

# FISCAL NOTE

**STATE OF ALASKA**  
**2002 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

Fiscal Note Number: 1  
 Bill Version: CSHB 489(JUD)  
 (H) Publish Date: 4/23/02

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): \_\_\_\_\_ Dept. Affected: Corrections  
 Title "An Act relating to cruelty to animals. BRU Administration and Operation  
 Component All  
 Sponsor Rep. Chenault  
 Requester House Judiciary Committee Component No. 694

**Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)**

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

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>***</b>	<b>***</b>	<b>***</b>	<b>***</b>	<b>***</b>	<b>***</b>

<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>						
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<b>CHANGE IN REVENUES ( )</b>						
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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						
Other (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate)						
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>***</b>	<b>***</b>	<b>***</b>	<b>***</b>	<b>***</b>	<b>***</b>

Estimate of any current year (FY2002) cost: 0.0

Check this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2003 budget proposal:

**POSITIONS**

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

**ANALYSIS:** (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This legislation elevates cruelty to animals from an A misdemeanor to a C felony. It also broadens the elements of the crime to include "failure to provide the necessary standard of care" but removes "and as a result, causes the death of the animal or cause severe physical pain or prolonged suffering to the animal". Finally, this legislation would make the observation and knowing failure to report a violation to a law enforcement agency a C level felony also.

The Department of Law reports that in 2000 there were 8 convictions of cruelty to animals with an average sentence of about 10 days. It difficult to estimate what an average sentence would be if this becomes a felony. There will undoubtedly be additional imprisonment as well as probation supervision imposed. While the impact to the Department is difficult to quantify, there will be an impact. Most

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 Approved by: Margaret Pugh, Commissioner Date 3/14/02  
 Agency: Department of Corrections

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**BILL NO. CSHB 489(JUD)**

**ANALYSIS CONTINUATION**

troubling is the creation of a new felony for failure to report. The Department of Corrections has been experiencing an overcrowding crisis for a number of years. Each year, our population increases due to increased sentences, new crimes and converting misdemeanors into felons. This legislation represents all of those things. We are also facing significant budget cuts. Although we cannot quantify the impact, serious consideration needs to be given to amending the current statutes to add to the serious burden that already exists on the criminal justice system.