CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 128(HES)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE HOUSE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Offered: 4/1/05
Referred: Rules

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES MCGUIRE, Gara, Wilson, Dahlstrom, Kerttula, Berkowitz, Kapsner, Neuman, Samuels

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

"An Act establishing the Alaska Schools Physical Activity Task Force."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

* Section 1. The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section
to read:

FINDINGS. The legislature finds that

(1) obesity in the United States has been described as a "pandemic" by the
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in the United States Department of Health and
Human Services;

(2) more than 30 percent of children in the United States are obese or
overweight;

(3) 65 to 70 percent of adults in the United States are overweight or obese; this
number is increasing two to four percent each year;

(4) obesity leads to higher medical costs;

(5) according to a recent study by the Anchorage School District and the
division of public health in the Department of Health and Social Services for the school years
1998-1999 through 2002-2003, 18 percent of students were overweight and another 18 percent were at-risk for becoming overweight over time;

(6) numerous health problems are associated with being overweight or obese, including diabetes, sleep apnea, cardiovascular disease, hypertension, colon and breast cancers, depression, anxiety, and osteoporosis;

(7) the Journal of the American Medical Association reported in a January 8, 2003, article that a white male between the ages of 20 and 30 with a severe level of obesity may potentially have his life span reduced by 13 years; a white female of similar age and obesity may have her life span reduced by eight years;

(8) Type 2 diabetes in children is a relatively new phenomenon; according to the American Diabetes Association, as many as 80 percent of children who are diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes are overweight; diabetes can lead to later health problems, including cardiovascular disease, blindness, kidney failure, and amputation;

(9) a study done by the National Association for Sport and Physical Education in 2002 of California public school students found evidence of a link between physical fitness and higher academic performance;

(10) the National Guideline Clearinghouse suggests that one of the best ways to increase physical activity in a community is through school-based physical activity; and

(11) not every school in the state has ample facilities to provide for effective indoor physical activity.

* Sec. 2. The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to read:

ALASKA SCHOOLS PHYSICAL ACTIVITY TASK FORCE. (a) There is established in the legislative branch of state government the Alaska Schools Physical Activity Task Force. The task force shall consist of 11 voting members, as follows:

(1) one member from the Department of Education and Early Development designated by the commissioner of education and early development;

(2) two members who are school officials or school board members from school districts on the state interconnected road system designated by the commissioner of education and early development;

(3) two members who are school officials or school board members from
school districts that are not on the state interconnected road system designated by the
commissioner of education and early development;

(4) one physician member versed in the subject of physical activity in schools
designated by the American College of Physicians, Alaska Chapter;

(5) one physician member designated by the American Heart Association;

(6) two members appointed by the president of the senate from among the
members of the senate; and

(7) two members appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives
from among the members of the house of representatives.

(b) The commissioner of education and early development shall appoint a member
from among the members who are not legislators to serve as chair of the task force. The
members of the task force who are legislators shall serve as co-vice-chairs of the task force.
The staff of the members who are legislators shall serve as staff to the task force.

(c) The task force shall prepare a report that includes recommendations for effectively
and economically maximizing physical activity in the schools of the state. In preparing its
recommendations, the task force shall consider

(1) solutions that work within the infrastructure of schools in the state;

(2) whether

(A) physical activity coordinators should be employed by school
districts or by the state to maximize physical activity within existing school district
infrastructures;

(B) new laws or amendments to existing law should be enacted or
regulations adopted to allow schools to provide necessary physical activity;

(C) state school construction requirements should be changed to
facilitate necessary physical activity;

(3) long-term solutions for ensuring that students in the state receive adequate
physical activity;

(4) the possibility of after-school programs in addition to programs during
school hours; and

(5) how to enhance physical activity offered in schools to meet standards
adopted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in the United States Department of
Health and Human Services; the National Association for Sport and Physical Education, or similar standards.

(d) The task force shall meet as frequently as its members determine necessary to perform its work. The task force may meet and vote by teleconference.

(e) The members of the task force identified in (a)(1) - (5) of this section are not eligible for compensation, per diem, or travel expenses.

(f) Notwithstanding AS 14.25.040, AS 39.35.120, 39.25.125, and 39.35.131, service as a member of the task force or the receipt of compensation for serving on the task force may not qualify a member for participation in the teachers' retirement system under AS 14.25 or the public employees' retirement system under AS 39.25.

(g) The task force shall submit a written report of its findings and recommendations to the legislature and the governor before January 10, 2006.

* Sec. 3. This Act is repealed on the last day of the Second Regular Session of the Twenty-Fourth Alaska State Legislature.