

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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SPONSOR STATEMENT

Senate Bill 102

Unfunded Education Mandates; Training; Teachers

For many years local school districts have expressed concern that both the state and federal governments have imposed unfunded mandates on school districts. Senate Bill 102 modifies current statutes in response to suggestions offered by school district officials statewide. The propose changes are as follows:

- Amends current statutes that allow secondary students to demonstrate mastery in mathematics, language arts, science, social studies and world languages in the following ways:
 - Defines secondary school in this context to mean grades nine through 12
 - Clarifies that school districts are not required to establish a challenge test for every course that is offered in mathematics, language arts, science, social studies and world languages
 - Requires the Department of Education provide districts with a list of approve assessment tools
- Requires the Department of Education to place on the web a sortable spreadsheet used to calculate school funding for each school district
- Requires the Department of Education to provide a fiscal note that estimates the fiscal impact of a regulation or statute on local school districts
- Allows school districts flexibility in scheduling required educator training, every five years on a staggered schedule
- Removes two restrictions when a school district may implement a layoff plan to reduce the number of tenured teachers
- Repeals the requirement that school districts spend at least seventy percent of state aid on instruction