



Representative Scott Jiu Wo Kawasaki

Alaska State Legislature

District 1 Fairbanks

February 22, 2017

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS:

The House Finance Budget Subcommittee for the Department of Corrections held four meetings and a closeout with the Department during the review of the FY18 Governor's Amended Budget.

The Subcommittee discussed a variety of issues during the meetings, including the effectiveness of meeting program missions and the cuts to date for the following divisions and programs: Community Residential Centers, Inmate and Behavioral Healthcare, Pretrial Services Division, and Electronic Monitoring.

Subcommittee members include Chair Kawasaki, Rep. Drummond, Rep. Fansler, Rep. Parish, Rep. Rauscher, Rep. Saddler, Rep. Talerico, Rep. Westlake and Rep. Wilson.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Chair of the House Finance Budget Subcommittee for the Department of Corrections recommends that the House Finance Committee accept the Governor's FY18 Budget with one Governor's amendment and 5 subcommittee amendment proposals:

The budget without Governor or subcommittee amendments totals:

Fund Source: (dollars are in thousands)

Unrestricted General Funds (UGF)	\$258,304.4
Designated General Funds (DGF)	8,501.6
Other Funds	34,534.6
Federal Funds	7,686.0
Total	\$309,026.6

Positions:

Permanent Full-time	1,899
Permanent Part-time	0
Temporary	0
Total	1,899

The FY18 budget with recommended Governor and subcommittee amendments totals:

Fund Source: (dollars are in thousands)

Unrestricted General Funds (UGF)	\$257,758.2
Designated General Funds (DGF)	8,501.6
Other Funds	34,652.0
Federal Funds	7,686.0
Total	\$308,597.8

Positions:

Permanent Full-time	1,895
Permanent Part-time	0
Temporary	0
Total	1,895

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

1. Governor's Amendment: \$117.4 SDPR (One Time Increment) Grants from Community Resource for Justice Incorporated will be used to support implementation of justice reform efforts. This is a new request for FY18 and was not included in the FY18 Governor's request as these grant funds were not available at the time. The Alaska Criminal Justice Commission recommended and then approved this item in January 2017.

Subcommittee Discussion

Community Resources for Justice Incorporated (CRJ) is a Massachusetts nonprofit corporation that is assisting the State of Alaska with implementation of Justice Reform. The Crime and Justice institute applied for and was awarded a federal grant from the Bureau of Justice (BOJ), Office of Justice Programs for Criminal Justice Improvement and Recidivism Reduction through the State-Level Justice Reinvestment Initiative. This grant award allows CRJ to issue subawards in efforts to assist agencies with funding to meet training and statewide coordination needs as approved by CRJ and BOJ. This grant will fund a Coordinator either through a contract or non-permanent position to assist with identifying and addressing ongoing implementation issues, particularly those that span several divisions within the Department as well as coordinate between each state and local stakeholders as well as reporting needs for the Alaska Criminal Justice Commission.

This amendment proposal received a vote of 8 yeas and 1 nay.

2. Insert Intent Language for the Pretrial Services Division.

It is the intent of the Legislature that the Department prioritize the use of existing community facilities and resources for the Pretrial Services Division when appropriate.

Subcommittee Discussion

Whenever possible, the Department should minimize any additional overhead costs associated with the new Pretrial Services Division (travel, office space, equipment purchases, etc) by utilizing existing resources and partnering with other community facilities, such as community jails.

This amendment proposal passed without objections.

3. Transfer the new Professional Conduct Unit from the Correctional Academy to the Commissioner's Office.

This amendment proposal would transfer the newly created Professional Conduct Unit, including \$714.5 UGF and 3 PFT, from the Correctional Academy and add it to the Office of the Commissioner where it is more appropriately housed.

This amendment proposal received a vote of 7 yeas and 2 nays.

4. Insert Intent Language Addressing High Rates of Incarceration of Alaska Natives

It is the intent of the Legislature that the Commissioner of the Department of Corrections will prioritize funding and implementing solutions to address the disparity in Alaska Native incarceration rates throughout the state.

Subcommittee Discussion

Alaska Native individuals are incarcerated at a drastically higher rate than any other demographic group in the state. The underlying causes of this (e.g. systemic racism, economic disparity, etc) must be accounted for in developing and implementing appropriate solutions to resolve this disparity of incarceration within the Alaska correctional system.

This amendment proposal received a vote of 6 yeas and 3 nays.

5. Insert Intent Language for Electronic Monitoring in Bethel

It is the intent of the Legislature that the Commissioner of the Department of Corrections will prioritize expanding the Electronic Monitoring program to Bethel.

Subcommittee Discussion

Expanding electronic monitoring in Bethel will help reduce adverse impacts of conviction to low-risk individuals. This would allow those individuals to be more well-connected to healthy social and work networks in the community in the effort to reduce recidivism risks that accompany separation from work and family.

This amendment proposal received a vote of 8 yeas and 1 nay.

6. Delete \$546.2 UGF and 4 PFT positions transferred from the closed Palmer Correctional Center to the Information Technology MIS allocation within the Administration and Support Appropriation.

Subcommittee discussion

This amendment proposal deletes four vacant positions and associated operating costs transferred to this allocation after the closure of the Palmer facility. The proposal reduces \$437.8 UGF from personal services and reduces \$108.4 UGF from services.

This amendment proposal passed without objections.

OTHER INFORMATION:

The Subcommittee discussed a variety of issues during the meetings, including the effectiveness of meeting program missions and the cuts to date for the following divisions and programs:

1. Four amendments were offered that would delete premium pay (which includes shift differential, holiday pay and overtime) from the following institutions (shown in total dollars):
 - Matanuska-Susitna Correctional Center: (\$162,283) UGF
 - Goose Creek Correctional Center: (\$890,308) UGF
 - Anchorage Correctional Complex: (\$683,945) UGF
 - Combined Highland Mountain Correctional Center: (\$312,499) UGF

Subcommittee discussion

Members had questions regarding how additional staff might reduce overtime costs and if the amount of overtime included in the budget is actually needed. The subcommittee requested more information on breakouts for budgeted premium pay in the Departments FY18 budget documents. The Department distributed the enclosed numbers to the Chair's office.

These amendment proposals did not pass.

2. An amendment proposal was offered that would close the Spring Creek Correctional Center by deleting (\$12,113,525) UGF and 171 PFT positions. The proposal would also transfer the allocation's remaining balance of \$7,857,675 UGF to the Out of State Contractual Allocation.

Subcommittee Discussion

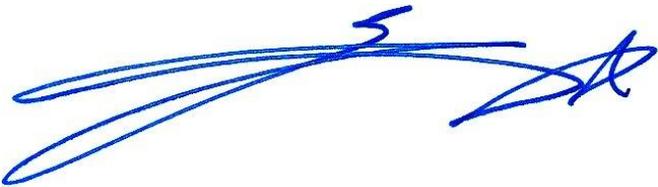
The intent of this amendment proposal was to house most of the Spring Creek inmates in out-of-state facilities beginning on July 1, 2017. Some members agreed that, in the interests of reducing spending, options for housing inmates in out-of-state facilities should be considered, however it is always better to house inmates closer to home so that they have access to community resources. Some members thought it would be unwise to close the only maximum-security facility in the state and to allow some maximum-security inmates to be released on Electronic Monitoring systems when they required more supervision. Members also voiced concerns over eliminating 171 jobs from Seward, a community with less than 3,000 residents.

This amendment proposal received a vote of 4 yeas and 5 nays

ATTACHED REPORTS:

- Transaction Detail – House Structure Amendments Recommended by Subcommittee
- Allocation Summary – House Structure Amendments Recommended by Subcommittee
- Memo from the Department of Corrections to the Chair's office regarding breakouts of budgeted premium pay for FY18

Respectfully submitted,



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