

# Fiscal Note

State of Alaska  
2019 Legislative Session

Bill Version:	SCS CSHB 49(FIN)
Fiscal Note Number:	32
(S) Publish Date:	5/13/2019

Identifier: HB049CS(FIN)AM-DPS-PT-05-09-19  
Title: CRIMES; SENTENCING;DRUGS;THEFT;  
REPORTS  
Sponsor: RLS BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR  
Requester: (S) FIN

Department: Department of Public Safety  
Appropriation: Alaska State Troopers  
Allocation: Prisoner Transportation  
OMB Component Number: 512

## 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				
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2020	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
Personal Services							
Travel							
Services							
Commodities							
Capital Outlay							
Grants & Benefits							
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>0.0</b>

## Fund Source (Operating Only)

None							
<b>Total</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>0.0</b>

## Positions

Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							

## Change in Revenues

None							
<b>Total</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>0.0</b>

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If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed?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

This version reflects changes made in version G.A.

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Phone: (907)465-4336  
Date: 05/09/2019  
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REPORTED OUT OF  
SFC 05/13/2019

## FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA  
2019 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

## Analysis

This bill amends Alaska Court Rule 38.2(a) and (b), Alaska Rules of Criminal Procedure, by requiring, when the technology is available, in-custody defendants to appear by two-way video conference for all hearings except for trial and sentencing.

Under AS 33.30.081, the Department of Public Safety (DPS) is responsible for transporting prisoners to and from the court having jurisdiction over the prisoner and for delivering a prisoner to a correctional facility upon temporary or final commitment by a court, or upon transfer of a prisoner from one correctional facility to another either inside or outside the state. Additionally, DPS is responsible for return transportation to the place of arrest for a prisoner who is released from custody before admission to a state correctional facility.

Videoconferencing is currently in use between the courts and several correctional facilities across the state. Current court rules require misdemeanor defendants to appear by videoconference for arraignments, pleas, and non-evidentiary bail reviews. Felony defendants are required to appear by videoconference for initial appearance hearings, non-evidentiary bail reviews, and not guilty plea arraignments. This is only in areas where a videolink exists between the court and the correctional facility.

Should this bill pass, the number of pretrial hearings conducted via videoconferencing is expected to increase, and there would be some decrease in the need for the physical transportation of prisoners. However, DPS transports prisoners for a myriad of reasons beyond pretrial hearings, often at the direction of the court.

Though increased use of video teleconferencing will help improve efficiency of the criminal justice system through better allocation of manpower and resources and mitigate officer safety risks associated with physically transporting prisoners, most of the costs associated with the transportation of prisoners are outside the control of DPS. No significant fiscal impacts are expected as a result of encouraging increased use of video teleconferencing. Therefore, a zero fiscal note is being submitted.