

Alaska State Legislature

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Session: Capital Room 125
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Senator Cathy Giessel
Senator Gary Stevens
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Senate Education Committee

Senate Bill 96 – Alaska Education Transformation Act

Explanation of Changes – Version T to M

1. Page 1, Lines 1-12: Multiple changes were made to the title in order for the title to focus on the specific issues effected by the bill.
2. Page 3, Line 6: Adds language to allow a student to challenge out of a career and technical education course.
3. Page 3, Line 11 through Page 4, Line 21: Changes to the annual report filed by school districts in Section 5 of Version T are deleted. Language is added to the report required by the Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) in order for DEED to compile information reported on by school districts. The ratios to be reported on in Version T are also reported on in Version M:
 - Administrative employees to students
 - Administrative employees to teachers
 - Teachers to studentsDEED will send this report to school districts who will make available to the public the portion of the report relating to their district on their website or by another easily accessible method. “Administrative employee” is defined as a certificated employee that does not provide direct classroom instruction for students.
4. Page 5, Line 12: The pooling of health insurance is taken out of the definition of “administrative services” under AS 14.14.110 in order to avoid the possibility of the State requiring districts to pool health insurance.
5. Page 6, Line 3: The reference to a self-insurance policy under AS 39.30.091 is deleted as this type of health insurance is only offered to State employees. The cooperative grant can still be used for a district to participate in a group health insurance policy under AS 39.30.090.
6. Page 6, Line 13: Sections 10 and 11 of Version T are deleted.
7. Page 13, Line 11: Sections 20 and 21 in Version T is deleted relating to the utilization of income of the Public School Trust Fund.

8. Page 13, Lines 25-30: Adds a new section relating to the Public School Trust Fund allowing the Legislature to appropriate 4.75% of the Fund's market value. This section also requires that the appropriation be used only for supporting the state public school program and to cover the administrative costs of the fund.
9. Page 14, Line 14: AS 37.14.140 is repealed as the additional section added under point 8 directs how the Public School Trust Fund appropriations may be spent.
10. Page 14, Line 15 through Page 15, Line 15: Requires DEED to analyze schools that are under 70% capacity and within 25 miles by road of one or more schools within the same district. The report will be due by the beginning of the 2018 Legislative Session and will look at the feasibility of merging schools within a district with consideration given to the following variables:
 - If merging schools would result in overcrowding of schools.
 - If facility design for each school under consideration will be appropriate for all grade levels within the schools under consideration.
 - The estimated savings and costs associated with the merging of schools.
 - Any legal and financial liabilities that a school district and the state could incur due to the closure of a school.

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