Fiscal Note

State of Alaska
2022 Legislative Session

Bill Version:	CSSB 152(STA)
Fiscal Note Number:	1
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Identifier: SB152-LEG-LEG-03-02-22
Title: LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS IN ANCHORAGE
Sponsor: SHOWER
Requester: SENATE STATE AFFAIRS

Department: Various
Appropriation: Various
Allocation: Legislative Branch
OMB Component Number: 0

Expenditures/Revenues

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

	FY2023 Appropriation Requested	Included in Governor's FY2023 Request	Out-Year Cost Estimates				
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	**FY 2023**	**FY 2023**	**FY 2024**	**FY 2025**	**FY 2026**	**FY 2027**	**FY 2028**
Personal Services	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
Travel							
Services							
Commodities							
Capital Outlay							
Grants & Benefits							
Miscellaneous							
Total Operating	*******	*******	*******	*******	*******	*******	*******

Fund Source (Operating Only)

None							
Total	*******	*******	*******	*******	*******	*******	*******

Positions

Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							

Change in Revenues

None							
Total	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**

Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY2022) cost: 0.0 *(separate supplemental appropriation required)*

Estimated CAPITAL (FY2023) cost: 0.0 *(separate capital appropriation required)*

Does the bill create or modify a new fund or account? No

(Supplemental/Capital/New Fund - 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If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed?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/comments:

Initial version.

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Division:	Legislative Affairs Agency	Date:	03/02/2022 12:30 PM
Approved By:	Jessica Geary, Executive Director	Date:	03/02/22
Agency:	Legislative Affairs Agency		

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA
2022 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Analysis

This legislation requires that the second session of every legislature be convened in the Municipality of Anchorage at a location to be determined by the Alaska Legislative Council.

This fiscal note is indeterminate as several policy decisions are necessary to estimate the fiscal impact of this legislation, such as:

Facility. A facility in the Municipality of Anchorage to support a regular legislative session would need to include space for House and Senate Chambers (with at least one large enough to accommodate a joint session); Offices of the Chief Clerk and Senate Secretary; House and Senate Floor Staff; at least 10 committee rooms; 60 legislator offices with space for partisan staff; non-partisan offices for onsite staff from Legislative Finance, Legal Services, IT Services, and various Legislative Affairs Agency sections - Security, Print Shop, Documents, Supply, Information and Teleconference, Media Services and Maintenance; as well as adequate parking. Cost would vary greatly depending on whether the Legislature purchased an existing building or leased space, both requiring renovation, or build-to-suit, and necessary furnishings. The current Anchorage Legislative Office Building provides some office space and one committee room; however, would only be practical for session support if the new/leased facility was directly adjacent.
Infrastructure. Video, audio, and hi-speed internet capabilities as well as network support would need to be installed in leased or new space to replicate existing capabilities for committee rooms, chambers, and offices. Specifically, electronic voting boards and audio system in the chambers; teleconference/videoconference capable systems installed in committee rooms; security camera system for the building; as well as specialized equipment for the Offices of the Chief Clerk and Senate Secretary; commercial copiers; etc. Additionally, per KTOO, Gavel TV does not have the resources to support sessions in a location outside the capital. If similar coverage was desired, either another entity or the Legislature would need to provide professional production quality coverage previously provided by Gavel TV, including camera/audio infrastructure as well as professional staff to ensure the same level of accessibility for Alaska communities outside the Municipality of Anchorage.
Personnel/Staffing. It is estimated that this bill would require the following staffing changes to support a second session in Anchorage: 40 Juneau-based non-partisan staff relocate to Anchorage for the session, to include 15 days for pre-convening and post-adjourning; 10 Juneau-based staff would be required to regularly travel to Anchorage throughout session to carry out their duties; 10 new Anchorage-based positions; and 80 Juneau-based positions would remain in the capital and carry out their duties remotely with no travel requirements. This would be a significant cost increase as non-partisan staff are not currently required to travel or relocate for their job. Based on the permanent residence of current partisan staff, there would be an estimated increase of 20 staff relocating to support a session in Anchorage, increasing the cost of staff relocation and session lodging stipends.
Per Diem. This bill would result in a savings for legislator per diem due to approximately 24 fewer legislators being eligible; however, overall, per diem cost would increase significantly as a result of approximately 40 non-partisan staff relocating to Anchorage – a net increase of 16 individuals eligible to receive per diem. Further, the Anchorage per diem rate is traditionally higher than the Juneau per diem rate.
Relocation. This bill would result in minimal savings for relocation expenses in the second session; while there is an increase in the number of staff relocating, it is offset by a decrease in legislator relocation.
Travel. Expenses would increase for 10 non-partisan Juneau-based staff required to travel to Anchorage during the second session.

In summary, SB 152 modifies existing statutes to require that the second session of every legislature be held in Anchorage. Without the necessary policy decisions outlined above, there is no practical way to estimate the fiscal impact if this bill were to pass in its current form; therefore, this fiscal note is indeterminate.