

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2001 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 2
 Bill Version: CSHB 228(L&C)
 (H) Publish Date: 4/20/01

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dept. Affected: Law
 Title "An Act relating to the offense of selling or BRU Civil Division
giving tobacco to a minor, ..." Component Fair Business Practices
 Sponsor Representative Harris
 Requester House Labor and Commerce Committ Component No. 2206

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	60.6	60.6	60.6	60.6	60.6	60.6
Travel	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Contractual	9.4	9.4	9.4	9.4	9.4	9.4
Supplies	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8
Equipment	6.5					
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	77.4	70.9	70.9	70.9	70.9	70.9

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						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
1007 Interagency Receipts	77.4	70.9	70.9	70.9	70.9	70.9
TOTAL	77.4	70.9	70.9	70.9	70.9	70.9

Estimate of any current year (FY2001) cost: 0.0

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time	1	1	1	1	1	1
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

HB 228 provides additional tools to prohibit the sale of tobacco to minors.

Several changes are made to the current requirement that a person selling tobacco products must have a tobacco endorsement attached to their state business license. The fee for a two-year tobacco endorsement would be increased from \$25 to \$100. The bill would require a tobacco endorsement for each location and outlet where the business sells tobacco products. Current law requires only one, no matter how many store locations or outlets a business uses to sell tobacco products. This change will make it easier to track locations or outlets where tobacco products are sold to be sure the tobacco tax and other law are being uniformly followed. This change, as well as the increased endorsement fee, would help offset the increasing cost of the administration and enforcement of endorsement requirements. The bill establishes civil penalties in the form of significant fines for those who sell tobacco without an endorsement, for sale of gray market cigarettes, and failure to post required warning signs. It would

Prepared by: Joan M. Kasson Phone 465-5370
 Division Attorney General's Office Date/Time 4/12/01 2:57 PM
 Approved by: Kathryn Daughetee for Bruce M. Botelho, Attorney General Date 4/12/01
 Agency Department of Law

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BILL NO. HB 228 - FN#2

ANALYSIS CONTINUATION

establish a streamlined administrative process for suspending the endorsements of those businesses who violate the state's laws on selling tobacco products to minors. It would also allow for the revocation of endorsements or an increase in the suspension period if the person continues the conduct which led to an endorsement during a suspension period.

A recent survey initiated by the Department of Health and Social Services indicated that nearly two-thirds of tobacco vendors in rural Alaska sold tobacco products to children, and more than one-third of the vendors in urban Alaska did. Federal law requires no more than a 20 percent noncompliance rate. In order to improve Alaska's noncompliance rate, DH&SS anticipates approximately 1,500 enforcement checks each year will be performed if this bill is enacted.

The Department of Law estimates the services of one-half of a full-time equivalent attorney position will be necessary to provide the necessary legal services associated with the compliance checks and the administrative process resulting from any noncompliance. This position will be funded by interagency receipts from the Department of Health and Social Services, and will be assigned to the Fair Business Practices section in the Anchorage office of the Civil Division.

This estimate is based on our prior experience with tobacco compliance checks and endorsement proceedings under current law. The few cases undertaken in FY99 took an average of 27 hours of attorney time each to complete. With the streamlined process intended by this bill, cases should move faster. However, none of the cases pursued in FY99 went to administrative hearing, which by requiring additional time, may offset the gains from the streamlined procedure to some extent.

Using the department's FY02 standard attorney cost schedule, the fiscal impact from this legislation for the Civil Division's Fair Business Practices section would be \$70,888. This cost includes clerical support, communications, space, supplies, data processing, and other normal overhead expenses. The standard cost does not include one-time new equipment purchases, and \$6,500 is added in FY02 for this purpose.