

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2001 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 14
 Bill Version: CSHB 4(JUD)
 (H) Publish Date: 4/5/01

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dept. Affected: Administration
 Title: "An Act relating to offenses involving operating a motor vehicle..." BRU: Legal & Advocacy
 Component: Public Defender Agency
 Sponsor: Representative Rokeberg
 Requester: (H) JUD Component Number: 1631

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

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

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007
Personal Services	337.8	381.1	422.9	470.5	470.5	470.5
Travel	11.9	13.7	15.4	17.2	17.2	17.2
Contractual	62.4	75.6	88.7	101.9	101.9	101.9
Supplies	7.1	8.1	9.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
Equipment	37.8	7.0	7.0	7.0	4.6	4.6
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	457.0	485.5	543.0	606.6	604.2	604.2

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ()						
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FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF	457.0	485.5	543.0	606.6	604.2	604.2
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type)						
TOTAL	457.0	485.5	543.0	606.6	604.2	604.2

Estimate of any current year (FY2001) cost: 0.0

POSITIONS

Full-time	5.5	6.0	6.5	7.0	7.0	7.0
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

CSHB4(TRA) is an omnibus bill making significant changes to driving while under the influence (DUI) laws.

The changes in the bill that will have the most fiscal impact on the Public Defender Agency are:

- Sec. 26 (Reducing blood alcohol level to .08 from .10 for DUIs);
 - Sec. 31 (Phasing in a 10-year "look-back" period for prior convictions for felony DUI);
 - Secs. 31 & 46 (Mandating vehicle forfeiture for second and subsequent DUIs and Refusals);
- and the various Sections that increase fines, penalties, license revocation periods.

(Analysis continued on Page 2)

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 Division: Public Defender Agency Date/Time 03/08/01
 Approved by: Jim Duncan, Commissioner Date 3/8/01
 Agency: Department of Administration

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ANALYSIS: (continued)

Sec. 26 - Reducing blood alcohol level to .08 from .10 for DUIs.

The Public Defender Agency accepts the Department of Law's estimate of a 10 percent increase in prosecutions as a result of reducing the blood alcohol level threshold for DUIs from .10 to .08. This is a conservative estimate. As the Department of Law points out, experience in other states varies. But in Maine, as state similar to Alaska in some respects (smaller population, Northern climate), there was about a 20 percent increase in prosecutions. The Public Defender Agency will be appointed in about 75% of the cases. Using Department of Law estimate of the number of prosecutions, the Agency will be appointed to an additional 242 misdemeanor cases and 16 felony cases. We will need one additional full-time attorney to handle this increased caseload. Because our Palmer office handles a significant number of DUI cases, we will place the attorney at that office. (See the spreadsheet below for the costs of this position.)

Sec. 31 - Phasing in a 10-year "look-back" period for prior convictions for felony DUI.

This section would phase in a 10-year "look-back" for prior convictions. Again, the Public Defender Agency accepts the Department of Law's estimate of the number of new cases that would result from this change in the law. As above, we estimate that we will be appointed in about 75% of these cases. The end result is that by FY06, the Public Defender Agency will have an increased caseload of 182 felony DUIs. We will eventually need two additional attorneys to handle this caseload. Because the effect of this provision will be felt beginning in FY02 and, we will add a half-time attorney in Anchorage in FY02, add a half-time attorney in Palmer in FY03, make the half-time attorney in Anchorage full time in FY04, and add a half-time attorney in Fairbanks in FY05. (See the spreadsheet below for the costs of these positions.)

Sec. 31 and 46 – Mandatory Vehicle Forfeiture.

These sections would require the state to initiate vehicle forfeiture proceedings upon conviction of a second or subsequent DUI. Forfeiture would be mandatory upon conviction for felony DUI. These hearings would be part of the sentencing in a criminal case, so defendants would have a right to assistance of counsel. Unlike most of the work the Public Defender Agency currently does, these hearings involve complicated issues of ownership and security interests. The Public Defender Agency would not have as much legal work to do in these hearings as the Department of Law, and, again, we will only be appointed in 75% of the cases. Nevertheless, we will need three paraprofessionals to effectively represent defendants if this provision is enacted. We would place Paralegals in our Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Palmer offices. These offices have the greatest number of DUI cases. (See the spreadsheet below for the costs of these positions.)

Various Sections Increasing Fines, Penalties, and License Revocation Periods

There are a number of sections that increase fines, penalties, and license revocation periods. For example, in Sec. 27, the mandatory minimum fines for DUIs are increased to \$500 for a first offense under .10, \$1,500 for a first offense over .10, \$3,000 for a second offense, and \$10,000 for a felony DUI. Another example, in Sec. 31, is the permanent license revocation for felony DUI. (Although, under Sec. 33, the license can be restored in 10 years if the defendant does not have additional criminal violations and meets other requirements.)

A number of Public Defender Agency clients will not be able to pay large fines. Therefore there will likely be additional probation revocation cases Agency attorneys will have to cover. Also, we are concerned about the effect on our caseload of the increased license revocation periods. Some people will chose to drive even though they do not have a license. Therefore, we are certain that we will have more Driving with License Revoked cases.

Although the Public Defender Agency cannot quantify the fiscal impact that these provisions will have, we are certain that there will be a significant, albeit indeterminate, impact.

PUBLIC DEFENDER AGENCY
HB 4 FISCAL NOTE

Sec. 26 -- 0.08	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007
Personal Services	98.9	98.9	98.9	98.9	98.9	98.9
Travel	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7
Contractual	27.3	27.3	27.3	27.3	27.3	27.3
Supplies	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2
Equipment	8.5	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	140.6	132.9	132.9	132.9	132.9	132.9
POSITIONS						
Full-time	1	1	1	1	1	1
Part-time						
Temporary						

Sec. 31&46-Forfeiture	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007
Personal Services	197.1	197.1	197.1	197.1	197.1	197.1
Travel	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5
Contractual	22.0	22.0	22.0	22.0	22.0	22.0
Supplies	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
Equipment	26.0	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	255.6	232.2	232.2	232.2	232.2	232.2
POSITIONS						
Full-time	4	4	4	4	4	4
Part-time						
Temporary						

Sec. 31-Look-Back	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007
Personal Services	41.8	85.1	126.9	174.5	174.5	174.5
Travel	1.7	3.5	5.2	7.0	7.0	7.0
Contractual	13.1	26.3	39.4	52.6	52.6	52.6
Supplies	0.9	1.9	2.8	3.8	3.8	3.8
Equipment	3.3	3.6	3.6	3.6	1.2	1.2
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	60.8	120.4	177.9	241.5	239.1	239.1
POSITIONS						
Full-time	0.5	1.0	1.5	2.0	2.0	2.0
Part-time						
Temporary						

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