

# Fiscal Note

State of Alaska  
2026 Legislative Session

Bill Version:	SB 251
Fiscal Note Number:	1
(S) Publish Date:	3/4/2026

Identifier: SB251-JUD-ACS-02-20-26  
 Title: REPEAL WORKERS' COMP APPEALS  
 COMMISSION  
 Sponsor: WIELECHOWSKI  
 Requester: Senate Judiciary Committee

Department: Judiciary  
 Appropriation: Alaska Court System  
 Allocation: Trial Courts  
 OMB Component Number: 768

**Expenditures/Revenues**

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

	FY2027	Included in	Out-Year Cost Estimates				
	Appropriation Requested	Governor's FY2027 Request	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	FY 2031	FY 2032
<b>OPERATING EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>FY 2027</b>	<b>FY 2027</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 (FY2026) cost:** 0.0 *(separate supplemental appropriation required)*

**Estimated CAPITAL (FY2027) 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? N/A  
 If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed?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:	Alaska Court System	Date:	02/20/2026 04:00 PM
Approved By:	Stacey Marz, Administrative Director	Date:	02/20/26
Agency:	Alaska Court System		

## FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA  
2026 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**Analysis**

Senate Bill 251 would eliminate the Alaska Workers' Compensation Appeals Commission currently housed within the Department of Labor, and transfer jurisdiction over appeals pending in that Commission and all future appeals from the decisions of the Workers' Compensation Board to the superior court.

Although current data is not yet available, according to a 2019 Legislative Research Services Report, an average of 32 appeals per year were handled by the Commission over the preceding 12-year period. Using this information, the court system would anticipate that, under SB 251, the superior court would be handling an additional 32 administrative appeals from the Board each year, on average. These additional cases would be presided over by a superior court judge and we anticipate that the impact of these new cases would be spread across jurisdictions. Though these case types are very time-consuming and more difficult for judges than typical cases, with the information we have available at this time, the court anticipates that they could be handled by our superior court judges without additional resources.

The court system does not anticipate that this bill would change the caseload of the Supreme Court, which already currently handles appeals from the Commission. Its jurisdiction would not be altered under this bill; the supreme court appeals would simply come from the superior court instead of from the Commission.

At this time, the court system submits this zero fiscal note. If this bill becomes law, the court system will monitor the actual number of workers' compensation appeals that are filed in the superior court to determine whether the impacts exceed current expectations.