

Fiscal Note

State of Alaska
2023 Legislative Session

Bill Version:	HB 126
Fiscal Note Number:	1
(H) Publish Date:	5/3/2023

Identifier: HB126-DOH-MAA-3-24-2023
 Title: ASSOCIATE AND PROFESSIONAL
 COUNSELORS
 Sponsor: WRIGHT
 Requester: (H) L&C

Department: Department of Health
 Appropriation: Health Care Services
 Allocation: Medical Assistance Administration
 OMB Component Number: 242

Expenditures/Revenues

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

	FY2024	Included in	Out-Year Cost Estimates				
	Appropriation Requested	Governor's FY2024 Request	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2024	FY 2024					
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

Fund Source (Operating Only)

None							
Total	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

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 (FY2023) cost: 0.0 *(separate supplemental appropriation required)*

Estimated CAPITAL (FY2024) 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? Yes
 If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed? 07/01/24

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version/comments:

Initial version.

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Division:	Health Care Services	Date:	03/24/2023
Approved By:	Josephine Stern, Assistant Commissioner	Date:	03/25/2023
Agency:	Department of Health		

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA
2023 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Analysis

This bill directs the Board of Licensed Professional Counselors to stipulate, through regulations, the criteria for associate counselor licensure; the types of associate counselor programs that are authorized for licensure; and the criteria for supervisor certification.

This legislation is expected to have an impact on Medicaid provider enrollment and compliance functions. The additional licenses are expected to increase volume and the level of effort to process new enrollment applications, revalidations, and background checks. In addition, Health Care Services anticipates an increased number of new applicants in out years due to this new license type. Post-payment review of services to ensure compliance with state and federal rules will need to be conducted; including establishing new review strategies within the Surveillance and Utilization Review (SUR) unit and working with current data-analytics vendors to develop compliance strategies and peer group comparison algorithms.

Should this bill pass, the Division of Health Care Services will need to amend regulations to add a new professional provider type. Systems configuration to add the new provider type will also be necessary and can be absorbed through existing contract maintenance and operations.

The Division of Health Care Services, located within the Department of Health, is submitting a zero dollar fiscal note for this bill. The division does not have estimates for the number of individuals in Alaska that will become or are currently eligible to be licensed associate counselors.