

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



REPRESENTATIVE LES GARA

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 11, 2009
TO: Representative Wes Keller
Representative Bob Herron
FROM: Representative Les Gara
RE: Sectional Summary for CSHB126(EDC)

Section 1: Provides for the continuation of a public education in a student's school of origin for a homeless student under federal specifications. Provides exceptions for a move outside of a school district. Requires the transfer of a student's school records from the school of origin within seven days after notification of a school transfer. Modifies federal definition of homelessness to include students who are placed in out-of-home care by the state.

Section 2: Provides for a waiver of tuition, fees, and room and board expenses at a state-supported educational institution for a person who was placed in out-of-home care under specified circumstances for a person who is under 29 years of age. Provides an exception to educational institutions giving the waivers if insufficient funding is appropriated by the legislature.

Section 3: Defines out-of-home care for purposes of student loans and waivers.

Section 4: Replaces the term "foster care" for "out-of-home care" for purposes of grants and contracts.

Section 5: Amends the state's purpose and policy related to children to include education and intellectual development.

Section 6: Amends the legislative intent related to children to include providing a public education as provided under section 1.

Section 7: Replaces the term "foster homes" with "out-of-home care" for purposes of establishing medical assistance eligibility for certain persons and adds a category of eligibility for persons under 21 years of age who were in out-of-home care for a specified period of time on or after the person's 16th birthday.

Section 8: Defines “out-of-home care” for the purposes of medical assistance eligibility.

Section 9: Establishes mandatory monthly visits by social workers employed by the department to make monthly home visits, as described, to all children in the custody of the department.

Section 10: Amends the definition of “child” for purposes of the child in need of aid statutes.

Section 11: Defines “out-of-home care” for purposes of juvenile programs and institutions.

Section 12: Replaces the term “foster care” with “out-of-home care” for purposes of transition programs. Redefines the beneficiaries of those programs as individuals who have been in state custody and out-of-home care rather than “foster care”.

Section 13: Increases the maximum eligibility age from 18 to 21 for purposes of the foster care transition program.

Section 14: Expands the recipients of state services to include children who were in state custody and placed in out-of-home care.

Section 15: Establishes a monetary stipend to be paid to persons who are eligible for the foster care transition program.

Section 16: Replaces the term “foster care” with “out-of-home care” for purposes of the transition program.

Section 17: Defines “out-of-home care” for the purposes of the transition program.