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Glover
3/25/17

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 96(EDC)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

**Offered:
Referred:**

Sponsor(s): SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to education; relating to school districts; relating to course credit for**
2 **students; relating to group insurance, self-insurance, and other cooperative**
3 **arrangements between school districts and businesses, nonprofit organizations, and**
4 **government agencies; relating to funding for school districts; relating to school**
5 **operating funds; relating to competency examinations for teacher certificates; relating**
6 **to the Professional Teaching Practices Commission; relating to the duties and powers of**
7 **the Department of Education and Early Development and the commissioner of**
8 **education and early development; relating to a virtual education consortium; relating to**
9 **the minimum wage for bus drivers; relating to the investment, appropriation, and**
10 **administration of the public school trust fund; and providing for an effective date."**

11 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

12 *** Section 1.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section

1 to read:

2 LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS. The legislature finds that

3 (1) virtual education allows students to access courses that are not otherwise
4 available in their local schools or school districts, including courses that are relevant to the
5 interests and career paths of students;

6 (2) virtual education provides students with access to teachers who are experts
7 in their fields, allowing for better instruction and better academic results;

8 (3) overall state spending on education does not correlate with improved
9 academic results; however, spending on quality classroom instruction does correlate with
10 improved academic results;

11 (4) access to quality classroom instruction, whether through virtual education
12 or traditional delivery modes, is important for the success of every student in the state;

13 (5) despite the benefits of virtual education, virtual education has limitations
14 and cannot replace high quality teachers and teaching aides in the classroom who inspire high
15 quality student learning.

16 * **Sec. 2.** AS 14.03.073(a) is amended to read:

17 (a) A school district shall provide the opportunity for students enrolled in
18 grades nine through 12 in the district to challenge one or more courses provided by the
19 district by demonstrating mastery in mathematics, language arts, science, social
20 studies, and world languages at the level of the course challenged. A school district
21 shall give full credit for a course to a student who successfully challenges that course
22 as provided under **(b) of** this section.

23 * **Sec. 3.** AS 14.03.073(b) is amended to read:

24 (b) A school district shall establish, within a reasonable time, an assessment
25 tool and a standard for demonstrating mastery in courses provided for students in
26 grades nine through 12 by the district under **(a) of** this section. This section does not
27 require a school district to establish an assessment tool for every course in
28 mathematics, language arts, science, social studies, and world languages that is offered
29 to students in grades nine through 12 by the district.

30 * **Sec. 4.** AS 14.03.073 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

31 (e) In addition to providing the opportunity for a student to challenge a course

under (a) - (c) of this section, a school district shall allow a student enrolled in grades nine through 12 to receive course credit for a physical education, music, or art class, if the student participates in an activity, including a cultural activity, outside of school hours that the school district determines meets the educational or physical activity requirements of the course. A school district may adopt standards for awarding course credit for common activities.

* **Sec. 5.** AS 14.03.120(a) is amended to read:

(a) A district shall annually file with the department, and make available to the public on the district or local community's Internet website, or through another easily accessible method, a report that

(1) establishes district goals and priorities for improving education in the district;

(2) includes a plan for achieving district goals and priorities; [AND]

(3) includes a means of measuring the achievement of district goals and priorities; and

(4) summarizes the categories of administrative employees employed by the district and states the following ratios:

(A) each category of administrative employees compared to the number of students in the district;

(B) the total number of administrative employees employed by the district compared to the total number of teachers employed by the district;

(C) the total number of teachers employed by the district compared to the total number of students enrolled in the district.

* **Sec. 6.** AS 14.09.030(b) is amended to read:

(b) The department shall

(1) establish equipment requirements for each type of school bus that is used to transport school children to or from a public school;

(2) at least once [TWICE] each calendar year, inspect each school bus for compliance with requirements adopted under this subsection; and

(3) maintain a record of each accident involving a school bus or other

vehicle transporting school children that is owned by, leased by, or provided under contract to a municipal school district or regional educational attendance area; the record must include the date of the accident, a list of persons injured, whether the person's injury occurred within the school bus, and each type of injury.

* **Sec. 7.** AS 14.14.110(a) is amended to read:

(a) When necessary to provide more efficient or more economical educational services, a district may cooperate or the department may require a district to cooperate with other districts, state-operated schools, or the Bureau of Indian Affairs in providing educational or administrative services. However, if a cooperative arrangement requires pupils to live away from their usual homes, the school board shall provide classes within the attendance area when there are at least eight children eligible to attend elementary and secondary school in the attendance area. In this subsection,

(1) "administrative services" includes supervisory, maintenance, purchasing, student nutrition, student transportation, shared facilities, or other services that are required for unified administration, or participation in a policy of group health insurance under AS 39.30.090 or a policy of self-insurance provided by the Department of Administration under AS 39.30.091;

(2) "educational services" includes boarding and tuition arrangements, pupil or teacher exchanges, special education services, [OR] curriculum development, professional teacher development, or the use of technology to deliver classroom instruction.

* **Sec. 8.** AS 14.14.115(a) is amended to read:

(a) To encourage cooperative arrangements between school districts and between school districts and businesses, nonprofit organizations, and state or local government agencies to provide more efficient or economical administrative or educational services, a school district may receive a one-time cooperative arrangement grant from the department of up to \$200,000 if the school district demonstrates that the arrangement will result in a cost savings to the district [\$100,000].

* **Sec. 9.** AS 14.14.115 is amended by adding new subsections to read:

(d) To be eligible for a cooperative arrangement grant between school districts

under this section, other than a cooperative arrangement grant for assistance with the costs of transferring a health insurance policy under (e) of this section, a district must either be a rural school district or enter into a cooperative arrangement with a rural school district.

(e) The department may award a one-time cooperative arrangement grant under this section to a school district to assist the school district in paying for the costs of transferring school district employees from a health insurance policy provided by the school district to a policy of group health insurance under AS 39.30.090 or a policy of self-insurance provided by the Department of Administration under AS 39.30.091. The department may not award a cooperative arrangement grant to a school district to pay the school district's contributions to the costs of the health insurance policy.

(f) During the first three fiscal years after a cooperative arrangement is awarded under this section, a district awarded a grant may accumulate in its school operating fund, in addition to the unreserved portion allowed under AS 14.17.505(a), an amount equal to the savings resulting from the cooperative arrangement.

(g) In this section, "rural school district" means a regional educational attendance area or a small municipal school district as that term is defined in AS 14.11.025(c).

* **Sec. 10.** AS 14.17.450(a) is amended to read:

(a) Except as provided in (g) of this section, for [FOR] purposes of calculating a school's ADM to determine state aid, the ADM of each school in a district shall be computed by applying the following formula:

If the student count				The adjusted student count is				
in a school is				The number of				
				students in				
At least	But less than	Base	Multiplier	excess of				
10	- 20	39.6						
20	- 30	39.6	+ (1.62	x	20)			
30	- 75	55.8	+ (1.49	x	30)			
75	- 150	122.85	+ (1.27	x	75)			

1	150	-	250	218.1	+	(1.08	x	150)
2	250	-	400	326.1	+	(0.97	x	250)
3	400	-	750	471.6	+	(0.92	x	400)
4	750 or over			793.6	+	(0.84	x	750).

5 * **Sec. 11.** AS 14.17.450 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

6 (g) The adjustment under (a) of this section does not apply to a school that is
 7 below 80 percent capacity and is within 25 miles by road of another school in the
 8 same district that is also below 80 percent capacity. The ADM of a school described in
 9 this subsection is computed by multiplying the student count for the school by 1.00.
 10 For purposes of this subsection, the district in which a school is located shall
 11 determine the capacity of the school. In this subsection, "road" means a road that is
 12 open to the public and receives year-round maintenance.

13 * **Sec. 12.** AS 14.17.505(a) is amended to read:

14 (a) A district may not accumulate in a fiscal year an unreserved portion of its
 15 year-end fund balance in its school operating fund, as defined by department
 16 regulations, that is greater than 25 [10] percent of its expenditures for that fiscal year,
 17 **except that, during the first three fiscal years after a cooperative arrangement**
 18 **grant is awarded under AS 14.14.115, a district may accumulate an additional**
 19 **unreserved portion that is equal to the amount of savings resulting from the**
 20 **grant.**

21 * **Sec. 13.** AS 14.20.020(i) is amended to read:

22 (i) Beginning on July 1, 1998, a person is not eligible for an initial regular
 23 teacher certificate unless the person has taken and successfully completed a
 24 competency examination or examinations designated, at the time the person took the
 25 test, by the board. The board shall review nationally recognized examinations that are
 26 designed to test the competency of new teachers and shall designate those
 27 examinations that it finds adequately test the skills and abilities of new teachers. For
 28 each examination designated under this subsection, the board shall establish the
 29 minimum acceptable level of performance. **If the board designates a Praxis test as a**
 30 **competency examination under this subsection, the board shall periodically**
 31 **adjust the minimum acceptable level of performance established for the Praxis**

test so that the level is equal to or higher than the most stringent minimum acceptable level of performance for teacher certification established by another state. Regulations adopted under this subsection to increase the minimum acceptable level of performance on a competency examination may not take effect earlier than one year after the board adopts the regulation.

* **Sec. 14.** AS 14.20.380 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

(b) The department shall provide administrative support services to the commission.

* **Sec. 15.** AS 14.20.460 is amended to read:

Sec. 14.20.460. Duties of commission. The commission shall

(1) establish procedures, and adopt regulations to implement the purposes of AS 14.20.370 - 14.20.510;

(2) conduct investigations and hearings on alleged violations of ethical or professional teaching performance, contractual obligations, and professional teaching misconduct;

(3) review the regulations of the department as they relate to teacher certification and recommend necessary changes;

(4) review the decisions of the department regarding the issuance or denial of certificates and in its discretion recommend reversal of decisions;

(5) reduce the commission's administrative costs by using administrative support services provided by the department.

* **Sec. 16.** AS 14.30 is amended by adding a new section to read:

Article 15. Virtual Education.

Sec. 14.30.760. Virtual education consortium. (a) The department, in cooperation with school districts, shall establish a virtual education consortium for the purpose of making virtual education and professional development resources available to students and teachers in the state. The consortium shall create and maintain a database of virtual education courses for students in grades six through 12, training in virtual instruction for teachers of students in grades six through 12, and professional development courses for teachers of students in any grade. A school district or a third-party vendor may provide a course for students or teachers that is included in the

1 database. A virtual education course for students may only be included in the database
2 if the course is approved by the department under (b) of this section.

3 (b) The department shall review the curriculum of a virtual education course
4 for students before including the course in the database. The department may approve
5 the course if the course is appropriate for students in grades six through 12 and aligned
6 with state standards established by the department. The database must be accessible to
7 all school districts and include the following information for each course:

8 (1) title, subject, and description;

9 (2) the name of the school district or third-party vendor that provides
10 the course;

11 (3) a description of the method of instruction; the description must
12 indicate whether the instruction is synchronous, asynchronous, or blended; and

13 (4) samples of the curriculum and instruction provided in the course,
14 including an introductory video of the instructor, and, for a synchronous course, a
15 video of the instructor teaching.

16 (c) The consortium shall provide training for teachers of students in grades six
17 through 12 on virtual instruction methods and the differences between virtual
18 instruction and instruction offered in a classroom. A teacher may not provide
19 instruction through a course for students that is in the database unless

20 (1) the teacher has completed the training provided by the consortium;
21 or

22 (2) the consortium determines that the teacher's previous experience
23 has prepared the teacher to provide virtual instruction and the teacher demonstrates the
24 skills necessary to provide virtual instruction.

25 (d) In addition to providing training for teachers under (c) of this section, the
26 consortium shall offer professional development courses for teachers of students in
27 any grade through the database and shall include in the database professional
28 development courses provided by third-party vendors. A school district with adequate
29 broadband Internet access to participate in virtual professional development courses
30 shall require teachers in that school district to complete professional development
31 training through the consortium. The consortium may require, as a condition of

1 participation, that school districts participating in virtual professional development
2 courses for teachers adopt the same in-service days.

3 (e) A school district that provides a course included in the database may
4 charge a fee to the school district in which a student who takes the course is enrolled.
5 The fee may approximate the estimated cost to the school district for providing the
6 course but may not exceed the amount calculated by multiplying the base student
7 allocation by a fraction, the numerator of which is the number of classes the student is
8 taking during the school year that are provided by the school district, and the
9 denominator of which is the total number of classes in which the student is enrolled
10 for the school year in any school district.

11 (f) A school district that participates in the consortium shall pay a fee to the
12 consortium. The department shall establish the fee in regulations based on a
13 recommendation of the consortium and may adjust the fee annually as necessary. By
14 June 30, 2020, the fees must approximately equal the consortium's administrative
15 costs related to reviewing and approving courses and maintaining the database.

16 (g) The consortium may require, as a condition of participation, that school
17 districts that provide courses or have students participating in courses included in the
18 database under (b) of this section adopt the same school term and class schedule for all
19 or part of a school day. The school term must meet the requirements of AS 14.03.030.

20 (h) In this section,

21 (1) "asynchronous" means instruction that does not require the
22 simultaneous participation of a student and instructor;

23 (2) "base student allocation" means the amount set out in
24 AS 14.17.470;

25 (3) "blended" means instruction that uses a combination of
26 asynchronous and synchronous delivery;

27 (4) "synchronous" means instruction that requires the simultaneous
28 participation of a student and instructor; synchronous instruction is delivered in real
29 time through videoconferencing or other live means;

30 (5) "virtual education" or "virtual instruction" means instruction
31 delivered through telecommunications or other digital or electronic methods.

* **Sec. 17.** AS 23.10.055(a) is amended to read:

(a) The provisions of AS 23.10.050 - 23.10.150 do not apply to

(1) an individual employed in agriculture, which includes farming in all its branches and, among other things, includes the cultivation and tillage of the soil, dairying, the production, cultivation, growing, and harvesting of any agricultural or horticultural commodities, the raising of livestock, bees, fur-bearing animals, or poultry, and any practices, including forestry and lumbering operations, performed by a farmer or on a farm as an incident to or in conjunction with the farming operations, including preparation for market, or delivery to storage or to market or to carriers for transportation to market;

(2) an individual employed in the catching, trapping, cultivating or farming, netting, or taking of any kind of fish, shellfish, or other aquatic forms of animal and vegetable life;

(3) an individual employed in the hand picking of shrimp;

(4) an individual employed in domestic service, including a baby-sitter, in or about a private home;

(5) an individual employed by the United States or by the state or a political subdivision of the state, [EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN AS 23.10.065(b),] including prisoners not on furlough detained or confined in prison facilities;

(6) an individual engaged in the nonprofit activities of a nonprofit religious, charitable, cemetery, or educational organization or other nonprofit organization where the employer-employee relationship does not, in fact, exist, and where services rendered to the organization are on a voluntary basis and are related only to the organization's nonprofit activities; for purposes of this paragraph, "nonprofit activities" means activities for which the nonprofit organization does not incur a liability for unrelated business income tax under 26 U.S.C. 513, as amended;

(7) an employee engaged in the delivery of newspapers to the consumer;

(8) an individual employed solely as a watchman or caretaker of a plant or property that is not in productive use for a period of four months or more;

(9) an individual employed

(A) in a bona fide executive, administrative, or professional capacity;

(B) in the capacity of an outside salesman or a salesman who is employed on a straight commission basis; or

(C) as a computer systems analyst, computer programmer, software engineer, or other similarly skilled worker;

(10) an individual employed in the search for placer or hard rock minerals;

(11) an individual under 18 years of age employed on a part-time basis not more than 30 hours in a week;

(12) employment by a nonprofit educational or child care facility to serve as a parent of children while the children are in residence at the facility if the employment requires residence at the facility and is compensated on a cash basis exclusive of room and board at an annual rate of not less than

(A) \$10,000 for an unmarried person; or

(B) \$15,000 for a married couple;

(13) an individual who drives a taxicab, is compensated for taxicab services exclusively by customers of the service, whose written contractual arrangements with owners of taxicab vehicles, taxicab permits, or radio dispatch services are based on [UPON] flat contractual rates and not based on a percentage share of the individual's receipts from customers, and whose written contract with owners of taxicab vehicles, taxicab permits, or radio dispatch services specifically provides that the contract places no restrictions on hours worked by the individual or on areas in which the individual may work except to comply with local ordinances;

(14) a person who holds a license under AS 08.54 and who is employed by a registered guide-outfitter or master guide-outfitter licensed under AS 08.54, for the first 60 workdays in which the person is employed by the registered guide-outfitter or master guide-outfitter during a calendar year;

(15) an individual engaged in activities for a nonprofit religious, charitable, civic, cemetery, recreational, or educational organization where the employer-employee relationship does not, in fact, exist, and where services are

rendered to the organization under a work activity requirement of AS 47.27 (Alaska temporary assistance program);

(16) an individual who

(A) provides emergency medical services only on a voluntary basis;

(B) serves with a full-time fire department only on a voluntary basis; or

(C) provides ski patrol services on a voluntary basis;

(17) a student participating in a University of Alaska practicum described under AS 14.40.065;

(18) an individual who is employed by a motor vehicle dealer and whose primary duty is to

(A) receive, analyze, or reference requests for service, repair, or analysis of motor vehicles;

(B) arrange financing for the sale of motor vehicles and related products and services that are added or included as part of the sale; or

(C) solicit, sell, lease, or exchange motor vehicles.

*** Sec. 18.** AS 37.10.071(d) is amended to read:

(d) In exercising investment, custodial, or depository powers or duties under this section, the fiduciary or the fiduciary's designee is liable for a breach of a duty that is assigned or delegated under this section, or under AS 14.40.255, 14.40.280(c), 14.40.400(b), AS 37.10.070, AS 37.14.160 [AS 37.14.110(c), 37.14.160], or 37.14.170. However, the fiduciary or the designee is not liable for a breach of a duty that has been delegated to another person if the delegation is prudent under the applicable standard of prudence set out in statute or if the duty is assigned by law to another person, except to the extent that the fiduciary or designee

(1) knowingly participates in, or knowingly undertakes to conceal, an act or omission of another person knowing that the act or omission is a breach of that person's duties under this chapter;

(2) by failure to comply with this section in the administration of specific responsibilities, enables another person to commit a breach of duty; or

(3) has knowledge of a breach of duty by another person, unless the fiduciary or designee makes reasonable efforts under the circumstances to remedy the breach.

* **Sec. 19.** AS 37.14.130 is amended to read:

Sec. 37.14.130. Powers and duties of board. The board created in AS 37.14.120 has the following powers and duties:

(1) to hold regular meetings and special meetings considered necessary; and

(2) to have prepared an annual accounting of the [PRINCIPAL AND INCOME OF THE] fund established in AS 37.14.110.

* **Sec. 20.** AS 37.14.140 is amended to read:

Sec. 37.14.140. Utilization of income. The net income of the fund may [NOT] be appropriated only for the purposes of [A PURPOSE OTHER THAN] the support of the state public school program or reimbursement of the costs of administration of the fund. The commissioner of revenue shall invest realized net income that has not been appropriated or that has been appropriated but not expended until the income is appropriated and expended.

* **Sec. 21.** AS 37.14.140 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

(b) Each fiscal year, the legislature may appropriate from the income of the fund not more than 4.75 percent of the amount determined by the commissioner of revenue under AS 37.14.160(5).

* **Sec. 22.** AS 37.14.160 is amended to read:

Sec. 37.14.160. Duties of the commissioner of revenue. The commissioner of revenue is the treasurer of the trust fund created in AS 37.14.110 and shall

(1) in carrying out investment duties under this section, exercise the same powers and duties established for the Alaska Retirement Management Board in AS 37.10.220;

(2) deposit the principal and income from investments into [IN SEPARATE PRINCIPAL AND INCOME ACCOUNTS FOR] the fund;

(3) invest and maintain accounting records [THAT DISTINGUISH BETWEEN THE PRINCIPAL AND INCOME] of the fund;

(4) provide reports to the board established under AS 37.14.120 on the condition and investment performance of the fund;

(5) determine, on July 1 of each year, the monthly average market value of the fund for the previous three fiscal years.

* **Sec. 23.** AS 37.14.170 is amended to read:

Sec. 37.14.170. Investments. The commissioner of revenue is the fiduciary of the trust fund and shall invest the fund to provide increasing **returns from capital appreciation and** net income over long-term periods to the fund's **current** [INCOME] beneficiaries. The commissioner may invest the money in the fund on the basis of probable total rate of return to promote the long-term generation of **capital appreciation and** income. In managing the trust fund, the commissioner shall

(1) consider the status of the fund's capital and the income generated on both a current and a probable future basis;

(2) determine the appropriate investment objectives;

(3) establish investment policies to achieve the objectives; and

(4) act only in regard to the financial interests of the fund's beneficiaries.

* **Sec. 24.** AS 14.20.470(a)(7); AS 23.10.065(b), 23.10.065(c); and AS 37.14.110(c) are repealed.

* **Sec. 25.** The uncoded law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to read:

APPLICABILITY. The repeals of AS 23.10.065(b) and (c) by sec. 24 of this Act apply to a contract entered into on or after the effective date of sec. 24 of this Act.

* **Sec. 26.** This Act takes effect June 30, 2017.