

FISCAL NOTE

No: 4

STATE OF ALASKA
2000 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Bill Version: HB 321
(H) Publish Date: 1/26/00

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____
 Title: Confidentiality of children's proceedings
 Sponsor: Rules Committee
 Requestor: Governor

Dept. Affected: Health and Social Services
 BRU: Family & Youth Services
 Component: FYS Management
 COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 2306
 See also (SN#): 2307

Expenditures/Revenues:

(Thousands of Dollars)

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

OPERATING	FY2001	FY2002	FY2003	FY2004	FY2005	FY2006
PERSONAL SERVICES	26.1	104.5	104.5	104.5	104.5	104.5
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL	64.2	56.7	56.7	56.7	56.7	56.7
SUPPLIES	0.5	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
EQUIPMENT	11.0					
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	101.8	163.2	163.2	163.2	163.2	163.2

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
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CHANGES IN REVENUES 1002		***	***	***	***	***
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FUND SOURCE

(Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF	101.8	163.2	163.2	163.2	163.2	163.2
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (please specify)						
TOTAL	101.8	163.2	163.2	163.2	163.2	163.2

Estimate of any current year (FY2000) cost: \$0.0

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME	2	2	2	2	2	2
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Section 17 of the bill authorizes the department to release summaries of information contained in reports of harm if the summary does not contain any information that would readily lead to the identification of 1) the person who made the report of harm; 2) the child; 3) the child's parents or siblings and members of the child's household; or 4) the alleged perpetrator.

The Department has previously published a one-time publication called "Alaska's Children of a Hidden War" which consists of summary information gathered from reports of harm statewide. To comply with Section 17 of the bill, the Department will periodically publish summary information in a format similar to "Alaska's Children of a Hidden War" and make the publication widely available to the public.

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 Date/Time: 1/24/00 3:09 PM

Approved by Commissioner: Karen Perdue, Commissioner
 Agency: Department of Health & Social Services

Date: 1/24/00

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ANALYSIS (cont.):

Regular publication of this information will require the assistance of a Public Information Officer (Range 20) and an Administrative Clerk (Range 10) since gathering and compiling this information (over 17,000 reports of harm annually) is extremely time consuming. The proposed effective date of the bill is 7/1/01. The Department would establish the two positions in the fourth quarter of FY 01 to begin implementation of procedures and to provide for a training period.

The one-time cost for equipment for the two new positions include a computer, telephone and a desk and chair. Ongoing contractual services costs include: telephone charges for basic service and long distance calls and office supplies. Additional funding will also be required to develop and promulgate implementing regulations, train staff, and develop internal policies, procedures and forms regarding the release of confidential information.

Expenditure Analysis (Family & Youth Services Mgmt. Comp. #2306):

	Annual Cost FY01	Annual Cost FY02-06
Personal Services:		
Information Officer III (established the position in the 4th quarter of FY2001)	16.8	67.1
Admin Clerk III - (established the position in the 4th quarter of FY2001)	<u>9.4</u>	<u>37.4</u>
Subtotal	26.1	104.5
Contractual Services:		
Telephone (monthly basic & long distance)	0.8	3.1
Printing Cost of quarterly publication of reports of harm	13.4	53.6
Technical assistance to draft regulations	<u>50.0</u>	<u>0.0</u>
Subtotal	64.2	56.7
Supplies:		
Office supplies:	0.5	2.0
Equipment: (for 2 new positions)		
Computers	6.0	0.0
Telephones/communication equipment:	1.0	0.0
Desk & office chairs	<u>4.0</u>	<u>0.0</u>
Subtotal	11.0	0.0
Total	101.8	163.2

*****Changes in Revenues:**

In opening child protection proceedings as proposed, the Department does incur some risk relating to compliance with federal confidentiality requirements under Titles IV-B and IV-E of the Social Security Act. The federal government's willingness to enforce these confidentiality provisions is in doubt, however, since several states have similarly opened child abuse and neglect proceedings and to date have not been subject to financial sanctions.

The bill largely resolves this problem by recognizing the preeminence of federal law if a conflict between a provision of the bill and federal law adversely affects receipt of federal funds. In the event this situation arises, the Department would act quickly to minimize the loss of federal receipts.

The Department receives approximately \$15 million in federal Title IV-B and IV-E annually. These funds are spread throughout the Division of Family and Youth Services' budget.