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CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 206(EDC)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Offered:

Referred:

Sponsor(s): HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act establishing a career assessment requirement in public schools; relating to**
2 **postsecondary courses for secondary school students; and relating to student counts for**
3 **school funding purposes."**

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

5 *** Section 1.** AS 14.03 is amended by adding new sections to read:

6 **Sec. 14.03.073. Secondary student career assessment.** (a) Each school
7 district in the state shall require students in grade 12 to complete a career preparedness
8 assessment as described in (b) of this section.

9 (b) The commissioner shall select for use in the state an assessment designed
10 to measure a student's level of preparedness to make the transition to work or college.
11 The assessment must assess a student's career aptitude and readiness for postsecondary
12 education or training in the areas of

13 (1) applied mathematics;

14 (2) reading for information; and

1 (3) locating information.

2 (c) Subject to the availability of appropriations, the department shall

3 (1) obtain a license that enables school districts to administer the
4 assessment described in (b) of this section with no charge assessed to the district by
5 the vendor of the assessment;

6 (2) provide districts with training and support in administering the
7 assessment;

8 (3) provide a report to each student on the results of the student's
9 assessment, based on nationally recognized criteria for evaluating a student's
10 preparedness to make the transition to work or college; and

11 (4) provide to the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education
12 information needed to determine a student's eligibility for financial assistance.

13 (d) The results of a student's career preparedness assessment shall be
14 displayed in summary form on the student's high school transcript.

15 **Sec. 14.03.074. Secondary student enrollment in postsecondary institution.**

16 (a) A secondary student who passes all portions of the examination required under
17 AS 14.03.075 may enroll in a postsecondary institution in the state that is approved by
18 the commissioner if

19 (1) the student is enrolled in a public secondary school in the state;

20 (2) the student is otherwise eligible to enroll, as determined by the
21 postsecondary institution; and

22 (3) the postsecondary courses will be completed before the student's
23 graduation from secondary school.

24 (b) The school district in which the student is enrolled in secondary school
25 shall make arrangement for the fees for the appropriate postsecondary courses in
26 which the student enrolls under this section.

27 * **Sec. 2.** AS 14.17.500(a) is amended to read:

28 (a) A district shall prepare and submit to the department by **March 15**
29 [NOVEMBER 5] of each fiscal year, in the manner and on forms prescribed by the
30 department, an estimate of its ADM and other student count data, including per school
31 student count data, for the **current and** succeeding fiscal year upon which

1 computations can be made to estimate the amount of state aid for which the district
2 may be eligible under AS 14.17.400 in the succeeding fiscal year. In making its report,
3 the district shall consider its ADM, other student count data, the pattern of growth or
4 decline of the student population in preceding years, and other pertinent information
5 available to the district.

6 * **Sec. 3.** AS 14.17.600(a) is amended to read:

7 (a) Within two weeks after the end of each of the 20-school-day periods
8 [PERIOD] ending the fourth Friday in October and the last Friday in February,
9 each district shall transmit a report to the department that, under regulations adopted
10 by the department, reports its ADM for that count period, the average ADM over the
11 two consecutive counting periods for the previous fiscal year, and, for the
12 February report and October report, the current year, and other student count
13 information that will aid the department in making a determination of its state aid
14 under the public school funding program. [FOR CENTRALIZED
15 CORRESPONDENCE STUDY, THE OCTOBER REPORT SHALL BE BASED ON
16 THE PERIOD FROM JULY 1 THROUGH THE FOURTH FRIDAY IN OCTOBER.]
17 The department may make necessary corrections in the report submitted and shall
18 notify the district of changes made. The commissioner shall notify the governor of
19 additional appropriations the commissioner estimates to be necessary to fully finance
20 the public school funding program for the current fiscal year.

21 * **Sec. 4.** AS 14.17.610(a) is amended to read:

22 (a) Except as provided in (d) of this section, the [THE] department shall
23 determine the state aid for each school district in a fiscal year on the basis of the
24 district's averaged student count for the October and February counting periods
25 [DATA] reported under AS 14.17.600 for the preceding and current fiscal years.
26 On or before the 15th day of each of the first nine months of each fiscal year, one-
27 twelfth of each district's state aid shall be distributed on the basis of the [DATA
28 REPORTED FOR THE] preceding fiscal year entitlement. On or before the 15th day
29 of each of the last three months of each fiscal year, one-third of the balance of each
30 district's state aid shall be distributed, after the balance has been recomputed under
31 (d) of this section [ON THE BASIS OF STUDENT COUNT AND OTHER DATA

1 REPORTED FOR THE CURRENT FISCAL YEAR].

2 * **Sec. 5.** AS 14.17.610 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

3 (d) If the averaged student count made and reported by a district under
4 AS 14.17.600 for the current year is higher than the averaged count made under that
5 section for the preceding fiscal year, the department shall recompute the state aid,
6 including per school student count data, to adjust for the higher average student count,
7 and the higher average count shall be used for the student count for the current year
8 and for the estimates made for the succeeding fiscal year under AS 14.17.500. The
9 February student count must be submitted to the department by March 15 of the
10 current year for a recomputation to be made under this subsection.

11 * **Sec. 6.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
12 read:

13 TRANSITION. In the first school year following the effective date of this Act, the
14 student count completed in the immediately preceding school year shall be used as the
15 average student count under AS 14.17.610(a) and (d), as amended and added by secs. 4 and 5
16 of this Act, as though two student count periods had occurred for that year and added.