

**SB**

**293**

# FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA  
1998 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

No. 1  
Bill Version: SB 293  
(S) Publish Date: 2-12-98

Revision Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: Contracts for Providing Public Assistance

Dept. Affected: Health and Social Services

BRU: Public Assistance

Component: ATAP

Sponsor: Rules Committee

COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 220

Requestor: Governor

See also (SN#): \_\_\_\_\_

**Expenditures/Revenues:**

(Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY98	FY00	FY01	FY02	FY03	FY04
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
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>

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
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CHANGES IN REVENUES ( )						
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**FUND SOURCE**

(Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (please specify)						
<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>

**POSITIONS:**

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

Estimate of any current year (FY98) cost: \$0.0

**ANALYSIS:** (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This legislation will provide grant funds to Alaska Native organizations that have federal approval to operate tribal family assistance programs (TFAP). It also allows the department to establish regional public assistance plans to serve all families living in the geographic area covered by the federally approved TFAP. The legislation also authorizes the department to contract with the Alaska Native organization operating a TFAP to serve these families. This legislation provides that grants to eligible Alaska Native organizations will represent a fair and equitable portion of the state appropriations intended to serve state residents served by an approved regional plan.

Federal welfare reform law provides that the 12 Alaska Native regional non-profits and the Indian community of Metlakatla may submit TFAP plans for federal approval. At this time, no Native organizations have submitted a TFAP plan. Fiscal impacts are dependent on which Native organizations have approved plans and the population to be served. In the future, department budget requests will reflect the financial impact which will result from Native organizations administering approved plans.



Prepared by: Jim Nordlund  
Division: Public Assistance

Phone: 465-2680  
Date: 02/10/98

Approved by Commissioner: Karen Perdue  
Agency: Department of Health & Social Services

Date: 2/10/98

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**SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
First Committee of Referral**

DATE: 2/18/98

FURTHER: State Affairs  
Finance

Date of 5-Day Notice: 4/16/98  
(in accordance with Uniform Rule 23)

DATE TURNED  
IN TO OFFICE: 4/24/98

Health, Education and Social Services Committee considered      SENATE BILL NO. 293

"An Act relating to contracts for the provision of state public assistance to certain recipients in the state; providing for regional public assistance plans and programs in the state; relating to grants for Alaska tribal family assistance programs; and providing for an effective date."

and recommends:

- be replaced with \_\_\_\_\_ CS \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_\_)
- adopt previous \_\_\_\_\_ CS \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_\_)
- attached amendment(s)
- adopt Letter of Intent by \_\_\_\_\_ Committee
- further referral to the \_\_\_\_\_ Committee

- Senate Bill:**  
 same title  
 new title  
**House Bill:**  
 same title  
 technical title  
 new: SCR# \_\_\_\_\_

<i>SIGNING DO PASS</i>	<i>DP</i>	<i>OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS</i>	<i>NR</i>	<i>DNP</i>	<i>AM</i>
<i>J. Ellis</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>[Signature]</i>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		<i>[Signature]</i>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		<i>[Signature]</i>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>CHAIR:</b>		<b>CHAIR:</b> <i>[Signature]</i>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):**

Department	Date	Zero	Fiscal

**PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S):\***

Department	Date	Zero	Fiscal
<i>H+SS Public Assistance</i>	<i>2/10/98</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

APPROPRIATION -- no fiscal note

\*include fiscal notes accompanying Governor's bill

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STATE OF ALASKA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
JUNEAU

February 10, 1998

The Honorable Mike Miller  
Senate President  
Alaska State Legislature  
State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

*Mike*  
Dear President Miller:

*SB 293*

In accepting the challenge of reforming Alaska's welfare system, the state must make every effort to build a successful public assistance program. This bill I transmit today continues Alaska's efforts to implement effective and responsible welfare reform, particularly in rural areas. This legislation takes advantage of a provision in federal welfare reform allowing regional non-profit Native corporations to develop and implement welfare programs. Not only would this promote local responsibility for program success, it will better tie program assistance to local economic and social conditions. Under the bill, the Department of Health and Social Services may contract with regional Native organizations for operating family assistance plans.

The federal Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, established that specifically named Alaska Native organizations could propose to operate tribal family assistance plans, independent of the state plan, to serve the native population within a specific geographical region. A state- and federally-approved tribal family assistance plan will receive, directly from the federal government, a portion of Alaska's allocation of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families block grant funds to provide public assistance to the families the plan serves. The federal funds, however, will only be about half of the funds that have historically been appropriated to serve this purpose. This bill establishes standards by which the state will provide grants to these organizations to match the federal funds.

The regional plans are expected to be custom designed to meet the economic conditions and needs of the area. Regional plans may depart from some requirements of the state assistance program, as long as the plans contain specifically identified program elements.

The Honorable Mike Miller  
February 10, 1998  
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Additional provisions in the bill address record sharing and confidentiality, data reporting and financial records, program termination, and procedures for appeal.

This bill will contribute to making our public assistance programs more effective by considering regional conditions in plan developments. I urge your support of this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Tony Knowles".

Tony Knowles  
Governor

Objectives in Developing SB 293

- \* Promote self sufficiency for families on public assistance; particularly in rural Alaska.
- \* Promote flexibility in designing local approaches to achieving self sufficiency.
- \* Assure that both the State and Regional programs are managed efficiently and cost effectively.
- \* Discourage disparity in benefits and services for Alaskans living in the same community or region.
- \* Address the complex legal issues relating to the delegation of State authority.

Sectional Analysis HB 401 \ SB 293

Section 1. Findings and Intent

Section 2. This section exempts contracts with Native Regional organizations who are providing public assistance services and have an approved tribal assistance plan under AS 47.27.072 from the procurement code.

Section 3. Authorizes the department, if it is appropriate, to establish regional public assistance plans for the administration of the Alaska temporary assistance program.

Section 4. Allows the Department, in its administration of the Alaska Temporary Assistance Program, to adopt program standards that may vary by region so long as the standards still meet the requirements in AS 47.27.072 and the program requirements of AS 47.27.071.

Section 5. This section allows the Department to award tribal family assistance grants to Alaska Native Regional Organizations that have a Federally approved tribal assistance plan that meets the requirements of AS 47.27.070. This section also establishes a process for Departmental review of the tribal assistance plan before it is submitted by the Alaska Native Regional Organization.

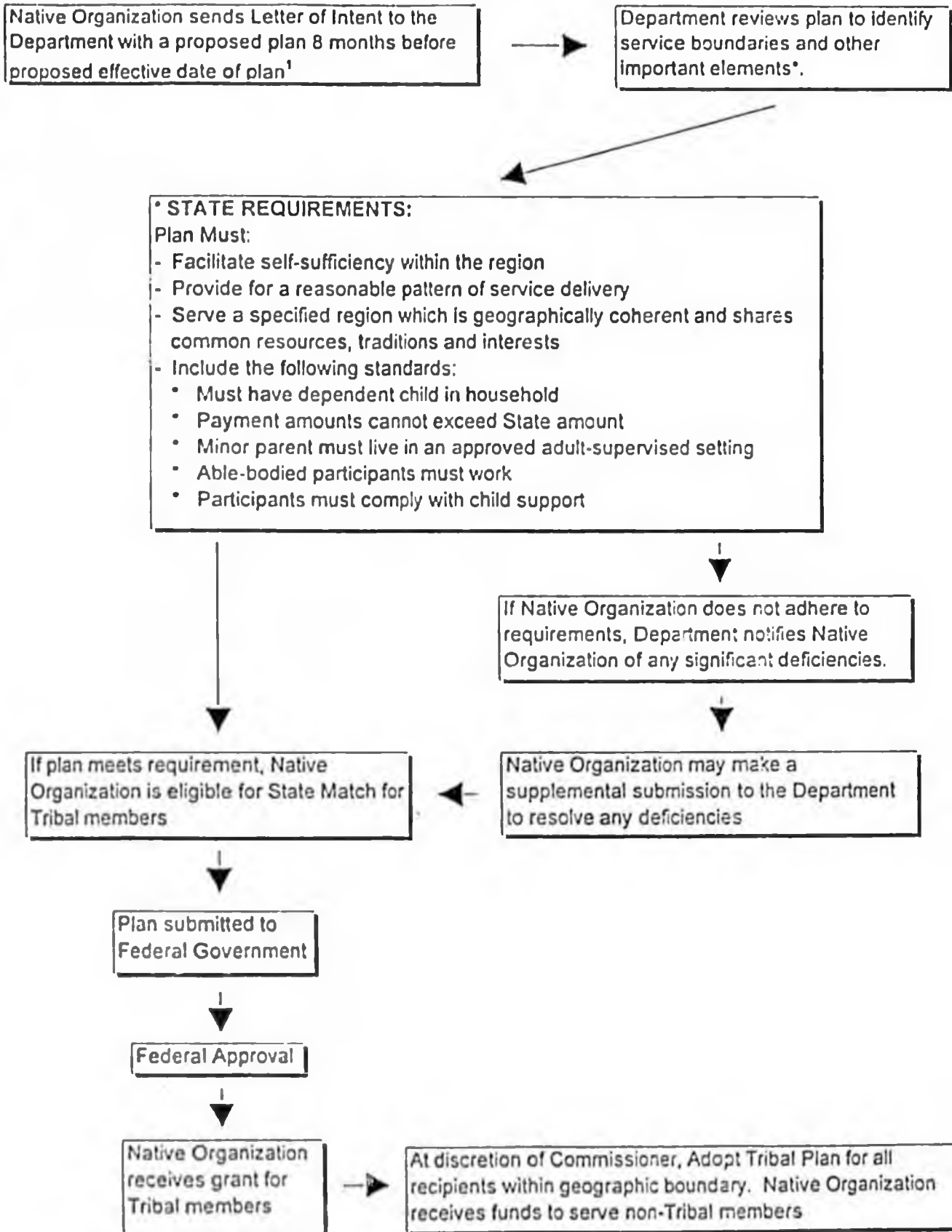
Additionally, this section provides that in the first year of a tribal assistance plan the State grant will represent a fair and equitable portion of the State appropriation for the State public assistance program administered by the department. For the second and subsequent years, the grant represents a fair and equitable portion of the State appropriations made for public assistance programs that is allocated for tribal family assistance grants.

This section also lists the specific requirements that must be included in the tribal plan if it is to be eligible for a state grant. Additionally, this section allows the Commissioner of the Department of Health and Social Services to require that non-tribal members be served through the tribal plan if doing so would be an efficient and cost-effective way to administer the State's public assistance program.

If the Commissioner designates the tribal plan to be the public assistance plan for all State residents within the service area, the Department will contract with the Native organization administering the tribal plan to provide a fair and equitable share of dollars appropriated to provide services to these recipients.

Section 6. This section defines "federally approved tribal family assistance plan" as a plan that meet requirements of Federal law and has been approved for funding by the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

Section 7. Establishes an immediate effective date.



¹ The Commissioner may waive the time deadline specified if the Commissioner:  
(1) Enters into a joint planning agreement between the department and the Native organization; or  
(2) finds good cause and the waiver is in the state's best interest.