

# LEGAL SERVICES

## DIVISION OF LEGAL AND RESEARCH SERVICES LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY STATE OF ALASKA

(907) 465-3867 or 465-2450  
FAX (907) 465-2029  
Mail Stop 3101

State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182  
Deliveries to: 129 6th St., Rm. 329

### MEMORANDUM

April 12, 2010

**SUBJECT:** Sectional Summary (CSSB 174(FIN) (Work Order No. 26-LS0764\D))

**TO:** Senator Linda Menard  
Attn: Michael Rovito

**FROM:** Jean M. Mischel  
Legislative Counsel

You have requested a sectional summary of the above-described bill.

As a preliminary matter, note that a sectional summary of a bill should not be considered an authoritative interpretation of the bill and the bill itself is the best statement of its contents. If you would like an interpretation of the bill as it may apply to a particular set of circumstances, please advise.

**Section 1.** Establishes in statute the Alaska scholars program to be administered by the Board of Regents of the University of Alaska for the purpose of providing scholarships to the University of Alaska to eligible students who attend a qualified high school in the state and who are academically ranked by the student's school in the top 15 percent of the student's graduating class. Award levels vary by ranking of student in five, 10, and 15 percent ranges. Establishes an account consisting of appropriations from the endowment trust fund and other sources. Requires an annual minimum contribution of 3.8 million dollars by the board of regents. Defines "qualified high school."

**Section 2.** Requires the postsecondary education commission to annually distribute not less than \$10,000,000 or the full amount appropriated, whichever is greater, to the AlaskAdvantage Education Grant Program. Distribution of the grants is to be to the postsecondary institution to the extent feasible. Requires pro rata distribution if insufficient funds are available.

**Section 3.** Amends eligibility requirements for the AlaskAdvantage grant program to include approved career and technical school programs.

**Section 4.** Reorganizes existing law pertaining to a priority for an AlaskAdvantage program grant for postsecondary students enrolled or about to be enrolled in a program that prepares the student to work in an occupation or profession for which a severe shortage of trained individuals exists. Eliminates discretionary priority for high school

students who are in a program for successful preparation for postsecondary study in a shortage area. Defines "severe shortage" and "occupation or profession."

**Section 5.** Increases annual minimum and maximum AlaskAdvantage grant awards from \$500 to \$1,000 and from \$2,000 to \$5,000, respectively.

**Section 6.** Increases total maximum AlaskAdvantage grant award to \$20,000.

**Section 7.** Makes conforming changes to the exemption from repayment conditions under the medical education program (WWAMI) for scholarships awarded under the Alaska scholars program established in sec. 1 of the bill, University of Alaska Scholarships for Natives under AS 14.43.050 - 14.43.075, free tuition under AS 14.43.085, and loans received under AS 14.43.091 - 14.43.160 or under 14.43.710 - 14.43.750.

**Section 8.** Changes the scholarship information date for reports of eligible students made by a qualified high school and adds birthdates and telephone numbers of students to the report.

**Section 9.** Cross references the definition of "qualified high school" for purposes of providing scholarship information.

**Section 10.** Adds a minimum number of dentistry, pharmacy, and optometry students funded under the existing professional student exchange program.

**Section 11.** Repeals existing law pertaining to University of Alaska scholarships for high school students.

**Section 12.** Provides that sec. 1 of the bill applies to students who were seniors in high school this and subsequent years.

**Section 13.** Renames art. 1 of AS 14.43 to "Alaska Scholars Program."

JMM:plm

10-228.plm