

SB

84

FISCAL NOTE

No. 1

STATE OF ALASKA
1999 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Bill Version: SB84
(S) Publish Date: 2/19/99

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction)	Dept. Affected	Law
Title " ... to a settlement agreement between certain tobacco product manufacturers and the state ..."	BRU	Civil Division
Sponsor Rules Committee	Component	Fair Business Practices
Requester Governor	Component Serial No.	2206

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

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

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ()						
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FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

FUND SOURCE	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005
1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type)						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY99) cost: _____

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This legislation implements a provision of the Master Settlement Agreement (MSA) between 46 states, including Alaska, and certain United States tobacco product manufacturers. That agreement, which was a final settlement of the states' litigation with the major tobacco manufacturers, was signed on November 23, 1998. Under the terms of the settlement, Alaska will receive \$670 million over the next 25 years to help offset the financial burdens imposed on the state by cigarette smoking. In addition to the monetary provisions, the settlement requires fundamental and far-ranging changes in the tobacco industry's business practices, advertising, and marketing.

This legislation, referred to in the MSA as the "model (or qualifying) statute," creates a reserve fund for nonparticipating manufacturers to pay future claims and is intended to level the playing field between the manufacturers who participated in the MSA (or sign on to it in the future) and those who did not. It is intended to neutralize the cost

Prepared by <u>Joan M. Kasson</u>	Phone <u>465-5370</u>
Division <u>Attorney General's Office</u>	Date/Time <u>2/8/99, 8:37 AM</u>
Approved by Commissioner <u>Bruce M. Botelho</u> , Attorney General	Date <u>2/8/99</u>
Agency <u>Department of Law</u>	

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ANALYSIS CONTINUATION

disadvantages that the participating manufacturers experience (relative to the nonparticipating manufacturers) as a result of the MSA. It requires the nonparticipating manufacturers that sell tobacco products in the state and are not signators of the MSA to establish escrow accounts to pay for qualified claims for health-related concerns tied to their sales of tobacco products in the state.

Alaska does not need to pass the model/qualifying statute in order to receive payments under the Master Settlement Agreement, but failure to enact it could result in a significant reduction (as much as 65 percent) in the state's allotment under the agreement in the future. If a state does not pass the model statute, the MSA provides for an adjustment to that state's payments if the participating manufacturers, as a result of the marketing restrictions, payments, and other restrictions in the settlement, experience a disadvantage and lose market share for sales of their tobacco products to nonparticipating manufacturers. However, under the terms of the MSA, if a state passes the model statute and enforces it, it will be exempt from any payment reductions, even if the settlement was a significant factor contributing to the participating manufacturers' loss of market share.

Under terms of the legislation, a tobacco product manufacturer selling cigarettes in the state must either become a participating manufacturer or place a set amount into an escrow account for each unit sold in the state. The Commissioner of Revenue will be responsible for receiving certification that the manufacturer is in compliance with the terms of the legislation, and the Attorney General will be responsible for bringing a civil action against a non-complying manufacturer. It is impossible to predict whether nonparticipating manufacturers will enter the Alaska market and whether there will be a need for the Attorney General to take legal action against companies that do not comply with the terms of the statute. At this time, however, we do not anticipate additional costs related to enforcing the legislation.

FISCAL NOTE

No. 2
 Bill Version: SB84
 (S) Publish Date: 2/19/99

STATE OF ALASKA
 1999 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction) _____ Dept. Affected Revenue
 Title Federal Government Tobacco Settlement BRU Revenue Operations
 Component Income and Excise Audit
 Sponsor RLS
 Requester Governor Component Serial No. 113

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

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

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ()	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)						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of current year (FY99) cost: 0.0

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

See attachment.

Prepared by Tim Cottongim, Appeals Officer *Tim Cottongim* Phone 465-3695
 Division Income and Excise Audit Date/Time February 5, 1999
 Approved by Wilson L. Condon *Wilson L. Condon* Date February 5, 1999
 Commissioner _____
 Agency Department of Revenue

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SB84
#2

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE
Income and Excise Audit Division

Cigarette Escrow Account
Draft 1-GB1036.A
February 5, 1999
Page 2 of 2

BILL ANALYSIS

Section 1 describes the health consequences from smoking cigarettes, and the state's obligation to provide and pay for medical assistance to and for persons with health conditions associated with cigarette smoking. This section holds the tobacco product manufacturers responsible for the financial burdens imposed on the state by cigarette smoking, describes the Master Settlement Agreement reached with the leading tobacco product manufacturers, and discusses the intent of this legislation, which is to prevent non-signatory manufacturers from deriving short-term profits and from becoming judgement-proof before liability arises.

Section 2 requires non-signatory manufacturers selling cigarettes in the state to either participate in the Master Settlement Agreement or place into a qualified escrow account by April 15 of each year an established amount for each cigarette sold in the state in the prior year. Funds in escrow will only be released: 1) to pay judgements or settlements from claims brought against the non-signatory manufacturer, 2) to the non-signatory manufacturer if payments placed in escrow exceed what would have been paid if the non-signatory manufacturer participated in the Master Settlement Agreement, or 3) to the non-signatory manufacturer after 25 years from the date of deposit. This section directs non-signatory manufacturers selling cigarettes in the state to certify that they are in compliance with the escrow requirements, and provides for civil actions if they fail to comply.

Section 3 establishes an immediate effective date.


OPERATING EXPENDITURES

This bill will require the Department of Revenue to revise its tax forms to allow verification of the name of each manufacturer whose cigarettes are being sold in the state. We believe the costs of new forms and the accompanying data capture and computer program modifications can be absorbed into the existing budget.

REVENUE

This Act provides no new revenue to the state.

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February 19, 1999

The Honorable Drue Pearce
Senate President
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear President Pearce:

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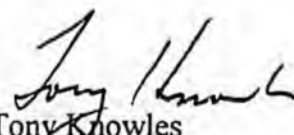
Cigarette smoking presents serious public health concerns to the state and its citizens. Recently, this Administration, along with virtually every other state, reached a monumental master settlement agreement with the leading tobacco producers. That agreement was approved by the Alaska Superior Court on February 9, 1999. Under the terms of the settlement, it is anticipated the State of Alaska will receive \$670 million over the next 25 years and will benefit from important restrictions on advertising and other matters to address public health concerns.

While this is an important step forward in addressing this significant health problem, the states that are parties to the agreement wanted to be sure the problem was more comprehensively addressed. This bill I transmit today would help do that by placing some requirements on tobacco product manufacturers who sell cigarettes in the state but do not sign the settlement agreement.

Under this bill, the non-participating tobacco manufacturers will take responsibility for their share of the financial burden caused by their products by setting up escrow accounts to cover qualified claims for health-related concerns. The availability of the escrow money will better ensure a source of compensation for Alaskans while preventing those manufacturers from deriving large, short-term profits from sales in this state and then becoming judgment-proof before liability may arise. This bill is fair and puts all tobacco product manufacturers on an equal footing regarding cigarette sales in Alaska.

I urge your prompt and favorable action on this bill, as part of an overall solution to address this major public health concern.

Sincerely,


Tony Knowles
Governor

PRESENTATION ON TOBACCO ISSUES

Alaska Department of Law
to
Senate HESS Committee
Hearing on SJR 7 and SB 84

March 10, 1999

INTRODUCTION

During the past two years, the Knowles administration, with the help of the Alaska Legislature, has addressed the problems caused by tobacco and the challenge of limiting access on a number of fronts. Our joint efforts have included legislation to increase taxes on tobacco products, measures to limit youth access to tobacco, stepped-up enforcement activities, and, of course, litigation and participation in the national settlement with the industry. The Department of Law's efforts have been closely coordinated with the Alaska Departments of Health and Social Services and Revenue, local tobacco control groups, and other state attorneys general.

ENFORCEMENT OF TOBACCO VENDOR AND TAX LAWS

- **TOBACCO VENDOR ENFORCEMENT (STING OPERATIONS):** During 1997 and 1998, the Department of Law ("Law") worked closely with the Anchorage and Juneau Police Departments to coordinate enforcement and prosecution of tobacco vendors that sold tobacco products to persons under 19. Law plans to work with the Fairbanks Department of Public Safety and Fairbanks City Attorney's Office during the early spring to emphasize enforcement of state tobacco laws.
 - Last month Law announced a settlement related to tobacco business licensing litigation with 9 vendors operating a total of 11 stores (5 in Anchorage and 6 in Juneau). The vendors agreed to a settlement that required: (1) a three-day suspension of their tobacco licenses, (2) that they re-train all of their tobacco sales clerks in stores where violations occurred, and (3) that vendors make contributions totaling more than \$50,000 to a statewide youth tobacco prevention television campaign. This television campaign will air statewide for a month this spring.
- **STATE SALES TAX ENFORCEMENT:** State law requires any person who causes cigarettes to be brought into the state for personal consumption or resale to obtain a license from the Alaska Department of Revenue and pay the

appropriate taxes. A federal law known as the "Jenkins Act" requires persons shipping cigarettes into Alaska to provide the state with a list identifying the recipients. With the growth of Internet sales, the Alaska Departments of Law and Revenue have worked closely with the federal Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms investigators and U.S. Attorney's Office to vigorously pursue illegal cigarette shipments. Investigations are currently underway, and additional investigations are likely.

- **EFFECTS OF TOBACCO TAX INCREASE:** In 1997 the Alaska Legislature adopted the nation's highest tax on tobacco products, \$1 per pack on cigarettes and 75 percent of the wholesale price on other tobacco products. According to a recent study released by the Departments of Health and Social Services and Revenue, taxable consumption of cigarettes has declined 17 percent since the tax went into effect. Although it will take several years to collect enough data to complete an analysis of the impact of the tax increase on tobacco consumption by youth and adults, the decline in consumption is viewed as a positive result of the increase in taxes. In addition, the monthly revenue from tobacco taxes has risen from \$1.5 million to \$4.3 million, a 190 percent increase, since the tax was raised.

LITIGATION AND THE NATIONAL SETTLEMENT

- **ALASKA'S LITIGATION:** In April 1997, Alaska filed suit against the major tobacco manufacturers based on state consumer protection and antitrust laws. The suit was scheduled to go to trial in February 2000.
- **NATIONAL SETTLEMENT:** On November 23, 1998, after extended negotiations, the State of Alaska and 45 other states reached a final settlement of litigation with the tobacco industry – Mississippi, Texas, Florida, and Minnesota had already settled their lawsuits. The settlement, which was approved by the Juneau Superior Court on February 9, 1999, ends the State's litigation with the industry. The settlement will mean payments of nearly \$670 million to Alaska over the next 25 years, starting in FY 2000.
- **PUBLIC HEALTH TERMS:** The significant public health terms of the settlement require: bans on marketing to youth; changes in corporate culture; disbanding trade associations; lobbying restrictions; opening industry research; and creation of a national teen smoking foundation and public education fund. The full settlement agreement is available at www.naag.org on the Internet.
- **THE PAYMENT STREAM:** The State of Alaska does not need to pass any legislation to receive payments under the settlement. However, legislation is required to protect Alaska's payments from the rather remote possibility of a nonparticipating manufacturer reduction, which is discussed in more detail below. The State also needs protection against attempts by HCFA (the federal Health Care Finance Administration) to recoup a portion of the state's funds, as will also be discussed below.

Under terms of the settlement agreement, Alaska will receive the following payments:

PAYMENTS TO ALASKA		
under		
SETTLEMENT OF TOBACCO LITIGATION		
	Date of Payment	Amount of Payment
Up-front Payment	between April 1999 and June 2000 (depending on actions of other states)	\$8,194,049.54
Annual Payments	between April and June 2000	\$21,890,915.46
	April 2001	\$23,638,672.09
	April 2002	\$28,383,145.58
	April 2003	\$28,651,761.36
	April 2004	\$23,912,967.90
	April 2005	\$23,912,967.90
	April 2006	\$23,912,967.90
	April 2007	\$23,912,967.90
	April 2008	\$24,387,539.93
	April 2009	\$24,387,539.93
	April 2010	\$24,387,539.93
	April 2011	\$24,387,539.93
	April 2012	\$24,387,539.93
	April 2013	\$24,387,539.93
	April 2014	\$24,387,539.93
	April 2015	\$24,387,539.93
	April 2016	\$24,387,539.93
	April 2017	\$24,387,539.93
	April 2018	\$27,327,155.20
	April 2019	\$27,327,155.20
	April 2020	\$27,327,155.20
	April 2021	\$27,327,155.20
	April 2022	\$27,327,155.20
	April 2023	\$27,327,155.20
	April 2024	\$27,327,155.20
	April 2025	\$27,327,155.20
	TOTAL	\$668,903,056.53

- **TIMING OF UP-FRONT PAYMENT:** On December 28, 1998, the tobacco companies paid an up-front payment into escrow as part of the agreement. No legislation is required for Alaska to receive its up-front payment, which will be disbursed to Alaska only when 80 percent of the states' lawsuits are dismissed without any appeal, or on June 30, 2000, whichever comes first. Right now, there are appeals in California and New York, so the anticipated receipt of the up-front payment will probably come closer to June 30, 2000.
- **TIMING OF ANNUAL PAYMENTS:** The first annual payment will be available no later than June 30, 2000. No legislation is required for Alaska to receive its annual payments. Alaska's first annual payment could come as early as April 2000, if 80 percent of the states' lawsuits are dismissed without any appeal, but in any case will be made no later than June 30, 2000. Beginning in 2001, the annual payments will be made to the state on April 15 each year.
- **ATTORNEYS' FEES:** The State of Alaska was represented in the tobacco litigation by the law firm of Hagens & Berman, which represented all the Northwest states. The settlement agreement allows the state's outside counsel to seek payment from the tobacco companies without affecting Alaska's share of the settlement. Hagens & Berman requested reimbursement directly from the tobacco companies, which agreed to pay \$10 million as full payment for the firm's representation of Alaska. This payment did not affect Alaska's share of the settlement. However, when compared to the state's settlement of \$668,903,056.53, the Hagens & Berman fee is approximately 1.5 percent.

THREAT TO SETTLEMENT FROM HCFA

- **FEDERAL RECOUPMENT:** The U.S. Health Care Finance Administration (HCFA) has taken the position that as much as half of the funds recovered through the national settlement are subject to the agency's right of recoupment. HCFA apparently bases its position on an interpretation of §1903(d)(2)(A-B) of the Social Security Act, which states that reimbursements to a state by a third party are "overpayments" from which HCFA may claim a pro-rata share.
 - The agency's position is based on the assumption that the state was specifically suing to collect state and federal dollars under a Medicaid reimbursement theory. One estimate shows that HCFA's interpretation of §1903(d) could result in a loss to the State of Alaska of \$400 million over 25 years. The Department of Law is working through Alaska's congressional delegation and other states to solve this problem, and it will defend the state's right to settlement funds in court if necessary. HCFA has represented

that it will assert its claim against annual state payments beginning after the Year 2000 payment.

- **ALASKA'S RESPONSE TO THREAT: Alaska's Objectives** - The State had four primary objectives when it brought suit against the tobacco industry: (1) to end the industry's targeting of Alaska's children as new consumers for its products; (2) to force the industry to disclose the harmful effects of smoking and decades of research demonstrating that tobacco kills; (3) to thwart the industry's apparent efforts to prevent the development of a safer product; and (4) to require the industry to pay for the harm it already has caused and, in the future, fund public health programs directed at alleviating the related public health concerns.
- **Alaska Sued to Protect Alaskans:** Alaska brought suit to protect Alaskans and to protect the fiscal integrity of the state's Medicaid program against future smoking-related treatment costs. Unlike other states, Alaska did not specifically plead a federal Medicaid recoupment claim in state superior court. Collecting federal dollars is the responsibility of HCFA and the U.S. Department of Justice. The U.S. Department of Justice declined to sue the tobacco industry on behalf of HCFA, and HCFA provided no support to the states during the litigation.
 - **First Proposed Settlement and Congress vs. State Settlement:** The first settlement was signed by the states and tobacco industry on June 20, 1997. It called for the tobacco industry to make payments to the states and fund federal enforcement programs totaling \$368.5 billion over 25 years. This settlement also required congressional approval, which did not occur. Accordingly, the states returned to litigation and resumed negotiations with the industry on their own. The litigation and resumed negotiations resulted in the second state settlement of November 23, 1998. HCFA could have acted along with the states to protect its rights during the second settlement process, but chose not to.
 - **Use of Settlement Funds:** A key provision of the McCain Bill in the 105th Congress provided that if states directed 50 percent of the settlement money (of the proposed 1997 settlement) to supplement but not supplant existing health care programs, HCFA could not assert its claim for recoupment. Although the McCain Bill did not pass and the states take the position that all settlement dollars are state funds, many states are abiding by the provisions of the McCain Bill (spending no less than 50 percent to supplement health care-related programs) to protect against recoupment by the federal government. Governor Knowles' proposal for spending tobacco settlement proceeds on annualized payments for Head Start, Healthy Families, and tobacco prevention programs will provide a strong argument against recoupment by HCFA.

- **Recent Development: SB 346:** On February 3, 1999, U.S. Senator Frank Murkowski and U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchinson co-sponsored SB 346. SB 346 would protect all the states' settlement dollars from HCFA's attempted recoupment.

LEGISLATION

- **MODEL STATUTE:** The state is not required to pass the model statute included in the settlement to receive settlement payments. However, if the state does not pass the model statute, the state will risk a possible reduction in payments under the nonparticipating manufacturers' payment (NPM) reduction formula of the settlement. The settlement provides for an adjustment to the state's payments if the participating manufacturers experience a disadvantage and lose market share for sales of their tobacco products to other nonparticipating manufacturers as a result of the marketing restrictions, payments, and other restrictions in the settlement agreement.
- **NPM Risk Low In Alaska** - At this point, the risk to Alaska of a nonparticipating manufacturer reduction is minimal, given that many of the very small tobacco product manufacturers have decided to sign on to the settlement, which reduces the risk that they will take market share away from the largest companies. The risk is further lowered by the fact that the small tobacco products manufacturers only represent 1-2 percent of the U.S. market, making it unlikely that sales of their products will trigger the nonparticipating manufacturer reductions.
- **NPM Risk Can Be Eliminated** - The risk of nonparticipating manufacturer reductions can be eliminated by passage of the model statute (SB 84/HB 102). Under the terms of the settlement agreement, if the state passes the model statute and enforces it, the state will be exempt from any payment reductions even if the settlement was a significant factor contributing to the participating manufacturers' loss of market share.

CONCLUSION

In the upcoming months, Law will be working closely with the Alaska Departments of Revenue and Health and Social Services, and the federal Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms investigators to assure full compliance with state tax laws. Law is also working closely at the direction of the governor with members of Alaska's congressional delegation to protect the state settlement from HCFA.

*Prepared by Alaska Department of Law
March 7, 1999*

LEGISLATION TO ACCOMPANY TOBACCO SETTLEMENT

"MODEL STATUTE" – HB 102/SB 84

The Tobacco Settlement: The tobacco manufacturers that participated in the November 23, 1998, settlement with the states represent over 98 percent of the tobacco manufacturing industry. The participating manufacturers agreed to make payments to the state for their violations of state law and to restrict their marketing practices. Alaska's payments over 25 years will total nearly \$670 million. No legislation to approve the terms of the settlement is required. However, the Master Settlement Agreement (MSA) contemplates important legislation, referred to as the "Model Statute," to assure that all manufacturers of tobacco products are accountable to Alaskans for potential future costs associated with their tobacco sales in the state.

Overview of the Model Statute Legislation: The settlement contemplates that all states will pass a model statute, with the goal being to provide assurances that all companies that sell tobacco products, including those that did not participate in the settlement, are financially capable of fulfilling their economic obligations, if any, to citizens and to the states. The model statute will give all tobacco manufacturers that sell their products in a state the option to either 1) sign on to the settlement agreement or 2) establish an escrow account and pay into that account at a stated rate per unit of tobacco sold in the state. The rates are proportional to the payments to be made by the participating manufacturers under the settlement. In other words, a tobacco manufacturer that did not participate in the settlement agreement could not get around the restrictions in the settlement and sell its products in Alaska with impunity, leaving either individual Alaskans, or the state, to pay the costs of treating resulting illnesses.

In addition, passage of the model statute legislation will protect the state's annual payments from a potential, but unlikely, Non-Participating Manufacturer Adjustment (see explanation below).

This statute was the subject of extensive and difficult negotiations, including discussions on whether the statute would survive legal challenges. The statute was reviewed by a number of antitrust and constitutional law experts who opined that this statute would survive legal challenge. Except for a few minor procedural changes, SB 84 and HB 102 are identical to the Model Statute provided in Exhibit T of the MSA.

Importance of Model Statute: Alaska is not required to pass the model statute to receive payments under the terms of the settlement. However, if Alaska does not pass the model statute, it will risk a reduction in payments under the Non-Participating Manufacturer (NPM) Adjustment formula of the settlement. Passing and enforcing the model statute will protect against such a reduction.

The settlement provides for an adjustment to a state's payments if the participating manufacturers experience a disadvantage and lose in-state market share for sales of their tobacco products to non-participating manufacturers as a result of the marketing restrictions, payments, and other provisions in the settlement agreement. However, each state has a safe haven from the application of the reduction formula: if it passes the model statute and enforces it, the state will be exempt from any payment reductions even if the settlement was a significant factor contributing to the participating manufacturers' loss of market share. Indeed, even if a court were to find the statute unconstitutional, the maximum NPM Adjustment Alaska would have to bear is 65% of the payment in any particular year. Without the passage of the statute, the maximum NPM Adjustment would be 100%.

Sectional Analysis

Section One: Section One is the findings and purpose section of the model statute legislation. Section One identifies tobacco as a serious public health problem in Alaska and discusses the burden that treating tobacco-related illnesses places on the State of Alaska. This section also establishes that it is the policy of the State of Alaska that tobacco product manufacturers—not the state or its citizens—bear the financial costs of treating smoking-related illnesses. Section One establishes the need to prevent other non-participating manufacturers from reaping short-term profits in Alaska, while leaving the state and its citizens without any financial protection from the known harms related to cigarette smoking. Finally, Section One identifies the purpose of the model statute legislation as the implementation of the November 23, 1998, MSA.

Section Two: Section Two amends Alaska Statutes, Title 45, by adding Chapter 53, which is entitled "Cigarette Sales."

Sec. 45.53.010 recognizes the MSA entered into between the State of Alaska, and the Participating Manufacturers in *State v. Philip Morris*, 1JU-97-915 CI.

Sec. 45.53.020 requires that all tobacco product manufacturers do one of two things: (1) participate in the MSA, or (2) establish an escrow account and place dollars into that account at a stated rate per unit sold in this state. The rates are calculated to be equivalent to the rates paid by the Subsequent Participating Manufacturers (tobacco companies that signed the MSA after it was signed by the four original participating manufacturers) pursuant to the MSA. The changes in the rates also mirror the changes in the MSA annual payments on a per unit basis.

A manufacturer who places funds in escrow is entitled to withdraw interest or other earnings from the account as they are earned. The principal deposited in escrow can be released from escrow only:

1. to pay a judgment or settlement on any claim brought by the State or a party located in or residing in Alaska;
2. if the manufacturer establishes that the amount it would have paid the State had it participated in the MSA is less than the amount the manufacturer is required to place in escrow. In this case the manufacturer is allowed to withdraw the excess from the escrow; or
3. if the funds have remained in escrow for a period of 25 years from the date of payment.

Sec. AS 45.53.030 requires the commissioner of revenue to adopt regulations under the Administrative Procedure Act necessary to determine the volume of cigarettes manufactured by a tobacco product manufacturer that enter Alaska for sale in the state based on the amount of excise taxes paid. This will allow the commissioner of revenue to determine whether a tobacco manufacturer that does not sign the Master Settlement Agreement is making the appropriate deposits into the escrow account provided under AS 45.53.020.

Sec. AS 45.53.040 provides for auditing by the Alaska Department of Revenue of payments into escrow required by a tobacco manufacturer and enforcement by the Alaska Department of Law. This section provides for different levels of penalties against a tobacco manufacturer that fails to make the required deposits into escrow. If enforcement by the department of law is required and

the state prevails in an action brought under this section, the court may award the department full reasonable attorney's fees.

Sec. AS 45.53.990 sets forth the definitions. Many of the bill's definitions incorporate by reference the definitions in the MSA. This was done to avoid any confusion between the two documents, and to prevent this legislation from being overly lengthy. The MSA is a public document approved by the Juneau Superior Court on February 9, 1999, in the case of *State of Alaska v. Philip Morris*, 1JU-97-915 CI. A complete copy of the MSA can be found at www.naag.org on the Internet.

Consequences If the Legislature Does Not Pass the Model Statute

It is important to note that the State of Alaska is **not** required to pass the model statute legislation. The MSA and the Consent Decree will remain in force and effect regardless of legislative action on this bill. However passage of this statute will help protect public health and will protect the state settlement payments from a possible draconian and dramatic reduction. The MSA provides for an adjustment to state payments if the disadvantages experienced as a result of the MSA are a significant factor contributing to the participating manufacturers' loss of market share, i.e., the "Non-Participating Manufacturer Adjustment" (NPM Adjustment) found on page 58, at Section IX (d), of the MSA

To illustrate the potential impact of the NPM Adjustment, assume the following hypothetical situation:

1. In 2003 the Original Participating Manufacturers' (as defined at Section II (hh) of the MSA) (OPMs) market share was reduced from 97.5% in 1997 to 93.5%;
2. The OPMs shipped fewer cigarettes into the United States and Puerto Rico in 2003 than they shipped in 1997;
3. The MSA was a "significant factor" contributing to the market share loss;
4. All states except Alaska, California, Colorado, and Wyoming have adopted a Model Statute; and
5. The year for which payments are being calculated is 2004.

Alaska's payments based on the above hypothetical would be calculated as follows if the state had not passed the model statute:

Step One: Calculate the total dollars to be adjusted. In this hypothetical the loss of market share for which an adjustment is required is 2%. That 2% is calculated by subtracting the 2003 market share of 93.5% from the 1997 market share of 97.5% for a total market share loss of 4%; however, the first 2% of the total market share loss is not counted as part of the NPM Adjustment calculations. Then multiply the 2% market share loss times 3, resulting in a total percentage adjustment of 6%. (Note: under the MSA each 1% loss in market share results in a 3% reduction until the loss in market share reaches 16 2/3%, at which time the percentage reduction is calculated at a variable ratio.)

The 2004 total annual payment of \$7,004,000,000.00 to all of the states is reduced by an NPM adjustment of 6%, or \$420,240,000.00.

Step Two: Allocate the \$420,240,000.00 among the four states that did not pass the Model Statute. The following illustrates the allocation method:

States	Allocation % Established in Exhibit A to the MSA	2004 payment without NPM adjustment	% share of NPM Adjustment	Total NPM Adjustment \$420,240,000.00	2004 adjusted Payments
CALIFORNIA	0.127639554	\$893,987,436.22	0.866846800	\$364,283,699.20	\$529,705,737.01
COLORADO	0.013708614	\$ 96,015,132.46	0.093100201	\$ 39,124,428.61	\$ 56,890,703.84
ALASKA	0.003414187	\$ 23,912,965.75	0.023186990	\$ 9,744,100.72	\$ 14,168,865.03
WYOMING	0.002483449	\$ 17,394,076.80	0.016866009	\$ 7,087,771.46	\$ 10,306,305.33
Totals	0.147245804	\$1,031,309,611.22	1.000000000	\$420,240,000.00	\$611,069,611.22

The "% share of NPM Adjustment" (fourth column above) is calculated pro rata based on the states' relative allocations given in Exhibit A to the MSA. For example, Alaska's allocation established in Exhibit A is .03414187% of the total allocation of the four states whose payments will be adjusted by the NPM Adjustment because they did not pass a Model Statute.

The NPM Adjustment is calculated each year. For instance, if the Participating Manufacturers continued to lose market share and the market share in 2005 remained at 93.5%, these four states would continue to experience an NPM Adjustment.