

Fiscal Note

State of Alaska
2023 Legislative Session

Bill Version: HB 68
Fiscal Note Number: _____
() Publish Date: _____

Identifier: HB068CS(JUD)-JUD-ACS-04-12-23
Title: CRIME OF SEX/HUMAN TRAFFICKING
Sponsor: RLS BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR
Requester: House Judiciary Committee

Department: Judiciary
Appropriation: Alaska Court System
Allocation: Trial Courts
OMB Component Number: 768

Expenditures/Revenues

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

(Thousands of Dollars)

	FY2024 Appropriation Requested	Included in Governor's FY2024 Request	Out-Year Cost Estimates				
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2024	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
Personal Services	37.7						
Travel							
Services							
Commodities							
Capital Outlay							
Grants & Benefits							
Miscellaneous							
Total Operating	37.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Fund Source (Operating Only)

1004 Gen Fund (UGF)	37.7						
Total	37.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Positions

Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary	1.0						

Change in Revenues

None							
Total	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY2023) cost: 0.0 (separate supplemental appropriation required)

Estimated CAPITAL (FY2024) cost: 0.0 (separate capital appropriation required)

Does the bill create or modify a new fund or account? no
(Supplemental/Capital/New Fund - 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? NA
If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed?

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version/comments:

Updated for House Judiciary Committee CS - removed cost for vacating judgments for misdemeanor drug cases.

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Agency: Alaska Court System

Phone: (907)463-4736
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FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA
2023 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB 68

Analysis

The House Judiciary Committee substitute for House Bill 68 reclassifies sex trafficking and human trafficking crimes, and increases the level of offense and penalties for trafficking crimes. The court system does not anticipate a fiscal impact from these classification changes.

The CS for HB 68 also establishes a means for persons who have an existing conviction for prostitution to have the conviction vacated if they can establish that they were a victim of sex trafficking at the time of the offense (sec. 35). If successful, the conviction for prostitution is vacated, and the conviction will be removed from CourtView if the case did not have any felony convictions in that case (sec. 35).

The court system data shows that the number of individuals who have a conviction for prostitution under the state statute is relatively low for the years for which we have reliable data. However, the number of persons convicted of prostitution under the similar ordinance of the Municipality of Anchorage (also eligible under HB 68) has varied over the years, but is substantial in the aggregate. We estimate that approximately 1000 defendants would be potentially covered by that part of the bill.

The court system will experience a fiscal impact from this portion of the bill. To implement it, we will create a form for the petitioner to use to initiate a petition for vacation of judgment, create form orders for judges, have possible hearings in district court if the prosecuting authority objects to the petition to establish facts as to whether the petitioner was a victim of sex trafficking, and program CourtView to remove the cases, if the petition is granted. Because this is a novel legal avenue and procedure, it would *require one temporary (four month) attorney in the administrative office at Range 22*; this person would prepare appropriate forms, draft rule recommendations as needed, provide informational materials to judicial officers and court staff, and prepare other resources as appropriate to implement the legislation. There would be a one-time cost of this position of \$37,700 in FY 24 only.

The court system therefore submits this fiscal note for a total of \$37,700 in FY 24 only.