

# Fiscal Note

State of Alaska  
2025 Legislative Session

Bill Version:	CSSB 88(HSS)
Fiscal Note Number:	4
(S) Publish Date:	4/9/2025

Identifier: SB088-FCS-FLSW-2-21-25  
 Title: CHILD PLACEMENT; DILIGENT SEARCH  
 Sponsor: BJORKMAN  
 Requester: (S)Health and Social Services

Department: Department of Family and Community Services  
 Appropriation: Children's Services  
 Allocation: Front Line Social Workers  
 OMB Component Number: 3318

**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 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030
<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	164.7		164.7	164.7	164.7	164.7	164.7
Travel							
Services	720.0		700.0	700.0	700.0	700.0	700.0
Commodities	7.0						
Capital Outlay							
Grants & Benefits							
Miscellaneous							
<b>Total Operating</b>	<b>891.7</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>864.7</b>	<b>864.7</b>	<b>864.7</b>	<b>864.7</b>	<b>864.7</b>

**Fund Source (Operating Only)**

1002 Fed Rcpts (Fed)	44.0		40.5	40.5	40.5	40.5	40.5
1003 GF/Match (UGF)	60.0		60.0	60.0	60.0	60.0	60.0
1004 Gen Fund (UGF)	787.7		764.2	764.2	764.2	764.2	764.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>891.7</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>864.7</b>	<b>864.7</b>	<b>864.7</b>	<b>864.7</b>	<b>864.7</b>

**Positions**

Full-time	2.0		2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
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? 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 If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed?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:**

This is the initial version.

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Division:	Social Services Program Officer	Date:	02/21/2025 01:00 PM
Approved By:	Kyle Scherrer, Division Operations Manager	Date:	02/21/2025
Agency:	Department of Family and Community Services		

## FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA  
2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

## Analysis

Legal Services Impact:

SB88 modifies CINA proceedings by:

- Giving foster parents the right to request court hearings on child placement transfers, increasing court expenses.
- Introducing new "best interest" determinations in placement and permanency decisions.
- Expanding requirements for searching and documenting efforts to locate family members of children in state custody, leading to additional court hearings.
- Adjusting statutory placement preferences to give some foster parents the same priority as adult family members, potentially increasing litigation.
- Estimating the fiscal impact on legal services is challenging, as CINA cases involve frequent litigation, particularly regarding placement decisions. The department projects an increase of \$687.0 in legal costs.

Diligent Relative Search:

SB88 requires expanded documentation and reporting on relative searches, including court oversight, necessitating two additional Social Service Associate positions at a total cost of \$123.0.

The division's Comprehensive Child Welfare Information System will require modifications to support new reporting requirements, with an estimated \$20.0 in contract costs for design, development, testing, and reporting.

Alaska Tribal Child Welfare Compact:

The new diligent search requirements will apply to services under the Alaska Tribal Child Welfare Compact, requiring renegotiation of the scope of work, which may affect service delivery.

Potential Impact on Permanency Timelines:

Increased court hearings and litigation related to SB88 may extend the time required to achieve permanency for children in state custody. The department has not estimated the cost implications of these delays.

Total Costs:

- \$687.0 in legal services (services)
- \$164.7 in personnel costs (personal services)
- \$20.0 in one-time programming costs (services)
- \$13.0 in position chargeback costs (services)
- \$7.0 in position IT equipment and additional office supplies