Video Judicial Conference / Arraignment Study | **FY2011 Request: $100,000**
Reference No: 49207

AP/AL: Appropriation
Category: Law and Justice
Location: Statewide
House District: Statewide (HD 1-40)
Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2010 - 06/30/2012

Project Type: Research / Studies / Planning
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Brief Summary and Statement of Need:
This project will provide for a study to determine the suitability, practicality, and strategy of using video linking capabilities via current and anticipated Internet technology in place of the more costly physical transport of prisoners from state correctional facilities to and from court. This project in intended to help the department achieve its mission of ensuring public safety by protecting lives, property, and public peace by reducing the risk of prisoner transports.

Funding:	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	Total
Gen Fund	$100,000						$100,000
Total:	$100,000	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$100,000

☐ State Match Required ☑ One-Time Project ☐ Phased - new ☐ Phased - underway ☐ On-Going
0% = Minimum State Match % Required ☐ Amendment ☐ Mental Health Bill

Operating & Maintenance Costs:

	Amount	Staff
Project Development:	0	0
Ongoing Operating:	0	0
One-Time Startup:	0	
Totals:	0	0

Additional Information / Prior Funding History:
Ch 135, SLA 2000, P 18, L 28 $510.0 GF

Project Description/Justification:
The Alaska State Troopers are responsible for transporting prisoners from state correctional centers to and from the court. In Alaska, the current system in place involves extremely time consuming and expensive travel logistics to move prisoners. This most often involves the requirement to physically transport prisoners, who are frequently maintained in a correctional facility outside of the region of the responsible court.

The department has had some success with current video conferencing technology in reducing the number of prisoner transports for arraignments. This technology, however, requires a line, called a T1, be installed connecting two locations, i.e., the Anchorage Jail and the court system. Not all courts and correctional facilities have this technology, or in fact have room for it. Video linking through the Internet would not require T1 lines, would be more cost efficient, and could be more easily expanded. This would make it easier for prisoners to be present for arraignment from jail in those locations where the T1 technology is not available. It could possibly facilitate easier communication between the prisoner and the defending attorneys, whether it be the public defender or a private attorney, and might also possibly allow troopers to conference into arraignments.

This project funds a contract to perform a study to identify the practicality of implementing judicial conferencing / arraignment video linking. The recipient of this contract would be responsible for conducting research and analysis to determine the ability to implement and integrate new video linking technology between the departments of Public Safety, Corrections, and Law, as well as public defenders offices, state courts, and associated private sector attorneys.

The conclusion of this project would result in a report providing information identifying:

- what technology would be most suitable;
- what administrative / court rules would need to be addressed;
- which agencies or entities could benefit from an integrated video conferencing system,;the projected efficiency of interoperable activities between the court and affected agencies and private sector compared to the current method of conducting business; and
- a strategy on partnership development and integration that would facilitate a successful implementation of a video linking system.