



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Office of the Governor

OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
Neil Steininger, Director

Court Plaza Building
240 Main Street, Suite 801
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0020
Main: 907.465.4660
Fax: 907.465.2090

February 27, 2023

The Honorable DeLena Johnson
Co-Chair, House Finance Committee
Alaska State Capitol Room 505
Juneau, AK 99801

The Honorable Bryce Edgmon
Co-Chair, House Finance Committee
Alaska State Capitol Room 410
Juneau, AK 99801

The Honorable Neal Foster
Co-Chair, House Finance Committee
Alaska State Capitol Room 511
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Co-Chairs Johnson, Edgmon, and Foster,

Thank you for inviting the Office of Management and Budget to present an Overview of the Governor's FY2024 and FY2023 budget amendments to the House Finance Committee on February 17, 2023. Responses to questions and requests for follow-up information from the committee hearing are included below.

1. Representative Tomaszewski asked about the total value of seafood commercially harvested within the State each year.

Please see attachment 1, which provides details regarding the economic impacts of Alaska's seafood industry.

2. Representative Johnson asked for further information regarding the Preschool Development Grant Match, and whether it's related to the Alaska Reads Act.

This program is not related to the Alaska Reads Act. The department received a federal preschool development grant of \$8 million per year for three years. The grant includes a match requirement that will partially be supported through reimbursable services agreements with the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority and the Department of Education and Early Development.

3. Representative Josephson asked for more information regarding the proposal to add an attorney for Parental Rights in Education Advocate. Specifically, how the department envisions that position carrying out their day-to-day responsibilities.

The job duties of this position will include receiving grievances, concerns, or questions from members of the public, most likely parents, or from the Department of Education and Early Development relating to the parental bill of rights in Alaska law. The attorney would then work with the Department of Education and Early Development and the applicable school district to look into matters, if they appear as a threshold matter to potentially implicate the parental bill of rights. The attorney would also assist parents in understanding their rights and refer them to other entities if appropriate. The attorney would also be able to assist with overflow work for the Department of Education and Early Development, as there are currently two attorneys doing that work full-time that have more than enough to cover. There will be some education to the public, school districts, and parents necessary to make them aware of this position within the Department of Law.

4. Representative Hannan asked if the attorney to lead on Tribal law issues would solely work on compacting or would also participate in work related to the recent lawsuit regarding Tribal land transfers.

This position would be ensuring consistency by coordinating all the various matters relating to Tribal and Alaska Native law issues. Those matters include but are not limited to assisting with compacting and conducting outreach to Tribes and Alaska Native entities to identify areas where we can partner. While there still may be legal disagreements on the interpretation of federal law and the extent of each sovereign's jurisdiction, we believe there is a lot more common ground in areas such as child welfare compacting, education, health care, and public safety, than there are areas of conflict. For these reasons, we strongly believe this position is critical to help in these efforts.

5. Representative Tomaszewski asked about the number of investment staff at the Alaska Permanent Fund Corporation.

The Alaska Permanent Fund Corporation currently has 32 investment positions on budget, six of which are vacant.

Sincerely,



Neil Steininger
Director

cc: Laura Stidolph, Legislative Director, Office of the Governor
Alexei Painter, Director, Legislative Finance Division