

Fiscal Note

State of Alaska
2016 Legislative Session

Bill Version:	CSSSHB 27(JUD)
Fiscal Note Number:	2
(H) Publish Date:	3/31/2016

Identifier: HB027SS-DHSS-FP-1-27-16
 Title: DHSS DUTIES;CINA; FOSTER CARE; ADOPTION
 Sponsor: GARA
 Requester: House Rules

Department: Department of Health and Social Services
 Appropriation: Children's Services
 Allocation: Family Preservation
 OMB Component Number: 1628

Expenditures/Revenues

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below. (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY2017 Appropriation Requested	Included in Governor's FY2017 Request	Out-Year Cost Estimates					
			FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
OPERATING EXPENDITURES								
Personal Services								
Travel								
Services								
Commodities								
Capital Outlay								
Grants & Benefits								
Miscellaneous								
Total Operating	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Fund Source (Operating Only)

None								
Total	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Positions

Full-time								
Part-time								
Temporary								

Change in Revenues								
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Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY2016) cost: 0.0 *(separate supplemental appropriation required)*
(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

Estimated CAPITAL (FY2017) cost: 0.0 *(separate capital appropriation required)*
(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

ASSOCIATED REGULATIONS

Does the bill direct, or will the bill result in, regulation changes adopted by your agency? no
 If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed?

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version:

Updated to SLA2016 form; no other changes.
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Division:	Office of Children's Services	Date:	01/13/2016 11:00 AM
Approved By:	Sana Efird, Asst. Commissioner, Finance and Management Services	Date:	01/27/16
Agency:	Health and Social Services		

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA
2016 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Analysis

HB 27 expands the department's duties, imposes additional requirements on the department when making placement decisions, makes changes to statutes governing the confidentiality of departmental records, and changes the procedure for releasing a youth from state custody. It broadens the scope of the department's duties by requiring the department to recruit foster parents and adoptive parents when a shortage of foster parents or adoptive parents exists.

This bill mandates that, as during emergency custody, should a child transfer from one out-of-home placement to another, the Department shall search for an appropriate placement with an adult family member or family friend who meets the foster care licensing requirements. Should the child transfer from one placement to another, this bill mandates that if it is reasonable, the department shall, immediately and in advance of the transfer, coordinate with the child's school to ensure they are able to continue attendance through the end of the school term, if the child's transfer is in the same municipality and connected by the road system. If federal or school district funds are not available to pay for the cost of the child's transportation to this school, the department shall pay for the transportation costs.

HB 27 mandates the department to continue searching for suitable adoptive or permanent legal guardianship for a child in custody who is under 21 years of age, and adds language so that these statutes apply to a "child or person." It also changes the age and requires consent for a person, age 19 or older, to be released from the department's custody.

This bill expands the department's responsibility from not only providing educational and vocational training, but also assisting the child in obtaining such training. Should there be insufficient appropriations available to meet the purpose of the foster care transition program, the department shall submit a written report to the legislature articulating the department's efforts to use existing funds, and the opportunities and services the department will be unable to provide under the current appropriation level.

The court shall also make findings, if the child remains in out-of-home placements, that the department has made reasonable efforts to find a permanent placement for the child and submits supporting evidence. If the court finds that the department made all reasonable efforts, the court shall order the department to do so unless the current placement is in the best interests of the child. With this addition, this bill also amends Rule 17.2 of CINA court rules.

This version of HB 27 amends AS 47.14.100(a) to allow the department, for a child 16 years of age or older, to authorize another transitional living arrangement, including student dormitory residence at a postsecondary educational institution, that adequately meets the child's needs and is designed to assist the child's transition to independent life. This allows dormitories to be recognized as approved placement options and therefore identify internal mechanisms to support payment of the now authorized placement, making this a zero fiscal note.