

Fiscal Note

State of Alaska
2019 Legislative Session

Bill Version:	SCS CSHB 49(FIN)
Fiscal Note Number:	22
(S) Publish Date:	5/13/2019

Identifier: HB049SCSCS(FIN)AM-DOA-PDA-5-13-19
 Title: CRIMES; SENTENCING;DRUGS;THEFT;
 REPORTS
 Sponsor: RLS BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR
 Requester: (S) Finance

Department: Department of Administration
 Appropriation: Legal and Advocacy Services
 Allocation: Public Defender Agency
 OMB Component Number: 1631

Expenditures/Revenues

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below. (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY2020 Appropriation Requested	Included in Governor's FY2020 Request	Out-Year Cost Estimates					
			FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2020	FY 2020						
Personal Services	1,046.6		1,046.6	1,046.6	1,046.6	1,046.6	1,046.6	1,046.6
Travel	22.8		22.8	22.8	22.8	22.8	22.8	22.8
Services	218.7		218.7	218.7	218.7	218.7	218.7	218.7
Commodities	12.8		12.8	12.8	12.8	12.8	12.8	12.8
Capital Outlay								
Grants & Benefits								
Miscellaneous								
Total Operating	1,300.9	0.0	1,300.9	1,300.9	1,300.9	1,300.9	1,300.9	1,300.9

Fund Source (Operating Only)

1004 Gen Fund (UGF)	1,300.9		1,300.9	1,300.9	1,300.9	1,300.9	1,300.9	1,300.9
Total	1,300.9	0.0	1,300.9	1,300.9	1,300.9	1,300.9	1,300.9	1,300.9

Positions

Full-time	10.0		10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
Part-time								
Temporary								

Change in Revenues

None								
Total	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY2019) cost: 0.0 (separate supplemental appropriation required)

Estimated CAPITAL (FY2020) cost: 0.0 (separate capital appropriation required)

Does the bill create or modify a new fund or account?

(Supplemental/Capital/New Fund - discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

ASSOCIATED REGULATIONS

Does the bill direct, or will the bill result in, regulation changes adopted by your agency? No

If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed?

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version/comments:

Updated analysis to reflect the Senate Finance committee substitute.

Prepared By: Beth Goldstein, Acting Public Defender
 Division: Public Defender Agency
 Approved By: Cheryl Lowenstein, Director
 Agency: Office of Management and Budget

Phone: (907)334-4414
 Date: 05/13/2019
 Date: 05/13/19

REPORTED OUT OF
SFC 05/13/2019

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA
2019 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**Analysis**

This bill increases sentencing ranges, removes the provisions automatically adjusting theft thresholds for inflation, creates some new crimes, and increases the charge level and penalties for a number of crimes.

There are new crimes created by this bill for generalized threats, fraudulent use of identification documents, possession of motor vehicle theft tools, removal of electronic monitoring devices in broader circumstances, and harassment in broader circumstances. This bill increases penalties for drug possession convictions. This bill adds restrictions to discretionary parole eligibility and removes the presumption of release. This bill makes changes to how bail determinations, including the use of third-party custodians, are made and eliminates credit given for pre-trial electronic monitoring in certain circumstances.

The Department of Law has reported an expected increase in referrals from law enforcement for drug related crime as a result of increasing charge levels and penalties for certain drug related crimes. With the prioritization of certain drug crime prosecutions, and increases in prosecutorial positions, there is anticipated caseload and workload growth. The Department of Law anticipates felony drug cases to increase to the levels they were at in 2016 and estimates an increase of at least 740 felony cases annually. The agency anticipates the need of four additional attorney positions and four additional staff positions as result of these changes.

Additionally, the Department of Law has predicted an increase in cases as a result of the recriminalization of driving with a canceled, suspended, or revoked license. Evaluating fiscal year 2015 data on these misdemeanor cases the agency anticipates needing an additional attorney and an additional staff position as a result of this provision.

In addition to increased workload as a result of increased case filings, cases with increased penalties and higher charging levels require more litigation throughout all stages of litigation, but particularly increased jury trials, contested sentencing hearings, and post-conviction litigations.

The Public Defender Agency has seen workload growth and increased appointments in recent fiscal years and is unable to absorb additional increases with current staffing. The agency anticipates needing a total of five new attorney positions and five new staff positions to handle the anticipated increases from the passage of this legislation.