

HB

188

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

(7)

Date Referred: February 21, 1989

FURTHER REFERRALS: FINANCE

Date of Committee Action: 3/2/89

The JUDICIARY Committee considered:

HB 188

HOUSE BILL NO. 188 [ADDITIONAL SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE AT KENAI]
"An Act increasing the number of superior court judges designated for the Third Judicial District to provide an additional superior court judge at Kenai; and providing for an effective date."

RECOMMENDS:

- replacing with _____ the same title
- the attached amendment(s) a new title
- do pass
- do not pass
- no recommendation
- individual recommendations
- additional referral to the _____ Committee

ADOPTS: _____ letter of intent

ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):

- fiscal impact
- zero fiscal note
- zero with analysis

APPROVES PREVIOUS:

- fiscal note(s) published:
Court System
- zero fiscal notes(s) published:

SIGNING DO PASS:

[Handwritten signatures: Michael D., N. K. Miller, Terry Master, M. J. ...]

Cliff Davidson

SIGNING OTHER THAN DO PASS:

(Do Not Pass, No Recommendation, Amend)

[Handwritten signature: J. H. Ellis no rec.]

[Handwritten signature: M. J. ...]
Chairman's signature

HB 188 - Additional Superior Court Judge at Kenai

Justification Summary

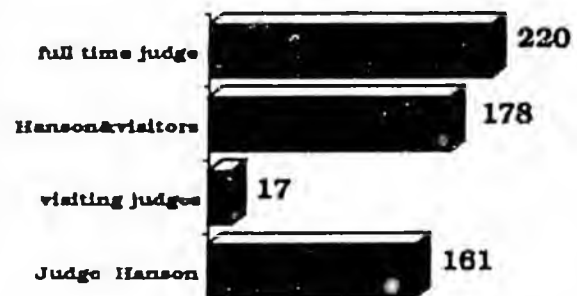
Representative Mike Navarre

In FY88, the Kenai Court:

- ☛ had the highest number of filings per judge in the state, 3925 (Palmer 3251; Anchorage 2382; Valdez 395)
- ☛ experienced a 26% jump in trial activity (Palmer, no change; Anchorage minus 46%; Fairbanks +23%)
- ☛ experienced inordinate delays in routine matters
- ☛ spent \$71,375 on jury costs
- ☛ assigned all civil trials to visiting judges

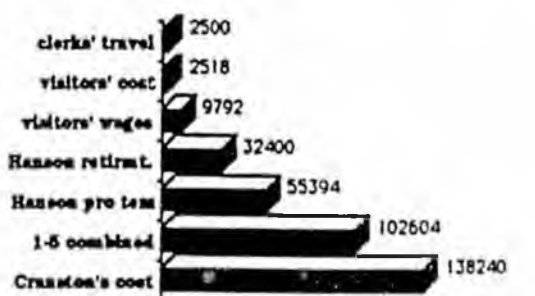
Kenai's retired judge, James Hanson, is budgeted to work pro tem 2 weeks a month but frequently works another 1 or 2 weeks. In 1988, he worked 161 days, which is 73% of what a full-time judge works. Besides Judge Hanson's pro tem work, other judges travelled to Kenai. **Hanson plans to retire completely at the end of June.** This will leave a single judge with the work of almost two judges.

**Kenai Superior Court
Judge Days, 1988**



In 1986, the State Bar Association unanimously recommended an additional Superior Court Judge for Palmer and Kenai.

Kenai Superior Court Full-time v. Part-time costs (in \$)



FY85 - FY88 the court experienced a 348% increase in children's matters filings, the highest in the state. (Juneau-next highest- plus 293%; Anchorage plus 16%; Fairbanks minus 29%)

The recently-appointed temporary district court judge has no assurance of being reappointed next year.

**STATE OF ALASKA 1989 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
FISCAL NOTE**

REQUEST: <hr/> Revision Date: Title: An act increasing the number of superior court judges...3rd district Sponsor: Navarre-Swackhammer-Gruenberg Requestor: Judiciary	Bill Version: SB 188 Publish Date: 2/21/89 Agency Affected: Alaska Court System BRU: Trial Courts Components:
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EXPENDITURES/REVENUES:	(Thousands of Dollars)					
OPERATING	FY 89	FY 90	FY 91	FY 92	FY 93	FY 94
Personal Services	195.0	257.6	257.6	257.6	257.6
Travel
Contractual
Supplies
Equipment	2.0	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .
Land & Structures
Grants & Claims
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	197.0	257.6	257.6	257.6	257.6
<hr/>						
CAPITAL
<hr/>						
REVENUE

FUNDING:	(Thousands of Dollars)					
General Funds	0.0	197.0	257.6	257.6	257.6	257.6
Federal Funds	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .
Other	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .
TOTAL	0.0	197.0	257.6	257.6	257.6	257.6

POSITIONS:						
Full-time	. . . .	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
Part-time	. . . .	(2.0)	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .
Temporary	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

See attached analysis.

Prepared by: <i>Jan Strandberg</i> Division: Alaska Court System	Phone: 264-8228 Date: 03/01/89
Approved by: <i>Stephanie Cole, for -</i> Arthur H. Snowden, II, Administrative Director	Date: 03/01/89
Agency: Alaska Court System	

Distribution (by preparer):
 Legislative Finance
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ALASKA COURT SYSTEM

HB 188

Fiscal Analysis

Personal Services:

<u>Position Title</u>	<u>Salary</u>	<u>Benefits</u>	<u>Total</u>
Superior Court Judge, Kenai PFT, 12 months, range 28E with 74 cola	\$82,716	\$55,710	\$138,426
Law Clerk I, Kenai PFT, 12 months, range 13D	31,476	12,197	43,673
In-Court Clerk, Kenai PFT, 12 months, range 12A	26,604	11,132	37,736
Secretary II, Kenai PFT, 12 months, range 12A	26,604	11,132	37,736

	Total Personal Services		257,571
Less existing funding for pro tempore judge and secretary (1)			62,500

	Net Personal Services		195,071
Equipment: (for Law Clerk position) (one-time cost)			
Desk, chair, typewriter, statutes, rules of court			1,962

	Total Cost (first year)		\$197,033
			=====

(1) Calculation of Existing Funding:

	Amount	Total
FY 82 - Original funding (Free Conference Committee)	\$57,200	\$57,200
FY 83 - 5% salary increase	2,900	60,100
FY 85 - 5% salary increase (funded at 80% of actual)	2,400	62,500

ALASKA COURT SYSTEM

HB 188 - ANALYSIS

A new superior court judge in Kenai will require a staff consisting of a law clerk, in-court clerk and secretary. Because a pro tem judge and staff have been budgeted to provide judicial and staff services, the cost of a new judge and staff will be reduced by the amount that the court system would expect to pay for the pro tem judge and staff for one fiscal year. The only equipment needed is that required by the law clerk.

**STATE OF ALASKA 1989 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
FISCAL NOTE**

REQUEST: _____ Bill Version: HB 133
 Publish Date: 2/1/89

Revision Date: _____ Agency Affected: Alaska Court System
 Title: An act relating to obscenity BRU: Trial Courts

Sponsor: Miller, Martin, & Leman Components:
 Requestor: Judiciary

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES:		(Thousands of Dollars)					
	FY 89	FY 90	FY 91	FY 92	FY 93	FY 94	
OPERATING							
Personal Services	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .
Travel	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .
Contractual	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .
Supplies	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .
Equipment	
Land & Structures	
Grants & Claims	
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	

CAPITAL
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REVENUE
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FUNDING:		(Thousands of Dollars)					
General Funds	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Federal Funds	
Other	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	

POSITIONS:							
Full-time	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .
Part-time	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .
Temporary	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

No fiscal impact.

Prepared by: *Jan Strandberg* Jan Strandberg, General Counsel Phone: 264-8228
 Division: Alaska Court System Date: 02/28/89

Approved by: *Stephanie Cole, fax-* Arthur H. Snowden, II, Administrative Director Date: 02/28/89
 Agency: Alaska Court System

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