

Fiscal Note

State of Alaska
2015 Legislative Session

Bill Version:	CSSB 30 (JUD)
Fiscal Note Number:	3
(S) Publish Date:	2/23/2015

Identifier: SB030CS(JUD)-DHSS-TRG-2-20-15
 Title: MARIJUANA REG;CONT.
 SUBST;CRIMES;DEFENSES
 Sponsor: JUDICIARY
 Requester: Senate Finance Committee

Department: Department of Health and Social Services
 Appropriation: Behavioral Health
 Allocation: Behavioral Health Treatment and Recovery
 Grants
 OMB Component Number: 3099

Expenditures/Revenues

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

	FY2016	Included in	Out-Year Cost Estimates				
	Appropriation Requested	Governor's FY2016 Request	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2016	FY 2016					
Personal Services							
Travel							
Services							
Commodities							
Capital Outlay							
Grants & Benefits	665.0		665.0	665.0	665.0	665.0	665.0
Miscellaneous							
Total Operating	665.0	0.0	665.0	665.0	665.0	665.0	665.0

Fund Source (Operating Only)

1004 Gen Fund	665.0		665.0	665.0	665.0	665.0	665.0
Total	665.0	0.0	665.0	665.0	665.0	665.0	665.0

Positions

Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							

Change in Revenues

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Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY2015) cost: 0.0 (separate supplemental appropriation required)
 (discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

Estimated CAPITAL (FY2016) 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? Yes
 If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed? 07/01/16

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version:

Not applicable, initial version.

Prepared By:	Albert E. Wall, Director	Phone:	(907)465-3370
Division:	Behavioral Health	Date:	02/19/2015 01:00 PM
Approved By:	Sarah Woods, Deputy Director Finance & Management Services	Date:	02/20/15
Agency:	Health & Social Services		

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA
2015 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Analysis

This bill makes changes in many areas of Alaska Statute, following voter approval of Ballot Measure #2 in November, 2014.

Relevant to activities of the Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Behavioral Health (DBH), this bill:

- Amends AS 17.30.140 "Education and Research" to add specific focus on alcohol and marijuana to current work addressing controlled substances;
- Amends various current provisions codified in AS 47.37, adding references to "marijuana", "marijuana abuse", and "marijuana abusers" to areas regarding the maintenance of substance abuse prevention and treatment services available in the state; and
- Amends AS 47.38.020 to allow the courts to refer individuals to an existing sobriety monitoring program, as a condition of release or probation.

Specific to the funds identified in this fiscal note:

Research shows that an adolescent's perception of the risks associated with substance use is an important determinant of whether he/she engages in substance use. Youth who perceive high risk of harm are less likely to use drugs than youth who perceive low risk of harm. According to a 2012 report issued by the National Institute on Drug Abuse and the National Institutes of Health, rates of perception of great risk from marijuana use remained stable between 2004 and 2007 among young people. When the perception of risk decreased between 2007 and 2011, marijuana use increased. We anticipate that with the legalization of marijuana, the the rate of Alaskan youth's perception of risk will decrease, encouraging use and increasing the need for marijuana use and abuse treatment services.

DBH anticipates the need for an additional \$600.0 in grant funding to community treatment providers, for the provision of direct services to Alaskans with marijuana abuse or dependency diagnoses. Funds will primarily support services to youth and adolescents, though the Division also anticipates an increased need for outpatient treatment services to adults.

In addition, DBH anticipates the need for \$9.0 increase in grant funds to the Alaska Commission for Behavioral Health Certification (from \$46.0 in FY2015 to \$55.0 in FY2016) to support certification of providers offering services to Alaskans diagnosed as Marijuana Abusive or Dependent. Requirements of chemical dependency service provider certification will include focused training on topics surrounding marijuana abuse and dependency. These additional funds will also support the Commission's work ensuring provider adherence to appropriate ethical standards set by the National Association of Addiction Professionals.

DBH also anticipates the need for an additional \$56.0 in funding to the Regional Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselor Training Program (RADACT), from \$280.0 in FY2015 to \$336.0 in FY2016 and beyond. This organization provides training statewide to direct service providers working in DBH grant-funded agencies. It is anticipated that in FY2016, as part of their ongoing curriculum, RADACT will need to expand training sessions focused on marijuana abuse, dependence, and effective treatment of these diagnoses. These funds will also be used to support increased technical assistance to providers.

Regulations will need to be amended, as a result of the change in marijuana's legal status.

Due to limited data and information about the possible effects of this policy change on multiple affected systems, as well as an unknown regulatory framework, this fiscal note is an estimate. The Department of Health and Social Services continues to work with multiple agencies, as well as partners in Colorado and Washington State, to gather the best possible information in order to predict costs associated with this bill.