



# Representative Scott Jiu Wo Kawasaki

Alaska State Legislature

District 1 Fairbanks

February 23, 2017

## **SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS:**

Rep. Kawasaki, Chair	Rep. Saddler
Rep. Drummond	Rep. Talerico
Rep. Fansler	Rep. Westlake
Rep. Parish	Rep. Wilson
Rep. Rauscher	

## **SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS:**

The House Finance budget subcommittee for the Department of Public Safety held 4 meetings to discuss core services within the Department during the review of the FY18 Governor's Amended Budget.

## **RECCOMENDATIONS:**

The Chair of the House Finance Budget Subcommittee for the Department of Public Safety recommends that the House Finance Committee accept the Governor's FY18 budget with one Governor's amendment and two subcommittee amendments.

The FY18 budget **without** Governor or subcommittee amendment totals:

### **Fund Source:** (dollars are in thousands)

Unrestricted General Funds (UGF)	\$154,567.7
Designated general Funds (DGF)	8,851.4
Other Funds	15,098.0
Federal Funds	12,138.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$190,655.1</b>

The FY18 budget **with** recommended Governor's and subcommittee amendment totals:

### **Fund Source** (dollars are in thousands)

Unrestricted General Funds (UGF)	\$156,067.7
Designated general Funds (DGF)	8,351.4
Other Funds	15,098.0
Federal Funds	12,138.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$191,655.1</b>

The Unrestricted General Fund (UGF) difference from FY15 Management Plan to FY18 Governor's Amended Budget is an approximate reduction of \$17 million, a decrease of nearly 10 percent. From FY17 Management Plan, the FY18 Governor Amended Budget reflects a UGF decrease of approximately \$2 million, a decrease of 1.3 percent.

**Positions:**

Permanent Full-time	813
Permanent Part-time	18
Temporary	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>839</b>

**The following budget amendment proposals are submitted by the subcommittee chair to the House Finance Committee for consideration:**

- 1.) Adopt the Governor's Amendment to increase recidivism reduction (DGF) funding per fiscal note 31, SB91 SLA2016, for the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault by \$1,000.0.

Section 163 of SB 91 implements reforms identified and recommended by the Alaska Criminal Justice Commission (ACJC) in its Justice Reinvestment Report by adding uncodified language instructing the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (CDVSA) to create or expand community-based violence prevention programming and services for victims of a crime involving domestic violence or sexual assault.

This section was added in direct response to the concerns and concepts expressed during the Justice Reinvestment Initiative Victim Service Roundtables and interviews with victims. Victims and survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault, Alaska Native elders, victim service providers, system advocates and representatives from the criminal and civil justice systems agreed on ten recommendations to address violence prevention, services, and victims' rights. The recommendations were handed in the ACJC report.

This request for Year 2 funding (as estimated per Fiscal Note 31 associated with SB 91) brings funding to \$2 million. This is expected to fully fund the program in future years.

General discussion from some subcommittee members reflected a desire to know more about CDVSA and how their funding is appropriated. Executive Director Jayne Andreen informed the subcommittee that CDVSA does continue to apply for Federal grants and work on Community Surveys to assess their programs.

This proposal was forwarded without objection to the House Finance Committee.

- 2) Reject the Governor's Request for a UGF Fund Source Change using the proposed new Transportation Maintenance Fund.

An amendment was proposed to the Governor's FY18 budget request. The Transportation Maintenance Fund is intended for capital, operating, or maintenance of highways and highway infrastructure. This new fund source is more appropriately used in the Department of Transportation for highway maintenance rather than DPS for highway patrol activities.

Subcommittee members expressed general support for the Transportation Maintenance Fund being used by the Department of Transportation rather than the Department of Public Safety.

There were 6 yeas and 2 nays and the amendment proposal passed as a recommendation to the House Finance Committee.

- 3) Insert intent language for the Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety to prioritize a fully operational Village Public Safety Officer Program.

It is the intent of the Legislature that the Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety prioritize a fully operational Village Public Safety Officer program and expand the program to benefit additional rural areas.

While subcommittee members expressed their great appreciation of the VPSO program in general, there was concern that intent language would not be effective unless additional funding is allocated to the VPSO program. The sentiment was also expressed that the Department is already prioritizing VPSOs, so further intent language is not necessary.

There were 6 yeas and 2 nays, and the amendment proposal passed as a recommendation for the House Finance Committee.

### **OTHER INFORMATION:**

The subcommittee discussed a variety of issues throughout the subcommittee process. Presentations to the subcommittee included overviews of the Alaska State Troopers, the Alaska Wildlife Troopers, the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, the Village Public Safety Officer Program, and Alaska's Forensic Laboratory.

There was an amendment proposal that was not brought forward since the Department of Revenue had already closed out their subcommittee. The Department of Revenue's Criminal Investigation Unit (9 PFT positions) was transferred to the Department of Public Safety. These investigators will be armed and will handle Permanent Fund Dividend Fraud, Child Support Fraud,

and Tax Fraud cases. The Chair recommends addressing the Governor's proposal in the House Finance Committee.

Please note there were no statutory recommendations submitted to the House Finance Committee.

**The following amendment proposals were offered, but not forwarded by the subcommittee:**

- 1.) Reduction of the Crime Lab FY18 UGF allocation in personal services and services by \$2,484,600, a 50 percent decrease.

An amendment was offered based on the concern that the state is paying too much for Alaska's Forensic Laboratory services in light of the results of their recent audit and their presentation to the DPS budget subcommittee. The sponsor stated that the Crime Lab's results may not justify their current level of funding.

Generally, members echoed the concerns that the amendment presented. The question was posed about whether the FBI would accept Alaska's forensic evidence for testing should a major funding cut to the Crime Lab occur. Commissioner Monegan offered an email to committee members from Forensic Laboratory Manager Orin Dym that addressed the question and stated that forensic tests currently performed in Alaska would not be accepted by the FBI. Several members also wanted to know whether there was a time before the Crime Lab was built when we were able to send samples to another national entity or to the FBI. This question remains to be answered.

Discussion on the amendment reflected a deep concern about the Crime Lab's operations and a desire for some type of consequence.

There were 4 yeas and 4 nays and the amendment proposal was defeated.

- 2.) Reduction of the VPSO grant allocation of \$1,835,960 to reflect ten unfilled VPSO positions.

An amendment was offered based on the VPSO program experiencing difficulties in recruiting in recent years and the grantee organizations are allowed to keep money left over from unfilled positions.

There was concern from some members that a reduction in funding might make it difficult to hire new recruits and that a reduction could lead to further strain on the VPSO program. It was suggested that hiring incentives might be offered as an alternative to funding reductions. Several members were opposed to this suggestion. Further discussion

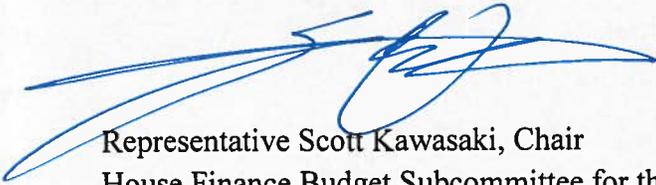
revealed concerns that unused funding for the VPSO program was being used by grantee organizations for projects unrelated to the VPSO program.

There were 4 yeas and 4 nays and the amendment proposal was defeated.

**ATTACHED REPORTS:**

Transaction Detail – House Structure Amendments Recommended by Subcommittee  
Allocation Summary – House Structure Amendments Recommended by Subcommittee

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "S. Kawasaki", written over a horizontal line.

Representative Scott Kawasaki, Chair  
House Finance Budget Subcommittee for the Department of Public Safety