

Fiscal Note

State of Alaska
2024 Legislative Session

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

Identifier: SB231-DOH-RL-4-26-2024
Title: MINORS & RESIDENT PSYCH TREATMENT
CENTERS
Sponsor: CLAMAN
Requester: (S) HSS

Department: Department of Health
Appropriation: Health Care Services
Allocation: Residential Licensing
OMB Component Number: 245

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	111.2		444.6	444.6	444.6	444.6	444.6
Travel			58.4	58.4	58.4	58.4	58.4
Services	25.9		67.9	67.9	67.9	67.9	67.9
Commodities	20.8		2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
Capital Outlay							
Grants & Benefits							
Miscellaneous							
Total Operating	157.9	0.0	572.9	572.9	572.9	572.9	572.9

Fund Source (Operating Only)

1004 Gen Fund (UGF)	157.9		572.9	572.9	572.9	572.9	572.9
Total	157.9	0.0	572.9	572.9	572.9	572.9	572.9

Positions

Full-time	4.0		4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
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If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed? 07/01/25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:

Updated to reflect changes to expand the application of SB 231 to all minors receiving care at a "treatment facility." This change expands the scope of facility types affected which increases the workload for the Residential Licensing component.

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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. SB231S

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 three full-time Community Care Licensing Specialist 1 positions to perform the semi-annual inspection requirement, interviews, and any investigations. A supervisory full-time Community Care Licensing Specialist 2 will be required to oversee the new positions and lead assignments. The purpose of the residential licensing section is to ensure that residential care facilities, including residential psychiatric treatment centers, meet state and federal standards and to determine the ability of each facility to safely provide services.

Although some inspections include speaking with residents, residential licensing staff are not clinically trained, and will need training to prepare them to perform interviews with minors with psychiatric conditions. Residential Licensing staff do not have culture awareness training, trauma informed care training, or pediatric psychological and development training. These trainings are 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. These trainings can be found online or in-person; these trainings would be assigned to all Residential Licensing 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 requires 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 result in the Division of Health Care Services amending regulations; the associated costs can be absorbed.

Financial Breakdown: Three full-time Community Care Licensing Specialist 1 (including benefits), range 16, located in Anchorage: \$320.2 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 the three positions by April 1, 2025 which would result in three months of salary and benefits at \$80.1

A supervisory Community Care Licensing Specialist 2 (including benefits), range 18, located in Anchorage: \$124.4 to oversee the new positions and lead assignments. The division anticipates filling the position by April 1, 2025 which would result in three months of salary and benefits at \$31.1.

Travel: Flights, lodging, ground transportation, and per diem for staff to travel to treatment facilities: \$58.4 annually beginning in FY2026.

Services: Office space, phone, reimbursable service agreements for positions' support: \$56.0 annually, beginning April 1, 2025. Training \$11.9 annually beginning April 1, 2025.

Commodities: Office Supplies \$2.0, beginning in FY2026.

One-Time Commodities Cost: Computer, software, and office equipment for four positions: \$20.8 in the first year.