

Senate Finance Subcommittee

Sen. Dennis Egan
Subcommittee Chair



Subcommittee Members
Sen. Joe Paskvan
Sen. Fred Dyson

Alaska Court System

The Senate Finance Budget Subcommittee for the Alaska Court System submits an Operating Budget to the Senate Finance Committee for FY 11 as follows:

	FY10 Mgt Pln	FY11 Adj Base	Gov Amend	Senate Subcom	House - Amends
Unrestricted GF	87,211.3	89,963.4	95,315.8	90,902.2	93,024.9
Designated GF	-	-	-	-	517.3
Other	1,481.3	506.0	1,561.3	1,561.3	1,686.3
Federal Funds	1,675.6	1,675.6	1,675.6	1,675.6	1,675.6
Total	90,368.2	92,145.0	98,552.7	94,139.1	96,904.1

Positions

PFTs	737	737	763	740	737
PPTs	47	47	47	46	47
Temps	22	22	22	22	22
Total Positions	806	806	832	808	806

The Subcommittee held five meetings with the court system and took the following actions:

Budget Action

The subcommittee accepted the Governor's amended proposal with the following adjustments:

- Denied requests in the appellate courts for workstations & furniture, and a staff attorney position upgrade.
- Denied a request for \$278.0 to take control of the Nome federal building that houses the Nome court and other offices. The subcommittee notes a 2008 appropriation to begin work on a Nome State Office Building, and encourages the courts to pursue space therein.
- Reduced a request for \$1,365.7 and 18 positions in Trial Courts to \$400.0. This continues the legislature's multi-year phased approach to funding the 'No Dark Courtrooms' initiative. The Court System will use the funds to fill existing vacant positions.
- Approved \$28.0 to upgrade a part-time position in Craig to full time. In the governor's request this upgrade was combined with \$66.0 for a part time magistrate trainer, which was denied.
- Denied a request for \$1,483.2 to implement a new geographic pay differential study. Court employees deserve this pay, but should receive it concurrently with other state employees.

- Denied \$250.0 for computer replacements. The Court system should husband computing resources carefully.
- Reduced a request for \$174.7 to increase pro-tem pay for retired judges to \$50.0. When combined with internal savings the court system plans from Juneau courts, a significant increase should be possible.
- Denied a request for \$499.1 to eliminate the vacancy savings requirement for judicial officers in trial courts. The trial courts have approximately 115 judicial officers statewide, and are capable of carrying the current vacancy factor.
- Denied a request for \$125.0 to expand the custody mediation program.
- Denied a request for \$125.0 to cover increased transcription costs for the Public Defender Agency, Department of Law, and Office of Public Advocacy. Please note the recommendation below.
- Reduced a request for \$526.4 and six positions in administration and support to \$119.0 and one position for the Multi-Agency Justice Integration Consortium.
- Refined the Judicial Council's request for funding to staff a Child Protection Commission by reallocating the funding among line items.

Recommendations

The subcommittee recommends the Senate Finance Committee aggregate all therapeutic courts funding in the court system's therapeutic courts allocation.

The subcommittee also recommends the Senate Finance Committee cover the cost of transcripts provided to state agencies in the appropriate agency budget, and give the court system receipt authority to bill for the service it provides.

Attached Reports (numbers only)

1. Agency Totals – FY 11 Operating Budget – Senate Structure
2. Appropriation/Allocation Summary (GF) – Senate Structure
3. Appropriation/Allocation Summary (all funds) – Senate Structure
4. Transaction Comparison (Adj. Base and Senate Subcom)
5. Transaction Comparison (Gov. Amd+ and Senate Subcom)
6. Wordage Report – FY 11 Operating Budget – Senate Structure
7. Transaction Comparison (House-Amds and Senate Subcom)

Respectfully submitted,



Senator Dennis Egan
Senate Subcommittee Chair
March 18th, 2010