

Fiscal Note

State of Alaska
2024 Legislative Session

Bill Version: SB 231
Fiscal Note Number: _____
() Publish Date: _____

Identifier: SB231-DOH-HFLC-04-26-24
Title: MINORS & RESIDENT PSYCH TREATMENT
CENTERS
Sponsor: CLAMAN
Requester: (S) HSS

Department: Department of Health
Appropriation: Health Care Services
Allocation: Health Facilities Licensing and Certification
OMB Component Number: 2944

Expenditures/Revenues

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below. (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY2025 Appropriation Requested	Included in Governor's FY2025 Request	Out-Year Cost Estimates				
			FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2025	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030
Personal Services	42.6		170.4	170.4	170.4	170.4	170.4
Travel			13.8	13.8	13.8	13.8	13.8
Services	7.0		17.0	17.0	17.0	17.0	17.0
Commodities	5.2		0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Capital Outlay							
Grants & Benefits							
Miscellaneous							
Total Operating	54.8	0.0	201.7	201.7	201.7	201.7	201.7

Fund Source (Operating Only)

1004 Gen Fund (UGF)	54.8		201.7	201.7	201.7	201.7	201.7
Total	54.8	0.0	201.7	201.7	201.7	201.7	201.7

Positions

Full-time	1.0		1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Part-time							
Temporary							

Change in Revenues

None							
Total	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY2024) cost: 0.0 *(separate supplemental appropriation required)*

Estimated CAPITAL (FY2025) 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? Yes
If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed? 07/01/25

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version/comments:

Not applicable, initial version.

Prepared By:	Renee Gayhart, Division Director	Phone:	(907)465-1184
Division:	Health Care Services	Date:	04/26/2024
Approved By:	Josephine Stern, Assistant Commissioner	Date:	04/27/24
Agency:	Department of Health		

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA
2024 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. SB231

Analysis

This bill establishes a treatment facility resident's right to weekly communication with a parent or guardian and establishes two new licensing requirements – semi-annual licensing inspections and interviews with fifty percent of residents during each inspection. Further, the bill establishes that a petition for a court order can be filed if a residential child care facility or residential psychiatric treatment facility denies entry by a state licensing official seeking to enter for inspection purposes.

This bill will require one full-time Nurse Consultant 1 to perform the semi-annual inspections, interviews, and any investigations. The purpose of the Health Facilities Licensing and Certification (HFCL) section is to inspect health facilities across the state to determine whether they meet state and federal standards. In addition, the team investigates complaints made against health facilities and agencies licensed or certified under the program. The purpose of the inspections is to determine a health care provider's ability to give services which are safe and of an acceptable quality.

Health Facilities Licensing and Certification staff are clinically trained and will not need additional training to prepare them to perform interviews with minors with psychiatric conditions except for culture awareness training. This training is important and necessary to maintain professional boundaries and safety for the staff and client. The key to successful interaction with a psychiatric patient is to be aware of behaviors, triggers, and diagnosis. This training is offered in-person and would be assigned to all staff to ensure there is always staff prepared to manage this workload regardless of vacancies.

This bill also requires a treatment facility to notify the Department of Health, in writing, after each use of seclusion or restraint of a resident and requires notification of the resident's parent or guardian within one business day. It also adds a requirement for the Department of Health to annually publish a report on the department's website on the aggregate total uses of seclusion and restraint on minors at each treatment facility in Alaska.

This bill will require the Division of Health Care Services to amend regulations; the associated costs can be absorbed.

Financial Breakdown

One full-time Nurse Consultant 1 (including benefits), range 24, located in Anchorage: \$170.4 to conduct inspections, perform interviews, and investigations as outlined in this bill annually, beginning April 1, 2025 to be trained by July 1, 2025 for implementation of regulations and commencement of inspections. The division anticipates being able to fill this position by April 1, 2025 which would result in three months of salary and benefits at \$42.6.

Travel: Flights, lodging, ground transportation, and per diem for staff to travel to treatment facilities: \$13.8 annually beginning in FY2026.

Services: Office space, phone, reimbursable service agreements for position support: \$14.0 annually, beginning April 1, 2025. Training: \$3.0 annually.

Commodities: Office Supplies: \$0.5 annually, beginning in FY2026.

One-Time Commodities Cost: Computer, software, and office equipment: \$5.2 in the first year.