

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2006 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 8
 Bill Version: CSSB 237(FIN)
 (H) Publish Date: 4/27/06

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): 3/28/06/ 3:06 p.m. Dept. Affected: Administration
 Title An Act increasing the number of superior court judges designated for the third and fourth..... RDU Legal and Advocacy Services
 Component Public Defender Agency
 Sponsor Senate Rules Committee
 Requester Governor Component No. 1631

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

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

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012
Personal Services	228.0	228.0	228.0	228.0	228.0	228.0
Travel	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.2
Contractual	36.7	36.7	36.7	36.7	36.7	36.7
Supplies	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
Equipment	20.1	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	295.0	276.9	276.9	276.9	276.9	276.9

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	295.0	276.9	276.9	276.9	276.9	276.9
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate)						
TOTAL	295.0	276.9	276.9	276.9	276.9	276.9

Estimate of any current year (FY2006) cost: 0.0

Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2007 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time	3	3	3	3	3	3
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

See analysis continuation section.

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 Division: Public Defender Agency
 Approved by: Mike Tibbles, Deputy Commissioner
 Agency: Administration

Phone (907) 334-4414
 Date/Time 3/28/06 3:06 p.m.
 Date 3/29/2006

FISCAL NOTE #8

**STATE OF ALASKA
2006 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

BILL NO. CSSB 237(FIN)

ANALYSIS CONTINUATION

This bill increases the number of superior court judges by adding two (2) in Anchorage, two (2) in Palmer and one (1) in Kenai and one (1) in Fairbanks. Increasing judicial resources is expected to impact both the civil cases and criminal cases handled by the agency. The additional judicial availability posed by six new judges is expected to require one additional attorney, one additional paralegal, and one additional law office assistant.

The agency expects to place one attorney and one law office assistant in Palmer and one paralegal in Anchorage. It is not expected that adding a judge to Kenai and Fairbanks will require additional resources. Kenai recently received an additional attorney and law office assistant. The appellate caseload in Fairbanks has recently been transferred to Anchorage, and the position has remained in Fairbanks to absorb caseload increases.

Palmer will require additional resources because the population in the region is the fastest growing in the state and the criminal and CINA filings are expected to similarly increase. Additionally, the Palmer office is operating at capacity, and placing resources before the new judges will not be possible without additional staff. Consistent with the Agency's overall strategic plan, it is expected that adding low-cost support staff, rather than merely adding attorneys, will increase efficiency sufficient to accommodate the increase in work associated with two additional judges.

Anchorage will require an additional paralegal position because a new judge is expected to decrease the amount of time that a case waits for an evidentiary hearing on motions; the current waiting period is in excess of two months. A low-cost paralegal position is, therefore, required to assist attorneys in preparing for motion hearings that will occur in greater frequency.