTORY CHANGE PROPOSAL

Amendment 3

OFFERED IN: The House Finance Subcommittee for the Judiciary

TO: HB 57 / HB 59

OFFERED BY: Representative Gara

RECOMMENDED STATUTE CHANGE:

Amend AS 22.25.020 to replace the current Judicial Retirement System for retirement pension payments with the more modest pension that current PERS Tier II employees receive. This recommendation is to create a new tier for the Judicial Retirement System, modeled on the PERS Tier II system, with the exception that COLA or geographic cost differential would NOT be included in a Judicial Retirement tier.

EXPLANATION:

The current Judicial Retirement System allows for a judge or justice to receive 5% of their pay, multiplied by the number of years they serve, as retirement, capped at 75% of that pay. At ten years of service, that is a roughly \$90,000 to \$120,000 annual pension payment. Area cost differential is not considered. PERS Tier II created a retirement pension that was 2% of salary per year served for the first ten years of service, 2.25% of salary for the second ten years of service, and 2.5% for each year served after 20 years of service.

Constitutionally, this statutory change would only affect judges and justices hired after the passage of such legislation. We cannot constitutionally alter retirement benefits or even contribution rates for those already in the system.

2017 SESSION OPERATING BUDGET AMENDMENT PROPOSAL

Amendment 4

OFFERED IN: The House Finance Subcommittee for the Judiciary

TO: HB 57 / HB 59

OFFERED BY: Representative Reinbold

DEPARTMENT: Judiciary

APPROPRIATION: Alaska Court System

ALLOCATION: Appellate Courts

DELETE: (\$7.8) UGF fund code 1004 from services line

APPROPRIATION: Alaska Court System

ALLOCATION: Trial Courts

DELETE: (\$142.0) UGF fund code 1004 from services line

APPROPRIATION: Alaska Court System

ALLOCATION: Administration and Support

DELETE: (\$28.1) UGF fund code 1004 from services line

APPROPRIATION: Alaska Court System

ALLOCATION: Therapeutic Courts

DELETE: (\$7.9) UGF fund code 1004 from services line

EXPLANATION: In times of fiscal crisis, it is necessary to decrease costs. Specialty memberships, such as the National Center for State Courts, are inappropriate at this time with a \$3.5 billion dollar deficit.

2017 SESSION OPERATING BUDGET AMENDMENT PROPOSAL

Amendment 5

OFFERED IN: The House Finance Subcommittee for the Judiciary

TO: HB 57 / HB 59

OFFERED BY: Representative Reinbold

DEPARTMENT: Judiciary

APPROPRIATION: Alaska Court System

ALLOCATION: Administration and Support

DELETE:

(\$50.0 UGF) from the services line in the FY2018 request for Building Maintenance/Janitorial Services.

EXPLANATION:

It is the intent of the legislature that no maintenance money be used to fill staff positions, and all employees should perform routine and rudimentary office cleaning. Only areas designated for public use should have contracted cleaning services.

2017 SESSION OPERATING BUDGET AMENDMENT PROPOSAL

Amendment 6

OFFERED IN: The House Finance Subcommittee for the Judiciary

TO: HB 57 / HB 59

OFFERED BY: Representative Reinbold

DEPARTMENT: Judiciary

APPROPRIATION: Alaska Court System – Appropriation level intent

ADD INTENT:

It is the intent of the legislature that the court system provide high quality customer service. All courts will implement an on-line, 3-question customer service survey covering customer interactions with the court system.

It is the intent of the legislature that the completed customer service surveys be sent to both the legislature and the Judicial Council by 90 days after the close of the fiscal year.

EXPLANATION:

Survey should include responses that would state customers' satisfaction of customers' responses to fairness, timeliness, value, and efficiency of the court system. This should be done by email or simply in card form. Customers should also have the ability to offer suggestions related to improving the process, the value, and the overall experience. This survey should be used as part of employee evaluations.

According to Article 4 section 9 of the Alaska State Constitution the Judicial Council shall conduct studies for the improvement of the administration of justice, and make reports and recommendations to the Supreme Court and to the legislature at intervals of not more than two years.

2017 SESSION OPERATING BUDGET AMENDMENT PROPOSAL

Amendment 7

OFFERED IN: The House Finance Subcommittee for the Judiciary

TO: HB 57 / HB 59

OFFERED BY: Representative Reinbold

DEPARTMENT: Judiciary

APPROPRIATION: Alaska Court System – Appropriation level intent

ADD INTENT LANGUAGE:

It is the intent of the legislature that providing public safety is one of the most important responsibilities of government. The Court System should always be cognizant of the innocent and lean on the side of utmost caution to protect all Alaskans from potential violence.

With the tragically high rates of rape and violence in Alaska, we intend for the courts to work with all Alaskans to provide maximum public safety.

2017 SESSION OPERATING BUDGET AMENDMENT PROPOSAL

Amendment 8

OFFERED IN: The House Finance Subcommittee for the Judiciary

TO: HB 57 / HB 59

OFFERED BY: Representative Reinbold

DEPARTMENT: Judiciary

APPROPRIATION: Alaska Court System

ALLOCATION: Trial Courts

DELETE:

(\$350.0) Federal Receipt Authority

EXPLANATION:

The Court System has excess federal authority. This amendment removes (\$350.0) of that unrealized authority. An additional (\$300.0) federal is being removed in the Governor's FY18 request. After both of these reductions, \$466.0 would remain in the Trial Courts' base for Child In Need of Aid (CINA) grants and other federal grant opportunities.

2017 SESSION OPERATING BUDGET AMENDMENT PROPOSAL

Amendment 9

OFFERED IN: The House Finance Subcommittee for the Judiciary

TO: HB 57 / HB 59

OFFERED BY: Representative Reinbold

DEPARTMENT: Judiciary

APPROPRIATION: Therapeutic Courts

ALLOCATION: Therapeutic Courts

FUND CHANGE:

(\$1,889.4) UGF fund code 1004

\$1,889.4 MHTAAR fund code 1092

EXPLANATION:

Currently, Mental Health Trust Authority Authorized Receipts (MHTAAR) fund a portion of the Therapeutic Courts program. This amendment seeks to delete UGF funds and increase the amount of funding provided by MHTAAR fund code 1092.

2017 SESSION OPERATING BUDGET AMENDMENT PROPOSAL

Amendment 10

OFFERED IN: The House Finance Subcommittee for the Judiciary

TO: HB 57 / HB 59

OFFERED BY: Representative Reinbold

DEPARTMENT: Judiciary

APPROPRIATION: Alaska Court System – Appropriation level intent

ADD INTENT:

It is the intent of the legislature that the work week for state employees including the court system should be 40 hours per week to reflect the non-government workforce.

EXPLANATION:

It is understood the courts have imposed, in association with a 4% pay reduction, closing the courts at noon on Fridays as well as reducing the work week to 36 hours from 37.5 hours (a 4% reduction in hours worked). The effect of this is no change in the hourly compensation for those hours worked, but limits access to the public during peak hours. This change does not benefit the state more because employees are receiving full time benefits for a reduced work week.

The private sector employees typically work a 40 hour work week.

2017 SESSION OPERATING BUDGET AMENDMENT PROPOSAL

Amendment 11

OFFERED IN: The House Finance Subcommittee for the Judiciary

TO: HB 57 / HB 59

OFFERED BY: Representative Reinbold

DEPARTMENT: Judiciary

APPROPRIATION: Alaska Court System

ALLOCATION: Appellate Courts

DELETE: (\$584.6) UGF fund code 1004 from personal services line

APPROPRIATION: Alaska Court System

ALLOCATION: Trial Courts

DELETE: (\$5,871.8) UGF fund code 1004 from personal services line

APPROPRIATION: Alaska Court System

ALLOCATION: Administration and Support

DELETE: (\$719.8) UGF fund code 1004 from personal services line

EXPLANATION: Between 2008 and 2018, personal services costs increased by 20.8 million, or 34%. In a time of fiscal crisis we must get back to a more fiscally responsible budget.