

# Fiscal Note

State of Alaska  
2025 Legislative Session

|                     |               |
|---------------------|---------------|
| Bill Version:       | CSHB 178(L&C) |
| Fiscal Note Number: | 1             |
| (H) Publish Date:   | 5/9/2025      |

Identifier: HB178-OOG-HRC-4-18-25  
 Title: MEDICAL DEBT: INFORMATION,  
 DISCRIMINATION  
 Sponsor: MINA  
 Requester: (H)L&C

Department: Office of the Governor  
 Appropriation: Commissions/Special Offices  
 Allocation: Human Rights Commission  
 OMB Component Number: 1

**Expenditures/Revenues**

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

|                               | FY2026                  | Included in               | Out-Year Cost Estimates |                |                |                |                |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
|                               | Appropriation Requested | Governor's FY2026 Request | FY 2027                 | FY 2028        | FY 2029        | FY 2030        | FY 2031        |
| <b>OPERATING EXPENDITURES</b> | <b>FY 2026</b>          | <b>FY 2026</b>            | <b>FY 2027</b>          | <b>FY 2028</b> | <b>FY 2029</b> | <b>FY 2030</b> | <b>FY 2031</b> |
| Personal Services             |                         |                           |                         |                |                |                |                |
| Travel                        |                         |                           |                         |                |                |                |                |
| Services                      |                         |                           |                         |                |                |                |                |
| Commodities                   |                         |                           |                         |                |                |                |                |
| Capital Outlay                |                         |                           |                         |                |                |                |                |
| Grants & Benefits             |                         |                           |                         |                |                |                |                |
| Miscellaneous                 |                         |                           |                         |                |                |                |                |
| <b>Total Operating</b>        | <b>0.0</b>              | <b>0.0</b>                | <b>0.0</b>              | <b>0.0</b>     | <b>0.0</b>     | <b>0.0</b>     | <b>0.0</b>     |

**Fund Source (Operating Only)**

|              |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |
|--------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| None         |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> |

**Positions**

|           |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|-----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Full-time |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Part-time |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Temporary |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Change in Revenues**

|              |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |
|--------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| None         |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> |

**Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY2025) cost:** 0.0 *(separate supplemental appropriation required)*

**Estimated CAPITAL (FY2026) 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? N/A

**Why this fiscal note differs from previous version/comments:**

Not applicable, initial version.

|              |                                           |        |                     |
|--------------|-------------------------------------------|--------|---------------------|
| Prepared By: | Rob Corbisier                             | Phone: | (907)744-7253       |
| Division:    | Alaska State Commission for Human Rights  | Date:  | 04/18/2025 01:00 PM |
| Approved By: | Cheri Lowenstein, Administrative Director | Date:  | 04/18/25            |
| Agency:      | Office of the Governor                    |        |                     |

## FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA  
2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**Analysis**

The bill adds "a person's medical debt" as a protected class under the Alaska Human Rights Act in employment and the rental of real property, making it unlawful to discriminate against a person in employment matters due to the person's medical debt, and making it unlawful to discriminate against a person in renting real property due to the person's medical debt. It creates a new subsection in AS 45.48.800 to define "medical debt."

Because this is a completely new area of discriminatory conduct for the Alaska State Commission for Human Rights, it is difficult to estimate the fiscal impact. However, it is unlikely that adding "a person's medical debt" as a protected class for employment will generate more than a couple of employment cases annually, and approximately 80% of the agency's cases are related to employment. Adding "a person's medical debt" as a protected class for the rental of real property may generate more than a couple of cases due to the industry's use of creditworthiness in evaluating potential tenants, but because the overall portion of housing discrimination cases is such a low percent of the agency's overall caseload, even a doubling of housing cases would have a de minimis impact operationally. Efficiencies implemented four years ago will allow the commission to accept these additional cases without the need for more personnel. Therefore, the agency submits a zero fiscal note.