

ALASKA LEGISLATURE

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Special Committee on Energy



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Sponsor Statement

HB 135: School Construction Grant Program

Currently, AS 14.11.008(a) requires that school districts provide the mandatory participating share within three years of the date of the legislative appropriation. The Department of Education anticipated that funds would be released to the school district and that the district would have sufficient time to arrive at the local match. However, some projects that have been approved for funding need more time to raise the required local percentage share of project costs. Recent examples of projects that require more time include schools in the Yukon Flats School District, Northwest Arctic Borough School District, Yupiit School District and the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District.

The Department of Education & Early Development believes one set deadline is still appropriate for the vast majority of projects, but there is a small percentage of projects that need additional time.

This bill amends statute to increase the initial school district local match share deadline from three to five years. Additionally, the bill allows the commissioner to extend the deadline an additional three years, if the district applies to the commissioner in writing to request an extension and demonstrates good cause for the requested extension.