



30th Alaska State Legislature  
House Finance Budget Subcommittee  
Department of Administration  
FY19 Operating Budget

**Chair:**

Rep. Jason Grenn  
Capitol Room 418  
465-3892

**Members:**

Rep. Chris Birch  
Capitol Room 112  
465-4931

Rep. DeLena Johnson  
Capitol Room 405  
465-4958

Rep. Gary Knopp  
Capitol Room 424  
465-2693

Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins  
Capitol Room 411  
465-3732

Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux  
Capitol Room 216  
465-4998

Rep. Cathy Tilton  
Capitol Room 400  
465-2199

Rep. Chris Tuck  
Capitol Room 204  
465-2095

Rep. Adam Wool  
Capitol Room 412  
465-4976

**Committee Aide:**

Brooke Ivy  
465-6578

**DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION  
FY19 HOUSE FINANCE BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE  
NARRATIVE REPORT  
February 20, 2018**

**SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS:**

The House Finance Budget Subcommittee for the Department of Administration held four meetings with the Department during the review of the FY19 budget request.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The House Finance Budget Subcommittee for the Department of Administration recommends the House Finance Committee accept the amended Department of Administration FY19 operating budget as follows:

**Fund Source:** (dollars are in thousands)

Unrestricted General Funds (UGF)	\$70,347.9
Designated General Funds (DGF)	\$32,069.0
Other Funds	\$234,128.9
Federal Funds	\$3,900.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$340,445.8</b>

The Unrestricted General Fund difference from the FY15 Management Plan to the FY19 House Subcommittee budget recommendation is a reduction of \$15,500.1, an 18.1 percent decrease.

From the FY18 Management Plan, the House Subcommittee recommendation reflects a total increase in Unrestricted General Funds of \$1,497.9, a 2.2 percent increase.

**Positions:**

Permanent Full-time	1,189
Permanent Part-time	10
Temporary	25
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,224</b>

## **GOVERNOR’S AMENDMENTS:**

The Subcommittee recommends that the House Finance Committee consider approval of the following Governor’s amendment:

- 1) **Alaska Division of Information Technology** - Fund Change to Use Interagency Receipt Fund Code Specific to Information Technology: (\$9,781.1) I/A Receipts (1007) and \$9,781.1 Information Services Fund (1081).

## **SUBCOMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:**

The following Subcommittee budget amendments are submitted to the House Finance Committee for consideration:

- 1) **Facilities** – Reduce I/A Receipt Authority to Align with Actual Expenditures: (\$567.6) I/A Receipts (1007).
- 2) **Information Services Fund** – Delete All Receipt Authority for Information Services Fund Component: (\$55.0) Statutory Designated Program Receipts (1108).

## **OTHER DISCUSSION:**

Members discussed a variety of issues during the subcommittee process. Topics of note raised by the Department and being further researched by the Chair’s office include, but are not limited to:

- **Alaska Public Defender Agency v. Superior Court**

It was brought to the Subcommittee’s attention that on January 12, 2018, the Superior Court of Alaska released a decision holding that “when the Public Defender Agency or the Office of Public Advocacy is representing an indigent defendant who is (1) not in custody and who is (2) unable to afford to travel to the site of their trial, the agency shall pay the necessary expense. And when a delinquency case involves a minor who is not reasonably able to travel alone, the agency shall pay for a parent or guardian to accompany the minor.”

While the Public Defender Agency is in the process of appealing this decision, the outcome could have significant financial consequences for the Department of Administration’s operating budget in future years.

- **Public Defender Agency Caseloads**

During an overview by the Public Defender Agency, concern was raised by both the agency and members in relation to Public Defender caseloads. In 1998, the Alaska Division of Legislative Audit conducted a workload study of the Alaska Public Defender Agency; the recommended maximum ethical caseload at 60 hours per week is a weighted average of 59 cases. The Agency is currently projecting a weighted average of 92 cases under the Legislative Audit Standard, which is 56% above the recommended maximum caseload for a 60-hour work week.

Given the constitutional and statutory obligations of the Public Defender Agency to provide a standard of ethical representation, increasing caseloads create some cause for concern as refusal or dismissal of cases due to excessive caseloads by other jurisdictions has led to litigation based on right to counsel.

- **Office of Public Advocacy Caseloads**

Subcommittee members also heard from the Office of Public Advocacy regarding caseload concerns. In particular, court-appointed Guardian Ad Litem have seen a substantial increase in workload, with OCS-filed cases rising significantly since FY15. Guardian Ad Litem are statutorily-required advocates for the best interests of children in Child In Need of Aid (CINA), civil custody, and domestic violence cases. With an average caseload of 110 children per attorney, Guardian Ad Litem are currently unable to fulfill all statutory and ethical obligations, such as visitations, due to case overload. The Governor's proposed FY19 budget adds one Guardian Ad Litem position. However, additional resources may be required to bring caseloads to a manageable level.

**ATTACHED REPORTS:**

The House Finance Budget Subcommittee for the Department of Administration adopts the attached reports:

- Allocation Summary Report (All Funds) – FY19 Governor to House Subcommittee (HSub)
- Transaction Detail Report – House Structure (HSub Amends), including Governor Amendments
- Multi-Year Allocation Summary – FY19 House Structure

Respectfully submitted,



Representative Jason Grenn, Chair  
House Finance Budget Subcommittee for the Department of Administration