

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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Sponsor Statement

SB 104

Every school district in Alaska has to have their curriculum reviewed and approved every six years. It is a long, arduous, and expensive task. Many school districts struggle with this because they do not have the necessary resources for this type of work.

The goal of this legislation is to provide all school districts with a three year reprieve from having to update or renew any curriculum. This will save school districts time and money. This will also allow for a time period in which the Alaska Education Challenge can be implemented without the burden of curriculum review.

This bill will allow the State Board of Education (BOE) to approve of the curriculum from the large 5 school districts and 2 rural school districts and allow that curriculum to be used by all school districts, on a voluntary basis, for three years. This time will be a transition period. During the three year reprieve from curriculum review by districts, the Department of Education and Early Development, in consultation with school districts, will have one year to find the best curriculum and best practices for math and English language arts in other states and in other countries. Then that curriculum will be tested on districts in Alaska, for two years, to see if it will be successful. If it does prove to be a good measure of success for our students, then the State Board of Education will review, approve and adopt that curriculum for all school districts to be able to use, if they so choose.

I urge your support for this legislation.