

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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**REPRESENTATIVE PEGGY WILSON
HOUSE DISTRICT 33**

SPONSOR STATEMENT

HB 21

“An Act relating to the length of a school week; and providing for an effective date.”

HB21 would allow a pilot program for one rural school district to implement a 4 day school week.

There is continued concern of poor student performance in our schools. We should be actively seeking alternative solutions that may improve district results. There are over 22 states in the US that have implemented a 4 day week in rural districts.

For most schools this has been a positive achievement – increased morale for students and teachers, reduced absenteeism and allowing teachers and students to have more direct contact time which then leads to better understanding of educational materials.

Provisions in HB 21 require the district to show that the majority of the community, students and teachers support the implementation of this program. Additionally, the district will have to prove that the students are receiving the equivalent of a 5 day school week. They will also be required to file quarterly reports to the Department of Education on student and teacher performance and the effect of the program. Specifically an annual report will be required to be submitted to the legislative education committee on the progress and performance ratings from the school district. This report will be due no later than January 15th and must include a comparison of the performance ratings before and after implementation of the 4 day week.

This bill is specific for a 3 year pilot program; at the end of that time period, the State Board of Education will evaluate the program and determine if it is beneficial to the district.