



30th Alaska State Legislature
Senate Finance Budget Subcommittee
Department of Law
FY18 Operating Budget

Chairman:

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Capitol Room 11
465-6600

Members:

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Capitol Room 125
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Capitol Room 7
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Committee Aide:

Daniel George
465-5078

**DEPARTMENT OF LAW
FY2018 SENATE FINANCE BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE NARRATIVE REPORT
March 13, 2017**

PREFACE & RECOMMENDATIONS:

The following recommendations are driven by the unprecedented downturn of revenues resulting from the precipitous drop in oil prices. This Subcommittee recognizes and acknowledges that some very worthwhile programs may go unfunded or underfunded, but its choices are very limited given the financial circumstances the State of Alaska finds itself in. In some instances, holding the budget flat means departments will absorb additional costs, and employees will manage increased workloads.

The Senate Finance Budget Subcommittee for the Department of Law submits a recommended operating budget (numbers only) for FY2018 to the Senate Finance Committee as follows:

Unrestricted General Funds (UGF)	\$ 48,215.4
Designated General Funds (DGF)	\$ 2,867.0
Other Funds	\$ 31,607.0
Federal Funds	\$ 1,489.4
TOTAL	\$ 84,178.8

Positions:

Permanent Full-Time	503
Permanent Part-Time	0
Temporary	0
Total	503

The Unrestricted General Fund difference from the FY17 Management Plan to the Senate Subcommittee budget recommendation is a reduction of \$660.9, a 1.4% reduction.

The FY18 Subcommittee budget recommendation contains 503 permanent full time positions, a decrease of 19 from FY17 Management Plan.

BUDGET ACTION:

The Senate Finance Budget Subcommittee for the Department of Law held two meetings) with the Department on February 15th and February 27th. The Subcommittee reviewed and accepted the FY18 Governor's amended budget request with three exceptions.

- Eliminate a technical error in the Governor's transmitted budget by denying \$1,465.2 UGF in Civil Division, Natural Resources Section. The carryforward transaction into FY17 for Outside Counsel and North Pole Remedial Action was submitted by OMB as a Section 1 transaction in error. Legislative Finance Division has added a Language Section transaction to correctly reflect the carryforward.
 - The House Finance Subcommittee adopted the correction of this error, and the Senate Finance Subcommittee concurs with that action.
- Deny the Governor's increment to add \$375.0 UGF to the base in Regulatory Affairs & Public Advocacy, but reinsert this amount as a one-time increment (as in FY17).
- Deny the Governor's increment to add \$2,125.0 UGF to the base in Civil Division Natural Resources Section, but add \$1,425.0 of this amount as a one-time increment (similar to FY17).

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS DEFERRED TO FULL FINANCE:

The Subcommittee considered the issue of declining state prosecutions, particularly the decrease from approximately 20,000 misdemeanor prosecutions in CY2014 to 13,000 in CY2016. Felony prosecutions remained flat over this period, and the Anchorage Municipal Prosecutor's office took on an expanded role, accounting for roughly 2,000 of these prosecutions. The department reflected on the decrease over this period in misdemeanor prosecutions, and submitted a letter to the committee stating:

*"What we can say with certainty is that the decreased number of misdemeanors we file is due, in part, to having fewer prosecutors available to do the work."
Department of Law (3/8/2017)*

While the subcommittee strongly considered increased funding for prosecutors in the department's budget, it chose to mirror the action of the House Finance Subcommittee in that it defers this item to the full Finance committee for further consideration.

ATTACHED REPORTS

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

Legislative Finance Division Reports – Senate Structure (Numbers Only)

1. Multi-Year Allocation Summary – Senate Structure
2. Transaction Detail – Senate Structure: Senate Subcommittee Amendments Column



Senator Mike Dunleavy, Chair
Senate Finance Budget Subcommittee
for the Department of Law
March 13, 2017