

# Fiscal Note

State of Alaska  
2025 Legislative Session

Bill Version:	SB 45
Fiscal Note Number:	1
(S) Publish Date:	5/7/2025

Identifier: SB045-DOH-BHA-01-21-25  
 Title: MEDICAID MENTAL HEALTH PARITY  
 Sponsor: DUNBAR  
 Requester: (S) HSS

Department: Department of Health  
 Appropriation: Behavioral Health  
 Allocation: Behavioral Health Administration  
 OMB Component Number: 2665

### Expenditures/Revenues

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

	FY2026 Appropriation Requested	Included in Governor's FY2026 Request	Out-Year Cost Estimates					
			FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	FY 2031
<b>OPERATING EXPENDITURES</b>								
Personal Services	126.3		126.3	126.3	126.3	126.3	126.3	126.3
Travel								
Services	345.0		345.0	345.0	345.0	345.0	345.0	345.0
Commodities	5.0		2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
Capital Outlay								
Grants & Benefits								
Miscellaneous								
<b>Total Operating</b>	<b>476.3</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>473.3</b>	<b>473.3</b>	<b>473.3</b>	<b>473.3</b>	<b>473.3</b>	<b>473.3</b>

### Fund Source (Operating Only)

1002 Fed Rcpts (Fed)	63.1		63.1	63.1	63.1	63.1	63.1
1003 GF/Match (UGF)	63.2		63.2	63.2	63.2	63.2	63.2
1037 GF/MH (UGF)	350.0		347.0	347.0	347.0	347.0	347.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>476.3</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>473.3</b>	<b>473.3</b>	<b>473.3</b>	<b>473.3</b>	<b>473.3</b>

### Positions

Full-time	1.0		1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
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? Yes  
 If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed? 12/31/27

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

Not applicable, initial version.

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Division: Behavioral Health	Date: 01/24/2025
Approved By: Pam Halloran, Assistant Commissioner	Date: 01/24/25
Agency: Department of Health	

## FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA  
2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**Analysis**

This bill aims to align the Alaska Medicaid mental health and substance use disorder benefits with federal requirements. This bill requires the Department of Health (DOH), to comply with the requirements for mental health or substance use disorder benefit requirements, codified under 26 U.S.C. 9812, 29 U.S.C. 1185a, and 42 U.S.C.300gg-26 and to submit a report to the Legislature regarding a comparative parity analysis (an analysis about whether a health insurance plan provides equal coverage for mental health and substance use disorder services compared to medical/surgical benefits) and status on compliance.

The expected impact is improved access to behavioral health and substance use disorder services. The work will require dedicated resources, a staff member, and contracted services to ensure compliance and management duties of the analysis, the data collection processes and preparing the required report. Staff will need to evaluate existing Non-Qualitative Treatment Limitations (NQTLs) for material differences with medical/surgical (M/S) benefits, collect and analyze required data, and design or interpret data collection processes. Ongoing parity analysis and compliance will also involve regular reviews of NQTLs to address barriers to care and publishing public reports. For those reasons partnership with a contractor will be necessary. There will be costs associated with a designated full-time position for this work and for this contractor.

Regulations are anticipated to be adopted by December 31, 2027.

**Financial Breakdown**

One full-time Research Analyst 3 (including benefits): range 18, step C, in Juneau, will be needed at a cost of \$126.4.

Services: Office space, phone, reimbursable service agreements for position support: \$20.0 annually and service contract for parity analysis estimated to cost \$325.0.

Commodities: Starting in the second year office supplies \$2.0 annually.

One-Time Commodities Cost: Computer, software, and office equipment: \$5.0 in the first year.