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2023 SESSION OPERATING BUDGET AMENDMENT PROPOSAL

OFFERED IN: The House Finance Subcommittee for the Department of Administration

TO: HB 39

OFFERED BY: Representative Story

FISCAL YEAR: FY24

DEPARTMENT: Department of Administration
APPROPRIATION: Public Communications Services
ALLOCATION: Public Broadcasting - Radio

ADD: \$1,500,000, UGF, (1004)

INTENT LANGUAGE: It is the intent of the legislature that the Department of Administration allocate funds for radio grants to rural stations whose broadcast coverage areas serve 20,000 people or less.

EXPLANATION: This amendment provides funding for the Public Broadcasting radio system in the least populated areas of the state. The legislature can take action to ensure that residents in some of our most remote areas are able to maintain access to potentially life-saving public safety information and alerts, free news, and civic information.

The Alaskan Emergency Alert System (EAS) is governed by the State EAS Plan in the case of an emergency. The EAS and the Public Broadcasting System's Warning, Alert & Response Network (PBS-AWARN) are vital. Public radio stations represent 11 out of the State EAS Plan's 22 "Local Primary Stations," which are the primary source of EAS information in their region. All 11 are rural stations.