



32<sup>nd</sup> Alaska State Legislature  
House Finance Budget Subcommittee  
Department of Law  
FY22 Operating Budget

**Chair:**

Rep. Andy Josephson  
Capitol Room 502  
465-4939

**Members:**

Rep. Matt Claman  
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Rep. Harriet Drummond  
•  
Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins  
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Rep. Liz Snyder  
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Rep. David Eastman  
•  
Rep. Christopher Kurka  
•  
Rep. Sarah Vance

**Committee Aide:**  
**Catherine Reardon**  
465-4939

March 26, 2021

The House Finance Budget Subcommittee for the Department of Law submits the following recommended operating budget for FY2022 to the House Finance Committee:

**Fund Source:** (dollars are in thousands)

Unrestricted General Funds (UGF)	\$54,704.4
Designated General Funds (DGF)	\$ 2,697.8
Other Funds	\$32,546.2
Federal Funds	\$ 2,032.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$91,980.9</b>

The Unrestricted General Fund difference from FY22 Adjusted Base to the House Subcommittee budget recommendation is an increase of \$2,633.5 thousand of Unrestricted General Funds, which is 5.1% above the FY22 Adjusted Base budget.

**Positions:**

Permanent Full-time	550
Permanent Part-time	0
Temporary	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>550</b>

**BUDGET ACTION:**

The House Finance Budget Subcommittee for the Department of Law reviewed the Governor's FY 2022 budget request including Governor's amendments.

The Subcommittee recommends that the Governor's FY22 operating budget request be approved with the following changes:

1. The Subcommittee denied the Governor's \$1,290.1 thousand fund source change from UGF to SDPR for prosecution of misdemeanors in home rule municipalities. The Governor proposed to bill home rule municipalities for the level of misdemeanor prosecution they currently receive from the state.
2. The Subcommittee rejected the renaming of the appropriation that provides for civil legal work.
3. The Subcommittee reduced by \$200.0 thousand UGF funding for the contractual services line in the Labor and State Affairs Allocation to eliminate funding not required to maintain the department's core operations.
4. The Subcommittee eliminated the vacant Deputy Attorney General position in the Office of the Attorney General and an equivalent amount of UGF funding. This position was created by the department through its management plan and filled in 2019. The position is now vacant, and the Subcommittee voted to return to the previous management structure of two deputy attorneys general.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The Subcommittee makes the following recommendations to the House Finance Committee:

- **Budget Structure:**  
Reinstate the FY21 appropriation "Legal Contracts Relating to Interpretation of Janus v AFSCME Decision" and include \$20.0 thousand UGF funding.
- **Supplemental Item for Prosecutor Recruitment and Housing:**  
Change the fund source for this \$4 million FY21 supplemental item requested by the Governor. The Subcommittee supports funding the requested activities but finds the Higher Education Fund source inappropriate to the purpose. The Subcommittee encourages the department to coordinate its rural housing project with the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation and other departments with similar needs.
- **Supplemental Item for Outside Counsel to Support Statehood Defense:**  
Deny this \$4 million FY21 supplemental item and consider the Governor's request on the merits as a possible amendment to the FY22 operating budget. The Subcommittee position is that the request is not necessary to address urgent FY21 supplemental needs and is more properly considered a multi-year operating budget increment. The Subcommittee recommends that the Finance Committee determines whether FY22 funding for Statehood Defense should be approved in the requested amount or a lower amount or denied.

**ATTACHED REPORTS:**

The House Finance Budget Subcommittee for the Department of Law adopts the attached reports:

1. Agency Totals
2. Transaction Compare Between AdjBase+ and House Subcom
3. Transaction Compare Between FY22GovAmd BA and House Subcom
4. Wordage

Respectfully Submitted,



Representative Andy Josephson, Chair  
House Finance Budget Subcommittee for the Department of Law