

**SB**

**302**

# FISCAL NOTE

**STATE OF ALASKA**  
**2002 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

Fiscal Note Number: 1  
Bill Version: SB 302  
( s ) Publish Date: 3/8/02

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): \_\_\_\_\_ Dept. Affected: Health & Social Services  
Title: DEFINITION OF MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL BRU: Community Mental Health Grants  
Component: Svcs/Chronically Mentally Ill

Sponsor: WILKEN  
Requestor: SENATE (HES) Component Number: 800

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

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

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
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>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>						
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<b>CHANGE IN REVENUES ( 0 )</b>						
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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—do not abbreviate)						
<b>TOTAL</b>						

Estimate of any current year (FY2002) cost: \_\_\_\_\_

Check this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2003 budget proposal:

**POSITIONS**

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

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

SB 302 changes the definition of Mental Health Professional (MHP) by adding the licensed disciplines of clinical social worker, marital and family therapist and professional counselor, and allowing experienced unlicensed master's level mental health graduates who are seeking licensure and are supervised by a licensed MHP, to do the work of a MHP. The bill increases access to mental health services to several different consumer populations by increasing the pool of prospective employees in a time of shortage. It also encourages licensure of experienced individuals which increases the quality and accountability of the professions serving vulnerable Alaskans.

No cost is identified with these changes.

Prepared by: Sarah Brinkley, Administrative Manager Phone 465-3167  
Division: Mental Health & DD Date/Time 02/27/2002  
Approved by: Elmer A. Lindstrom, Deputy Commissioner Date 02/28/2002  
Agency: Department of Health & Social Services

For distribution information, call the Governor's Legislative Office

**GARY WILKEN**

SENATOR  
West Fairbanks

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**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Senator Robin Taylor, Chairman  
Senate Judiciary Committee

FROM: Senator Gary Wilken

DATE: March 6, 2002

RE: Senate Bill 302 - Mental Health Professionals

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I respectfully request that Senate Bill 302, *Mental Health Professionals*, be scheduled for a hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Senate Bill 302 recognizes the growth in the clinical mental health profession and broadens the definition to include all qualified mental health experts. A more inclusive mental health professional definition increases the capacity of Alaska's mental health system to protect our youth and adults who are experiencing acute psychiatric crisis in our communities.

Thank you for your cooperation and assistance in scheduling a hearing.

Request for Hearing

**GARY WILKEN**

SENATOR  
West Fairbanks

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**Sponsor Statement**  
**Senate Bill 302 – Mental Health Professional Definition**

Senate Bill 302 recognizes the growth in the clinical mental health profession and broadens the "mental health professional" definition to include (1) a licensed clinical social worker, (2) a licensed marital and family therapist, and (3) a licensed professional counselor. The current Title 47 definition was written in 1986 prior to the passage of Alaska's licensing requirements governing these master level mental health clinicians.

A more inclusive mental health professional definition increases the capacity of the Alaska's mental health system to protect our youth and adults who are experiencing acute psychiatric crisis in our communities. Today, not enough mental health professionals are authorized under the current definition to respond to some critical public safety situations, particularly in rural Alaska. And yet there are hundreds of licensed professionals who are qualified to aid these Alaskans, but cannot, as they do not fall within the current statutory definition. Senate Bill 302 recognizes this problem and updates the Title 47 definition.

The expanded "mental health professional" definition, as stated in Senate Bill 302, increases the number of trained professionals who will be:

- Allowed to provide mental health treatment for prisoners
- Authorized to evaluate children and minors in custody to determine placement in residential treatment centers
- Required to report incidents of harm to vulnerable adults
- Allowed to conduct civil commitment evaluations

I respectfully request your consideration and support for Senate Bill 302.

**SPONSOR  
STATEMENT**