



THE STATE  
*of* **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

Department of  
Health and Social Services

ALASKA COMMISSION ON AGING

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April 6, 2016

Chair Peter Micciche, Senate Health and Social Services Finance Subcommittee  
Alaska Capitol, Room  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Chair Dan Saddler, House Health and Social Services Finance Subcommittee  
Alaska Capitol, Room  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Regarding: SB 139 and HB 256 Operating Budget, Pioneer Home Waitlist Annual Fee

Dear Senator Micciche and Representative Sadler:

The Alaska Commission on Aging is a Governor-appointed body within the Department of Health and Social Services that serves to ensure the dignity and independence of all older Alaskans by addressing their needs through planning, advocacy, and education through interagency coordination efforts. Although we recognize that the operating budget, with the exception of conference-able items, has been approved by the Legislature, the Commission would like to take this opportunity to inform you about the considerable public input we have recently received regarding the proposed \$100 annual fee for seniors (persons age 65+) to reserve a place on the Pioneer Home waitlist. This requirement is a budget item identified in the close-out documents for SB139 (item 85, line 451) and HB 256 (page 1, Pioneer Homes) (attached).

The Commission is concerned that the proposed annual \$100 fee could impose a significant financial hardship on seniors with limited incomes at/below poverty level. While seniors with moderate and higher incomes may be able to afford the \$100 annual fee, those who are low-income are often hard-pressed to pay for life essentials such as food, housing, heat/utilities, and prescription medications. These vulnerable seniors are the ones who are most in need of the care provided by the Pioneer Homes and will most likely be least able to afford the fee and as a result, drop off the waitlist.

The Commission respectfully proposes the following recommendations for your consideration regarding the proposed Pioneer Home annual waitlist fee:

- Waive the \$100 annual fee for seniors who income-qualify for Public Assistance or Medicaid programs as these older people are financially vulnerable and least able to afford an extra expense.
- Hold harmless seniors who are already on the waitlist and impose the annual fee only on those who are new to the waitlist and have the means to make the annual payment.

- Implement a voluntary \$100 deduction from the senior's Permanent Fund Dividend to cover the annual waitlist fee to ensure that the fee is paid on time; this is especially important for individuals with memory loss. In addition, this voluntary deduction would help to reduce the administrative burden on the Pioneer Homes as there is no added funding to hire new staff in the operating budget for the Homes to collect the waitlist fees.

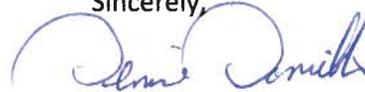
Thank you for this opportunity to provide comment on the Pioneer Home annual waitlist fee. Please contact Denise Daniello, ACoA's executive director, for additional information at [denise.daniello@alaska.gov](mailto:denise.daniello@alaska.gov) or 465-4879.

Sincerely,



Mary E. Shields  
Chair, Alaska Commission on Aging

Sincerely,



Denise Daniello  
ACoA Executive Director

Cc: Senator Pete Kelly, Co-Chair of Senate Finance  
Senator Anna MacKinnon, Co-Chair Senate Finance  
Representative Mark Neuman, Co-Chair House Finance  
Representative Steve Thompson, Co-Chair House Finance

**2016 Legislature - Operating Budget  
Transaction Compare - House Structure  
Between 17Adj Base and HouseSub**

Agency: Department of Health and Social Services

**Numbers  
Differences  
Agencies: H&SS**

	Column	Trans Type	Total Expenditure	Personal Services	Travel	Services	Commodities	Capital Outlay	Grants	Misc	PFT	PPT	TTP
<b>Alaska Pioneer Homes</b>													
<b>Alaska Pioneer Homes Management</b>													
Restore funding equal to the UGF portion of the FY16 Salary OTIs	HouseSub	Inch	27.9	27.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
1004 Gen Fund (UGF)													
* Allocation Difference *			27.9	27.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
<b>Pioneer Homes</b>													
Restore funding equal to the UGF portion of the FY16 Salary OTIs	HouseSub	Inch	575.5	575.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
1004 Gen Fund (UGF)													
1037 GF/FMH (UGF)			321.7										
253.8													
Reduce Pioneer Homes Staffing Levels	HouseSub	Dec	-720.0	-720.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-8	-3	0
1004 Gen Fund (UGF)													
Reduce Supplies and Cable Television Services	HouseSub	Dec	-21.1	0.0	0.0	-11.0	-10.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
1004 Gen Fund (UGF)													
AMD: Delete At Least Three Positions in Pioneer Home Facilities	HouseSub	Dec	-250.0	-250.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-3	0	0
1004 Gen Fund (UGF)													
Replace UGF with GF/Program Receipts to be collected from a \$100/year annual waitlist fee	HouseSub	FndChg	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
1004 Gen Fund (UGF)													
1005 GF/Prgm (DGF)			-415.6	-394.5	0.0	-11.0	-10.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-11	-3
-532.5													
532.5													
* Allocation Difference *			-387.7	-366.6	0.0	-11.0	-10.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-11	-3
** Appropriation Difference **													
<b>Behavioral Health</b>													
<b>Behavioral Health Treatment and Recovery Grants</b>													
Transition Behavioral Health Treatment and Recovery Grants to Medicaid Expansion	HouseSub	Dec	-5,779.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-5,779.6	0.0	0	0	0
1037 GF/FMH (UGF)													
MH Trust: Housing - Grant 1377 Housing Continuum and Assisted Living Targeted Capacity Development	HouseSub	InctTI	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0	0	0
1092 MHTAAR (Other)													
100.0													
MH Trust: Housing - Grant 575 Assentive Community Treatment/Institutional Diversion Housing Program (FY17-FY19)	HouseSub	Inct	750.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	750.0	0.0	0	0	0
1092 MHTAAR (Other)													
750.0													
Reduce funding for BH Treatment & Recovery Grants	HouseSub	Dec	-3,000.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-3,000.0	0.0	0	0	0
1037 GF/FMH (UGF)													
-3,000.0													
* Allocation Difference *			-7,929.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-7,929.6	0.0	0	0	0

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y
#	Appropriation	Allocation	Description	Subcommittee Notes	Funding Information																			
332	74 Behavioral Health	Alaska Psychiatric Institute	AMD: Delete One Accounting Position						1004	Gen Fund	(110.0)		1	-1	-1				(110.0)					(110.0)
436	75 Children's Services	Children's Services Management	AMD: Reduce Contractual Services						1004	Gen Fund	(150.0)		1	0	0				(150.0)					(150.0)
437	76 Health Care Services	Medical Assistance Administration	AMD: Reduce Contractual Services						1004	Gen Fund	(50.0)		1	0	0				(50.0)					(50.0)
438	77 Public Assistance	General Relief Assistance	AMD: Decrease Burial Assistance Program Through Reform and Efficiencies						1004	Gen Fund	(1,700.0)		0	0	0				-					-
439	78 Public Health	Nursing	AMD: Delete Two Positions from Public Health Nursing						1004	Gen Fund	(250.0)		1	-2	-2				(250.0)					(250.0)
440	79 Senior and Disabilities Services	Senior and Disabilities Services Administration	AMD: Reduce Personal Services						1004	Gen Fund	(50.0)		1	0	0				(50.0)					(50.0)
441	80 Departmental Support Services	Administrative Support Services	AMD: Delete One Administrative Support Position						1004	Gen Fund	(101.3)		1	-1	-1				(101.3)					(101.3)
442	81 Medicaid Services	Behavioral Health and Medical Services	AMD: Delete Unused Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment & Prevention Fund Authority						1180	AID T&P Rd	(1,500.0)		1	0	0				-					(1,500.0)
443																								
444	82 Agency Unallocated Appropriation	Agency Unallocated Appropriation	AMD: Reverse FY2017 Unallocated Reduction due to FY2016 One-Time Salary Adjustment						1003	GF Match	749.8		1	0	0				749.8					749.8
445									1004	Gen Fund	3,323.4		1	0	0				3,323.4					3,323.4
446									1037	GF/MAH	588.1		1	0	0				588.1					588.1
447																								
448	Other Subcommittees Actions																							
83	Department of Health and Social Services		Add wordage allowing for the transfer of up to \$25 million of UGF across appropriations.								(48,236.3)		1	0	0				(48,236.3)					(48,236.3)
84	Alaska Pioneer Homes	Pioneer Homes											1	0	0									
85	Alaska Pioneer Homes	Pioneer Homes	Replace UGF with GF/Program Receipts to be collected from a						1004	Gen Fund	(532.5)		1	0	0				(532.5)					(532.5)
451																								

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y
#	Appropriation	Allocation	Description	Subcommittee Notes					Funding Information	Gov PCHs	Sen PCHs	Unrestricted GF	Designated GF	Other State Funds	Federal	Total								
332			\$100/year annual waitlist fee						1005	GF/Pgm	532.5			1	0				532.5				532.5	
452	86 Behavioral Health	BH Treatment & Recovery Grants	Reduce Grant Funding	--Inactive waitlist of 5,000 --An active waitlist of 325 5,325 X \$100/year = \$532.5					1004	Gen Fund	(1,500.0)			1	0				(1,500.0)				(1,500.0)	
453	87 Behavioral Health	Behavioral Health Administration	Reduce Funding						1004	Gen Fund	(178.7)			1	0				(178.7)				(178.7)	
454	88 Health Care Services	Health Facilities Licensing & Certification	Offset the increase in GF/Program Receipts with a UGF Decrement	See line 16.					1004	Gen Fund	(200.0)			1	0				(200.0)				(200.0)	
455	89 Juvenile Justice	Unallocated Reduction/Addition	Reduction to reflect closing an unspecified facility	It is the intent of the legislature that the unallocated reduction to the Division of Juvenile Justice in the amount of \$1,693,900 result in the closure of one of the six Division youth facilities and that the closure result in the least amount of negative impact to the surrounding community and the efficient delivery of Division services.					1004	Gen Fund	(1,693.9)			1	0				(1,693.9)				(1,693.9)	
456	90 Public Assistance	Alaska Temporary Assistance Program	Reduce UGF to reflect possible MOE savings from counting AHFC's Homeless Assistance Program (\$5 million) and a portion of the PCE Program (\$2 million) as allowable TANF expenditures	It is the intent of the legislature that the Division of Public Assistance use state funding appropriated for the AHFC Homeless Assistance Program and the PCE Program funding toward its Maintenance of Effort requirement for the Alaska Temporary Assistance Program.					1003	GF/Match	(7,000.0)			1	0				(7,000.0)				(7,000.0)	
457	91 Public Assistance	Adult Public Assistance	Reduction to reflect a declining caseload						1004	Gen Fund	(500.0)			1	0				(500.0)				(500.0)	
458	92 Public Assistance	Senior Benefits Payment Program	Remove funding for the highest income level.	Recommend adding backstop language to ensure that the two lowest income levels receive full benefits.					1004	Gen Fund	(5,137.9)			1	0				(5,137.9)				(5,137.9)	
459	93 Public Health	Nursing	Reduce UGF Funding.	It is the intent of the legislature that, where possible, Public Health Nursing change for services provided.					1004	Gen Fund	(500.0)			1	0				(500.0)				(500.0)	
460			Reduction will be offset by an increase in program receipts enabling the agency to change for services per the HIS30 Performance Review recommendation.						1005	GF/Pgm	1,000.0			1	0				1,000.0				1,000.0	
461	94 Public Health	Public Health Laboratories	Reduce UGF Funding.	It is the intent of the legislature that, where possible, Public Health Laboratories change for services provided.					1004	Gen Fund	(600.0)			1	0				(600.0)				(600.0)	
462			Reduction will be offset by an increase in program receipts for services per the HIS 30 Performance Review recommendation.						1005	GF/Pgm	600.0			1	0				600.0				600.0	
463																								