

ALASKA STATE SENATE

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SUB-COMMITTEE MEMBERS: SENATOR COGHILL, SENATOR DYSON, SENATOR FRENCH

NARRATIVE CLOSE-OUT REPORT

March 13, 2014

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Senate Finance Budget Subcommittee for the Department of Public Safety submits a recommended operating budget for FY2015 to the Senate Finance Committee as follows:

Unrestricted General Funds (UGF)	\$170,000.8
Designated General Funds (DGF)	6,552.2
Other Funds	17,674.5
Federal Funds	10,784.3
TOTAL	\$205,011.8

BUDGET ACTION:

The Senate Finance Budget Subcommittee for the Department of Public Safety held 5 meetings with the Department and analyzed all of the Governor's budget transactions. Following are budget highlights.

Governor's Amended Budget Request:

Accepted the Governor's Amended Budget Request except for 5 items in two areas:

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- Four items totaling \$3,428.0 of GF and 1 position for the VPSO program. Over the last few years, there have been incremental increases to this program to increase public safety in the rural areas of our state and those efforts have been very successful. Last year was the first year that the vacancy rate increased and recruitment for VPSOs slowed down. That is continuing this year. Given the current vacancy rate and difficulty with hiring all of the authorized VPSO positions, it does not seem prudent to increase the positions until and unless the vacancy/turnover rate is improved.
- \$1,100.0 of the request to restore the Bureau of Highway Patrol (BHP). The Governor initially removed all of this funding, \$2,200.0; but reversed that with a budget amendment. The sub-committee is accepting half of the request to restore the BHP, and is putting that funding in a separate allocation.

Sub-Committee Additions, Reductions and Changes:

Added \$1,400.0 of Interagency Receipts to the Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault component for the Governor's DVSA Initiative. These funds have been going to the Department of Health & Social Services (H&SS), and they in turn do another RSA to transfer the funds to the Department of Public Safety. This is a cleanup of that process to have the funds come to the department directly from the Governor, rather than going through H&SS.

Intent and Conditional Language added for the VPSO program

For the last several years, since the Senate Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) Task Force completed its work and provided recommendations for how to improve the program, 15 VPSOs and support have been added to the program yearly. New Troopers for VPSO oversight have also been added. Another recommendation of the VPSO Task Force was to have the department and VPSO grantees develop a short and long range plan, and to establish criteria for which villages should get a VPSO and how many; in order to give a more definitive answer to the question of how many VPSOs are needed to provide the rural areas with adequate law enforcement services. This recommendation was never implemented. Last year the VPSO program started having a high vacancy and turnover rate of VPSOs.

Thus, this sub-committee budget adds intent to the Village Public Safety Officer Program to have the department and VPSO grantees to meet and work together to determine short and long term goals for strengthening and improving the program and what can be done to improve the recruitment and retention of VPSOs. This intent is also to provide a report to the Legislature with conclusions and recommendations resulting from those meetings by January 15, 2015, which will be in time for next year's budget deliberations.

The sub-committee strongly supports the VPSO program and would like to see the department and VPSO grantees work toward turning the curve on the recruitment and retention, and to bring recommendations to us for strengthening and improving the program.

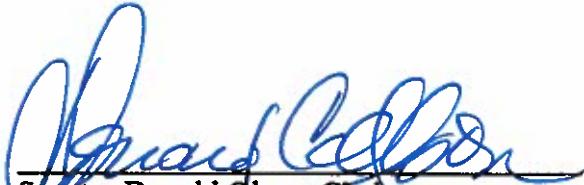
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It is our intention to allow Legislative Finance to do technical adjustments if any are needed.

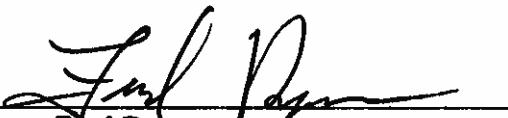
ATTACHED REPORTS:

The Senate Finance Budget Subcommittee for the Department of Public Safety adopts the attached reports:

- Budget Action Worksheet
- Agency Totals – FY2015 Operating Budget
- Appropriation/Allocation Summary (All Funds)
- Appropriation/Allocation Summary (GF)
- Transaction Comparison between ADJ Base and S Subcomm
- Transaction Comparison between Gov Amd and S Subcomm
- Transaction Comparison between S Subcomm and H Subcomm
- Wordage



Senator Donald Olson, Chair



Senator Fred Dyson



Senator John Coghill



Senator Hollis French