

**HB**

**269**

# Alaska State Legislature

REPRESENTATIVE  
GENE THERRIAULT

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House District 33

## House Of Representatives

### REQUEST FOR HEARING

**To:** Representative Fred Dyson, Chairman  
House Health, Education & Social Services Committee

**Subject:** HB 269

**Sponsor:** Representative Gene Therriault 

**Date:** February 22, 2000

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I would like to respectfully request that HB 269 be scheduled for a hearing before the House Health, Education & Social Services Committee.

House Bill 269 establishes an 18-month pilot project to study the use of videotaping of interviews with children who are alleged to have been abused or neglected. The project would begin no later than January 21, 2001 in a municipality with a population no less than 40,000 and no more than 150,000 selected by the Department of Health & Social Services. The Department would be required to submit an interim report to the Legislature in January of 2002 and a final report in January 2003 that would outline the problems encountered, benefits discovered and other information relevant to whether the videotaping requirement should be implemented statewide.

I am aware that another bill dealing with videotaping interviews, House Bill 256, is also currently in the House HESS Committee. It is my understanding that that bill is accompanied by a \$3.1 million fiscal note. I believe a pilot project as proposed in my bill could be structured to avoid most of these costs while providing valuable information on the feasibility of this requirement. I would welcome the opportunity to testify on HB 269 in tandem with HB 256 to compare the relative merits of both bills.

Although I am the prime sponsor of HB 269, I will defer to the Committee's discretion on how best to advance discussion on and implementation of this concept. I am more than willing to consider any proposed change to HB 269 to tighten the language or shorten the implementation or study time. I am also not opposed to working this issue through a different bill.

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House District 33

## House Of Representatives

### House Bill 269

**Sponsor: Representative Gene Therriault**

### Sponsor Statement

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House Bill 269 establishes an 18-month pilot project to study the use of videotaping of interviews with children who are alleged to have been abused or neglected. The project would begin no later than January 21, 2001 in the Fairbanks North Star Borough. The Department would be required to submit an interim report to the Legislature in January of 2002 and a final report in January 2003 that would outline the problems encountered, benefits discovered and other information relevant to whether the videotaping requirement should be implemented statewide.

The bill provides an exception to the videotaping requirement if "it is determined that an interview is immediately necessary because of exigent circumstances or that, due to extraordinary circumstances, videotaping equipment is unavailable or inoperable." In addition, the bill provides that the failure to videotape an interview of a child does not affect the admissibility of the interview, or the authority or ability of a state or municipal law enforcement or prosecution agency to use the interview or information obtained from it.

When this program has been considered on a statewide basis in the past, it has been accompanied by a fiscal note of up to \$2.1 million. House Bill 256, a bill mandating the use of videotapes in child abuse interviews that was introduced this year by Representative John Coghill, is accompanied by a \$3.1 million fiscal note. I believe a pilot project as proposed in my bill could be structured to avoid most of these costs while providing valuable information on the feasibility of this requirement. I believe that careful implementation of an interview videotaping system will discourage false allegations and allow us to focus scarce resources on true cases of child abuse.

# FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA  
2000 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB 269

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: Pilot Project for videotaping CINA interviews.

Dept. Affects: Health and Social Services  
BRU: Family and Youth Services  
Component: Front Line Social Workers  
COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 2305  
See also (SN#): \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor: Rep. Therriault  
Requestor: House (HES)

Expenditures/Revenues: (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING	FY2001	FY2002	FY2003	FY2004	FY2005	FY2006
PERSONAL SERVICES	300.2	300.2				
TRAVEL	5.0	5.0				
CONTRACTUAL	114.7	158.0	50.0			
SUPPLIES	6.5	6.5				
EQUIPMENT	50.7	1.8				
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>477.1</b>	<b>471.6</b>	<b>50.0</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						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF	477.1	471.6	50.0			
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 G.F./Mental Health						
Other (please specify)						
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>477.1</b>	<b>471.6</b>	<b>50.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

Estimate of any current year (FY2000) cost: \$0.0


**POSITIONS:**

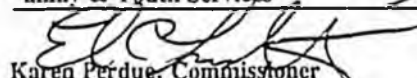
FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY	7	7	0			

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

Program Effects: If adequately funded, DFYS does not oppose this pilot as a means of ascertaining the efficacy as well as the programmatic and fiscal costs of videotaping interviews with children. This pilot is particularly useful because it allows for exigent circumstances (which can cause some interviews to be immediately necessary) and because it recognizes that extraordinary circumstances may cause equipment unavailability or failure. The pilot appropriately provides that failure to videotape should not result in an inability to proceed to act on the information obtained.

Costs of even a pilot program will be significant. In order to perform effective interviews, DFYS will be required to use two persons in every investigation, since fixed cameras and tripods are not effective or accurate for videotaping children, who frequently squirm and move around during interview sessions. Additional staff will need for taping interviews as well as managing (organizing, cataloging, storing, retrieving, and copying) the large number of videotapes that will accumulate. To be effective, the pilot must provide the resources to maintain a valid control group. Sufficient resources must be made available to enable DFYS to commit a high quality of effort to the evaluation and the reporting components of the pilot as well.

Prepared by: Theresa Tanoury, Director  Phone: 465-3191  
Division: Family & Youth Services Date/Time: 2/25/00 3:39 PM

gjs  
Approved by Commissioner: Karen Perdue, Commissioner  Date: 2/28/00  
Agency: Department of Health & Social Services

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**ANALYSIS (cont.):**

## Key assumptions used in fiscal analysis:

- 1) Videotaping Pilot Project to be conducted in the DFYS Fairbanks Field Office. The Fairbanks area was selected because it meets the population requirements stipulated in the bill and the Fairbanks Field office has the second highest level of Reports of Harm in the state (behind Anchorage) providing for a large caseload population and sample size for the Pilot Project.
- 2) Half of the cases assigned for investigation in the Fairbanks Field Office will be videotaped with the remainder (the control group) investigated using standard practice (not taped) based on 1,725 total estimated cases assigned.
- 3) Pilot Project to be implemented prior to January 1, 2001. Social Services Associate (SSA) positions to be hired prior to implementation date for training and possible early implementation.
- 4) 7 new SSA III's (Range 12) will be needed to assist in taping interviews and managing the videotapes (organizing, cataloging, storing, retrieving and copying). Positions to be maintained for two fiscal years to provide for the 18-month pilot project, training (videotaping, archiving, division policies and procedures, etc.) and pilot program development period. The 7 SSA III's would be assigned to work with approximately 12 Social Workers (8 Social Workers from the Intake Unit and 4 from the Ongoing Unit). Seven SSA's are needed because interviews will take place in multiple locations (i.e., schools, homes, hospitals, etc.) and multiple interviews may occur simultaneously.
- 5) Pilot Project evaluation reports: Written Interim Report due to the Legislature in January 2002. Final report due to Legislature January 2003. DFYS would contract with an independent consultant to prepare these reports.

	<u>FY2001</u>	<u>FY2002</u>	<u>FY2003</u>
<b>71000: Personal Services</b>			
7 New Social Services Associate III positions Range 12:	300.2	300.2	
<b>72000: Travel</b>	5.0	5.0	
<b>73000: Contractual</b>			
Transcription (Based on 50% of 1,725 assigned investigations).	69.0	69.0	
Language Translation for Videotapes (10%)	12.1	12.1	
Archiving Videotapes	0.2	0.2	
Pilot Project Evaluation (taped vs. non-taped control group)		50.0	50.0
Training (2 trainers for 3 days training)	9.0	2.3	
Repair/Maintenance of Equipment:	1.7	1.7	
Office space for new employees:	21.8	21.8	
Telephone service for new employee:	<u>0.9</u>	<u>0.9</u>	-
	114.7	158.0	50.0
<b>74000: Supplies</b>			
Videotapes (Based on 50% of 1,725 investigations @ \$3.50 per tape)	3.0	3.0	
Office supplies for new employees:	<u>3.5</u>	<u>3.5</u>	-
	6.5	6.5	0.0
<b>75000: Equipment</b>			
Video Cameras (\$650 per unit)	5.9		
Carrying Cases (\$250 per unit)	2.3		
Tripods (\$75 per unit)	0.7		
VCR's (\$125 per VCR)	1.1		
Monitors (\$250 per monitor)	2.3		
Computers for new employees:	21.0		
Telephone for new employees:	3.5		
Desk/Chair for new employees:	14.0		
Equipment Replacment (15% per year)	-	<u>1.8</u>	-
<b>Sub-total Equipment:</b>	50.7	1.8	0.0
<b>Total Lines 100-500:</b>	477.1	471.6	50.0

# FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA  
2000 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB 269

Revision Date		Dept. Affected	Public Safety
Title	VIDEOTAPING OF INTERVIEWS WITH	BRU	Alaska State Trooper Detachments
CHILDREN		Component:	Alaska State Trooper Detachments
Sponsor	Representative Theriault		
Requester	House HESS Committee	Component No.	2325

**Expenditures/Revenues** (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>						

<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
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<b>CHANGE IN REVENUES ( )</b>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
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**FUND SOURCE** (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type)						
<b>TOTAL</b>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2000) cost: 0.0

**POSITIONS**

Full-time	0	0	0	0	0	0
Part-time	0	0	0	0	0	0
Temporary	0	0	0	0	0	0

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

This bill is not expected to have an adverse impact on the budget.

Prepared by: <u>Royce Weller / Special Assistant</u>	Phone <u>465-4322</u>
Division: <u>Office of the Commissioner</u>	Date/Time <u>2/29/2000</u>
Approved by: _____	Date <u>2/29/00</u>
Agency: <u>Commissioner Ronald L. Otte, Dept. of Public Safety</u>	

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