

# 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

March 18, 2016

**SUBJECT:** Sectional summary  
(CSHB 156(EDC); Work Order No. 29-LS0566\Y)

**TO:** Representative Wes Keller  
Chair of the House Education Committee  
Attn: Jim Pound

**FROM:** Kate S. Glover *KS*  
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. Requires the Department of Education and Early Development (the department) to include a performance designation for the state public school system in its annual report entitled "Alaska's Public Schools: A Report Card to the Public."

Section 2. Requires the department to inform each school district of the performance designation assigned to the state public school system.

Section 3. Requires the process for assigning performance designations to include a comparison of the state public school system to public schools in other states. Section 3 also removes the department's obligation to implement measures necessary to conform to federal law in providing for the student assessment system and process for assigning performance designations under AS 14.03.123.

Section 4. Requires improvement plans for schools with low performance designations to include measures that increase local control of education and parental choice and that do not require a direct increase in state or federal funding for the school or district.

Section 5. Modifies the criteria for recognizing schools that receive a high performance designation to require that the school demonstrate an improvement over the school's performance designation for the previous year.

Section 6. Removes the requirement for the department to implement 20 U.S.C. 6301 - 7941 (Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended) in the accountability system for schools and districts required under AS 14.03.123(f). Section 6 also requires the department to select student assessments with the input of teachers and school administrators.

Section 7. Authorizes the department to consult with the University of Alaska to develop secondary education requirements to improve student achievement in college preparatory courses. Also authorizes the department to consult with businesses and labor unions to develop a program to prepare students for apprenticeships or internships.

Section 8. Adds a new section prohibiting the department from requiring a school district or school to administer a statewide standards-based assessment after July 1, 2017, and before July 1, 2019. Requires the department to create a plan for developing or selecting statewide assessments that are approved by school districts for administration no later than the school year beginning in 2020. Requires the department to submit a report to the legislature on or before January 1, 2018, describing the assessment plan and making recommendations for changes in education laws or regulations that would allow school districts greater control over education policy in light of the enactment of the Every Student Succeeds Act, P.L. 114-95.

Section 9. Repeals AS 14.07.175, added by sec. 8 of the bill, on July 1, 2020.

Section 10. Allows the department to adopt regulations necessary to implement the Act. The regulations may not take effect before the effective date of the law implemented by the regulations.

Section 11. Provides an immediate effective date for sec. 10 of the bill.

Section 12. Provides that the remainder of the bill takes effect July 1, 2017.

If I may be of further assistance, please advise.

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