

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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"STRONG VALUES IN UNCERTAIN TIMES"

Alatna
Allakaket
Alcan
Aniak
Anvik
Arctic Village
Beaver
Beluga
Bettles
Birch Creek
Boundary
Central
Chalkyitsik
Chandalar
Chandalar Lake
Chicken
Chistochina
Chitina
Chuathbaluk
Circle
Coldfoot Camp
Copper Center
Crooked Creek
Deltana
Dot Lake
Dry Creek
Eagle
Eagle Village
Evansville
Flat
Fort Greely
Fort Yukon
Fortuna Ledge
Gakona
Galena
Georgetown
Grayling
Gulkana
Healy Lake
Holy Cross
Hughes

SPONSOR STATEMENT

House Bill 198 Special Education Service Agency Funding/Sunset

House Bill 198 removes a sunset requirement and increases state funding to the Special Education Service Agency (SESA), a not-for-profit organization established in statute in 1986. SESA is governed by the Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education and its own independent board of directors.

The Special Education Service Agency assists local school districts to provide needed special education services. Sometimes districts cannot fully serve students that have low-incidence disabilities with their existing personnel and resources. SESA has a pool of educators trained to give support to teachers and administrators who work daily with students who are *deaf, deaf-blind, mentally retarded, hearing impaired, blind and visually impaired, orthopedically disabled, health-impaired in other ways, and severely emotionally disturbed* . . . (AS 14.30.630 (b)(1)).

The Special Education Service Agency receives state support based on a funding formula adopted in 1998. Each year the Department of Education and Early Development allocates to SESA not less than \$15.75 times the number of students statewide. Although local school districts have received an increase in state funding since 1998, SESA has not. Under HB 198, the multiplier increases as the base student allocation increases. Currently the computation (four-tenths of one percent of \$5,680) equals \$22.72 which approximates the impact of inflation from 1998 to 2011.

Hushia
Kaltag
Kennicott
Kenny Lake
Koyukuk
Lake Minchumina
Lime Village
Livengood
Manley Hot Springs
Marshall
McCarthy
McGrath
Medfra
Mentasta Lake
Minto
Nabesna
Nenana
Nikolai
Northway
Nulato
Ophir
Rampart
Red Devil
RUBY
Russian Mission
Shageluk
Slana
Sleetmute
Stevens Village
Stony River
Takotna
Tanacross
Tanana
Tazlina
Telida
Tetlin
Tok
Tonsina
Tyonek
Venetie
Wiseman

Sponsor Statement for House Bill 198
Special Education Service Agency Funding/Sunset

The Special Education Service Agency is set to expire on June 30, 2013. During previous performance audits, both the Department of Education and the Legislative Auditor recommended removing SESA from the sunset process. House Bill 198 repeals the sunset requirement and thus allows SESA to plan long-term.

Thank you for your support of this legislation.