

REPRESENTATIVE JUBILEE UNDERWOOD

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE - HOUSE DISTRICT 27

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SPONSOR STATEMENT

House Bill 237

“An Act relating to mathematics education; relating to the duties of the Department of Education and Early Development; and relating to the duties of school districts.”

House Bill 237 is intended to improve mathematics outcomes for Alaska students by strengthening instruction, identifying learning gaps early, and ensuring students are on track for success in Algebra I and beyond.

The bill establishes legislative intent that students in kindergarten through grade eight receive consistent daily math instruction and that parents are regularly informed about their child’s progress. It directs the Department of Education and Early Development to support districts by identifying standards-aligned instructional materials, providing a statewide math assessment tool, and offering a competency-based credential for teachers trained in evidence-based math instruction.

HB 237 also requires school districts to assess students early in the school year and to provide targeted intervention for students who are not proficient. Districts must develop math improvement plans that include additional instruction, progress monitoring, and regular communication with families.

Finally, the bill promotes access to advanced math coursework by encouraging districts to offer clear math pathways beginning in middle school, including opportunities for students to earn college credit. Students who demonstrate proficiency are to be placed in advanced courses appropriate to their skill level.

House Bill 237 focuses on early support, clear expectations, and better communication to help more Alaska students succeed in mathematics. I respectfully ask for your support.

Representative Underwood respectfully urges support of House Bill 237.