

# ALASKA LEGISLATURE

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## Sectional Analysis | HB 19– Limited Language Immersion Teacher Certificates

### **Section 1. Amends 14.20 with a new section, 14.20.023, Limited language immersion teacher certificates.**

#### **Page 1, Lines 1 to 4**

Title change to reflect new structure of the bill.

#### **Page 1, Line 7 to 11: 14.20.023(a)**

Gives the Department of Education and Early Development the ability to issue a limited language immersion teacher certificate.

#### **Page 1, Line 12 to Page 2, Line 5: 14.20.023(b)**

A person may only receive a limited language immersion teacher certificate if they demonstrate “instructional skills and subject matter expertise sufficient to assure the public that the person is competent as a teacher.” This language is used in current law, and like in current law, the state board of education is empowered to write regulations interpreting it. The state board of education’s regulations may require that a limited certificate holder undertake additional academic training.

#### **Page 2, Lines 6 to 13: 14.20.023(c)**

Limited language immersion teacher certificates can only be issued to a person if the school board of the district in which the person will teach has requested a limited certificate for that specific person. The limited certificate is valid only in the district that makes the request.

#### **Page 2, Lines 14 to 17: 14.20.023(d)**

Gives the state board of education authority to write regulations implementing AS 14.20.025. Provides that the regulations cannot require a certificate applicant to achieve a minimum score on an exam unless that exam is given in the instructional language the March 2, 2020 certificate will be valid for (e.g. a teacher who will be teaching only in German or Iñupiaq cannot be required to pass an exam given in English).

**Page 2, Lines 18 to 24: 14.20.023(e)**

Limited certificates are initially valid for one year. Terms and lengths of extension and renewal shall be set by the state board of education. In order for a limited certificate to be extended or renewed, the school board that initially requested the certificate must certify that the certificate holder has demonstrated skills in classroom instruction and student assessment.

**Page 2, Lines 25 to 31: 14.20.023(f)**

Section (f) differentiates between teachers of Alaska Native languages and world languages for the purposes of certificate renewal. World language teachers (described as those teaching a language that is not an Alaska Native language) are limited to five years of licensure under the limited teacher certificate offered in AS 14.20.023. Teachers of Alaska Native languages may hold these certificates for longer than five years.