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**CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 225( )**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

**BY**

**Offered:  
Referred:**

**Sponsor(s): SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**A BILL**

**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1 **"An Act relating to a paraprofessional training program; creating a limited teacher**  
2 **resident certificate; creating a teacher residency program; relating to requirements to**  
3 **issue a teacher certificate; relating to subject-matter expert limited teacher certificates;**  
4 **relating to limited teacher certificates; creating a teacher registered apprenticeship**  
5 **program; and creating a teacher recruitment and retention fund."**

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

7 **\* Section 1.** AS 14.07.020(a) is amended to read:

8 (a) The department shall

9 (1) exercise general supervision over the public schools of the state  
10 except the University of Alaska;

11 (2) study the conditions and needs of the public schools of the state,  
12 adopt or recommend plans, administer and evaluate grants to improve school  
13 performance awarded under AS 14.03.125, and adopt regulations for the improvement

1 of the public schools; the department may consult with the University of Alaska to  
2 develop secondary education requirements to improve student achievement in college  
3 preparatory courses;

4 (3) provide advisory and consultative services to all public school  
5 governing bodies and personnel;

6 (4) prescribe by regulation a minimum course of study for the public  
7 schools; the regulations must provide that, if a course in American Sign Language is  
8 given, the course shall be given credit as a course in a foreign language;

9 (5) establish, in coordination with the Department of Health and Social  
10 Services, a program for the continuing education of children who are held in juvenile  
11 detention facilities or juvenile treatment facilities, as those terms are defined in  
12 AS 47.12.990, in the state during the period of detention or treatment;

13 (6) accredit those public schools that meet accreditation standards  
14 prescribed by regulation by the department; these regulations shall be adopted by the  
15 department and presented to the legislature during the first 10 days of any regular  
16 session, and become effective 45 days after presentation or at the end of the session,  
17 whichever is earlier, unless disapproved by a resolution concurred in by a majority of  
18 the members of each house;

19 (7) prescribe by regulation, after consultation with the state fire  
20 marshal and the state sanitarian, standards that will ensure healthful and safe  
21 conditions in the public and private schools of the state, including a requirement of  
22 physical examinations and immunizations in pre-elementary schools; the standards for  
23 private schools may not be more stringent than those for public schools;

24 (8) exercise general supervision over pre-elementary schools that  
25 receive direct state or federal funding;

26 (9) exercise general supervision over elementary and secondary  
27 correspondence study programs offered by municipal school districts or regional  
28 educational attendance areas; the department may also offer and make available to any  
29 Alaskan through a centralized office a correspondence study program;

30 (10) accredit private schools that request accreditation and that meet  
31 accreditation standards prescribed by regulation by the department; nothing in this

paragraph authorizes the department to require religious or other private schools to be licensed;

(11) review plans for construction of new public elementary and secondary schools and for additions to and major rehabilitation of existing public elementary and secondary schools and, in accordance with regulations adopted by the department, determine and approve the extent of eligibility for state aid of a school construction or major maintenance project; for the purposes of this paragraph, "plans" include educational specifications, schematic designs, projected energy consumption and costs, and final contract documents;

(12) provide educational opportunities in the areas of vocational education and training, and basic education to individuals over 16 years of age who are no longer attending school; the department may consult with businesses and labor unions to develop a program to prepare students for apprenticeships or internships that will lead to employment opportunities;

(13) administer the grants awarded under AS 14.11;

(14) establish, in coordination with the Department of Public Safety, a school bus driver training course;

(15) require the reporting of information relating to school disciplinary and safety programs under AS 14.33.120 and of incidents of disruptive or violent behavior;

(16) establish by regulation criteria, based on low student performance, under which the department may intervene in a school district to improve instructional practices, as described in AS 14.07.030(a)(14) or (15); the regulations must include

(A) a notice provision that alerts the district to the deficiencies and the instructional practice changes proposed by the department;

(B) an end date for departmental intervention, as described in AS 14.07.030(a)(14)(A) and (B) and (15), after the district demonstrates three consecutive years of improvement consisting of not less than two percent increases in student proficiency on standards-based assessments in language arts and mathematics, as provided in AS 14.03.123(f)(1)(A); and

(C) a process for districts to petition the department for

continuing or discontinuing the department's intervention;

(17) notify the legislative committees having jurisdiction over education before intervening in a school district under AS 14.07.030(a)(14) or redirecting public school funding under AS 14.07.030(a)(15);

**(18) collaborate with the University of Alaska and districts to establish a paraprofessional training program for districts designed to prepare high school students for entry into the teacher registered apprenticeship program established in AS 14.20.700.**

\* **Sec. 2.** AS 14.20 is amended by adding new sections to read:

**Sec. 14.20.013. Limited teacher resident certificate.** (a) Notwithstanding AS 14.20.020, the department shall issue a limited teacher resident certificate to a person who meets the requirements of (b) of this section.

(b) To be eligible for a limited teacher resident certificate, a person must

(1) either

(A) hold a baccalaureate degree from an institution of higher education accredited by a recognized regional or national accrediting association or approved by the commissioner and be currently enrolled in an approved

(i) post-baccalaureate teacher education program at a nationally or regionally accredited institution meeting the requirements of AS 14.20.020(b) that provides for completion of the regular teacher certificate education requirements within three years after receipt of a limited teacher resident certificate under this section; or

(ii) nontraditional or alternative teacher education program; or

(B) be currently enrolled in the final year of a baccalaureate degree teacher education program at an institution of higher education accredited by a recognized regional or national accrediting association or approved by the commissioner;

(2) have submitted fingerprints and the fees required by the Department of Public Safety under AS 12.62.160 for criminal justice information and

1 a national criminal history record check to the department; the department must have  
2 submitted the fingerprints and fees to the Department of Public Safety for a report of  
3 criminal justice information under AS 12.62 and a national criminal history record  
4 check under AS 12.62.400, and the person must have been found by the department to  
5 be suitable for employment as a teacher under AS 14.20.020(f); and

6 (3) have taken the competency examination or examinations described  
7 in AS 14.20.020(i).

8 (c) A limited teacher resident certificate is valid for one school year and only  
9 valid while a teacher resident is participating in the teacher residency program  
10 established under AS 14.20.014. A limited teacher resident certificate may be renewed  
11 for two additional school years upon a showing of substantial progress toward  
12 completion of a teacher education program required under (b)(1) of this section and  
13 continued participation in the teacher residency program under AS 14.20.014. In this  
14 subsection, "teacher resident" means a teacher qualified to teach under (b) of this  
15 section.

16 (d) The department shall adopt regulations necessary to implement this section  
17 and shall consult with school districts, regional educational attendance areas, the  
18 University of Alaska, and other stakeholders before adopting regulations as required  
19 under this subsection.

20 (e) The board shall establish standards for the approval of nontraditional and  
21 alternative teacher education programs described in (b)(1)(A)(ii) of this section. The  
22 standards must be comparable to the standards for approving institutions of higher  
23 education under AS 14.20.020(b).

24 **Sec. 14.20.014. Teacher residency program.** (a) The teacher residency  
25 program is established in the department to help a teacher resident work as a teacher  
26 while progressing toward completion of the teacher education program required under  
27 AS 14.20.013(b)(1). The program must

28 (1) require that, during a teacher resident's first year of participation in  
29 the program, the teacher resident teach under the direct supervision of a program  
30 mentor who

31 (A) is an experienced teacher;

- (B) has primary responsibility for teaching the content; and
- (C) awards the grade or credit in the content area;
- (2) provide a teacher resident a structured learning experience supervised by an institution of higher education;
- (3) allow a school district or a regional educational attendance area to further design and implement the program to
- (A) meet the needs of the school district or regional educational attendance area;
- (B) provide a teacher resident with an instructional experience connected to program learning goals and district priorities; and
- (C) develop shared expectations for the teacher resident's gradual assumption of responsibilities in the teacher resident's placement as a fully certificated teacher;
- (4) require that a school district and a regional educational attendance area participating in the program
- (A) provide compensation to a teacher resident who is participating in the program and working for the school district or regional educational attendance area;
- (B) provide each teacher resident participating in the program with a program mentor as described in (1) of this subsection who has been trained as a program mentor in accordance with the standards established by the board under (e) of this section; and
- (C) collaborate with an institution of higher education through a memorandum of understanding or similar collaborative agreement when designing and implementing the school district or regional educational attendance area program under (3) of this subsection; and
- (5) require that the department
- (A) ensure that each school district and regional educational attendance area participating in the program provides each teacher resident with a program mentor as described in (1) of this subsection;
- (B) help a school district or a regional educational attendance

1 area meet the standards for the training of program mentors established by the  
2 board under (e) of this section; and

3 (C) help place a teacher resident in a school district or regional  
4 educational attendance area where the teacher resident will work as a teacher  
5 while progressing toward completion of the teacher education program under  
6 AS 14.20.013(b)(1).

7 (b) For purposes of (a)(4)(C) of this section, a school district or a regional  
8 educational attendance area shall give preference to an institution of higher education  
9 located in the state.

10 (c) The department shall

11 (1) adopt regulations to implement and govern the program;

12 (2) consult with the Department of Labor and Workforce Development  
13 and the United States Department of Labor to establish a standard form a school  
14 district or regional educational attendance area may use to apply to register the  
15 program as a registered apprenticeship program under 29 U.S.C. 50 - 50c (National  
16 Apprenticeship Act); and

17 (3) before adopting regulations under this subsection, consult with  
18 school districts, regional educational attendance areas, the University of Alaska, and  
19 other stakeholders.

20 (d) A person employed as a teacher resident under this section is considered a  
21 certificated employee for purposes of AS 14.25 (teachers' retirement system).  
22 Employment as a teacher resident under this section counts as employment for  
23 purposes of acquiring tenure under AS 14.20.150; however, a teacher resident is not  
24 entitled to tenure until the teacher resident receives a teacher certificate under  
25 AS 14.20.020.

26 (e) The board shall establish standards for the training of program mentors as  
27 described in this section.

28 (f) A school district or regional educational attendance area may apply to  
29 register a program established under this section as a registered apprenticeship  
30 program under 29 U.S.C. 50 - 50c (National Apprenticeship Act). A school district or  
31 regional educational attendance area may use the standard form established by the

department under (c)(2) of this section to apply under this subsection.

(g) In this section,

(1) "program" means the teacher residency program established under this section;

(2) "teacher resident" means a teacher qualified to teach under AS 14.20.013(b).

\* **Sec. 3.** AS 14.20.020(h) is amended to read:

(h) A person is not eligible for a teacher certificate unless the person has completed **the coursework, training, and examinations** [THREE SEMESTER HOURS] in Alaska studies and [THREE SEMESTER HOURS] in multicultural education or cross-cultural communications **as required by the board by regulation.** However, the commissioner may issue a provisional certificate, valid for **not** [NO] longer than two years, to an applicant who has not completed the **coursework, training, and examinations** [SEMESTER HOURS] required under this subsection at the time of application. **A school district or regional educational attendance area may establish coursework, training, and examination requirements that are more stringent than the coursework, training, and examinations required under this subsection.**

\* **Sec. 4.** AS 14.20.020(i) is amended to read:

(i) Beginning on July 1, 1998, a person is not eligible for an initial regular teacher certificate unless the person has taken and successfully completed a competency examination or examinations designated, at the time the person took the test, by the board, **or the person has demonstrated competency through an alternative method established under this subsection.** The board shall review nationally recognized examinations that are designed to test the competency of new teachers and shall designate those examinations that it finds adequately test the skills and abilities of new teachers. For each examination designated under this subsection, the board shall establish the minimum acceptable level of performance. **The board may establish an alternative method to test the competency, skills, and abilities of new teachers who have taken but have not successfully completed the competency examination or examinations designated by the board under this**



**subsection.**

\* **Sec. 5.** AS 14.20.022(b) is amended to read:

(b) To be eligible for a subject-matter expert limited teacher certificate, a person shall

(1) hold at least a baccalaureate degree from an institution of higher education accredited by a recognized regional or national accrediting association or approved by the commissioner and

(A) have majored or minored in the subject that the person will be teaching; [OR]

(B) have at least five years of experience in the subject matter that the person will be teaching; or

**(C) have achieved a passing score, as defined by department regulations, on a subject-matter examination approved by the board;**

(2) have submitted fingerprints and the fees required by the Department of Public Safety under AS 12.62.160 for criminal justice information and a national criminal history record check to the department; the department must have submitted the fingerprints and fees to the Department of Public Safety for a report of criminal justice information under AS 12.62 and a national criminal history record check under AS 12.62.400 and the person must have been found by the department to be suitable for employment as a teacher under AS 14.20.020(f); [AND]

(3) be currently enrolled in an approved

**(A) post-baccalaureate teacher education program at a nationally or** regionally accredited institution meeting the requirements of AS 14.20.020(b) that provides for completion of the regular teacher certificate education requirements within **three** [TWO] years after receipt of a subject-matter expert limited teacher certificate under this section; **or**

**(B) nontraditional or alternative teacher education program; and**

**(4) have demonstrated competency under AS 14.20.020(i).**

\* **Sec. 6.** AS 14.20.022(d) is amended to read:

(d) A subject-matter expert limited teacher certificate is valid for one school year and may be renewed for two [ONE] additional school years [YEAR] upon a showing of substantial progress toward [TOWARDS] completion of a [THE] teacher education program required under (b)(3) of this section.

\* **Sec. 7.** AS 14.20.022(e) is amended to read:

(e) A school district or regional educational attendance area that employs a subject-matter expert teacher shall provide a mentor who is an experienced teacher for the subject-matter expert teacher for at least the first two years [YEAR] of the subject-matter expert teacher's employment as a subject-matter expert teacher in the school district or regional educational attendance area.

\* **Sec. 8.** AS 14.20.022 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

(i) The board shall establish standards for the approval of nontraditional and alternative teacher education programs described in (b)(3)(B) of this section. The standards must be comparable to the standards for approving institutions of higher education under AS 14.20.020(b).

\* **Sec. 9.** AS 14.20.025 is amended to read:

**Sec. 14.20.025. Limited teacher certificates.** Notwithstanding AS 14.20.020(b), a person may be issued a limited certificate, valid only in the area of expertise for which it is issued, to teach Alaska Native language or culture, military science, or a vocational or technical course [FOR WHICH THE BOARD DETERMINES BY REGULATION THAT BACCALAUREATE DEGREE TRAINING IS NOT SUFFICIENTLY AVAILABLE]. A limited certificate may be issued under this section only if the school board of the district or regional educational attendance area in which the person will be teaching has requested its issuance. A person who applies for a limited certificate shall demonstrate, as required by regulations adopted by the board, instructional skills and subject matter expertise sufficient to ensure the public that the person is competent as a teacher. The board may require a person issued a limited certificate to undertake academic training as may be required by the board by regulation and make satisfactory progress in the academic training.

\* **Sec. 10.** AS 14.20 is amended by adding new sections to read:

**Article 8. Teacher Registered Apprenticeship Program.**

**Sec. 14.20.700. Teacher registered apprenticeship program.** (a) The teacher registered apprenticeship program is established in the department to help paraprofessionals or persons who possess a valid limited teacher certificate issued under AS 14.20.025 continue to work as a paraprofessional or teacher under a limited teacher certificate issued under AS 14.20.025 while earning credit toward a bachelor's degree and teaching certification. The program must

(1) be a multi-year program designed for a person who has not yet obtained a bachelor's degree;

(2) include tiered compensation and responsibilities that increase as the participant gains pedagogical expertise;

(3) be designed to allow participants who successfully complete the program to obtain a teacher certificate; and

(4) require that each school district participating in the program provide each participant with a program mentor who

(A) is an experienced teacher; and

(B) has been trained as a program mentor in accordance with the standards established by the board under (c) of this section.

(b) The department shall

(1) adopt regulations to implement and govern the program; at a minimum, the regulations must establish

(A) program standards that meet the requirements necessary to qualify the program as a registered apprenticeship program under 29 U.S.C. 50 - 50c (National Apprenticeship Act); and

(B) a mentor-to-apprentice ratio;

(2) consult with the Department of Labor and Workforce Development and the United States Department of Labor to establish a standard form a school district may use to apply to register the program as a registered apprenticeship program under 29 U.S.C. 50 - 50c (National Apprenticeship Act); and

(3) in conjunction with the Department of Labor and Workforce Development, help school districts

(A) develop programs established under this section; and

(B) secure funding for the programs from sources other than the state.

(c) The board shall establish standards for the training of program mentors as described in this section.

(d) A school district may apply to register a program established under this section as a registered apprenticeship program under 29 U.S.C. 50 - 50c (National Apprenticeship Act). A school district may use the standard form established by the department under (b)(2) of this section to apply under this subsection.

(e) When collaborating with an institution of higher education in connection with the program, a school district shall

(1) give preference to an institution of higher education located in the state; and

(2) execute a memorandum of understanding or similar collaborative agreement.

(f) In this section, "program" means the teacher registered apprenticeship program.

**Sec. 14.20.710. Teacher recruitment and retention fund.** (a) The teacher recruitment and retention fund is established in the general fund for the purpose of providing grants under (b) of this section. The fund consists of money appropriated to it by the legislature, including grants and donations, money from other sources, and interest earned on money in the fund. Appropriations to the fund do not lapse.

(b) Money in the fund may be appropriated for the department to provide grants to nonprofit organizations that advance recruitment and retention efforts in the state and to provide grants to school districts for the school districts to design, develop, implement, or fund

(1) teacher registered apprenticeship programs;

(2) teacher residency programs;

(3) alternative pathway programs;

(4) student loan repayment;

(5) housing stipends;

- (6) cost of living subsidies;
- (7) recruitment bonuses;
- (8) longevity bonuses;
- (9) mentorship coaching;
- (10) teacher training;
- (11) professional development for superintendents, principals, and other school administrators;
- (12) continuing education; and
- (13) other programs approved by the department that are likely to improve teacher recruitment and reduce teacher turnover.

(c) The department shall

(1) apply for and use money from the fund to obtain private and federal grants for the purposes under AS 14.20.700 and this section;

(2) help school districts complete grant applications for a grant under (b) of this section;

(3) award grants under (b) of this section based on a scoring matrix established by the department in regulation; the scoring matrix must give the most weight to applications from school districts that

(A) have the greatest need for a grant; and

(B) will use the grant money for purposes that most greatly benefit student performance through improved teacher recruitment and retention rates.

(d) The department may require that a school district provide matching funds for the implementation and operation of the program for which the school district requests the grant. The matching funds may come from private sources, including a corporation organized under 43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq. (Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act).

(e) The department shall, after each award cycle, provide to each school district a copy of each grant application that resulted in an award of a grant under (b) of this section for the purpose of spreading innovative ideas across the state.

(f) In this section, "fund" means the teacher recruitment and retention fund.

1     \* **Sec. 11.** AS 37.05.146(c) is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

2                     (80) the teacher recruitment and retention fund under AS 14.20.710.

3     \* **Sec. 12.** AS 14.16.050(a)(3)(C); AS 14.20.022(c), and 14.20.220 are repealed.

4     \* **Sec. 13.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to  
5 read:

6             REPORT ON STUDY OF TEACHER HOUSING NEEDS. The Department of  
7 Education and Early Development shall conduct a study that assesses the need for teacher  
8 housing in rural areas of the state. The study must include a projection of future teacher  
9 housing needs in rural areas of the state, a plan to meet those needs, and the annual  
10 appropriations required to satisfy the identified needs. The Department of Education and  
11 Early Development shall collaborate with the Department of Labor and Workforce  
12 Development to determine the projection of future teacher housing needs as part of the study.  
13 The Department of Education and Early Development shall collaborate with the Alaska  
14 Housing Finance Corporation and school districts in the state to develop the plan to meet the  
15 needs for teacher housing identified in the study. Not later than December 31, 2023, the  
16 Department of Education and Early Development shall submit a report on the study to the  
17 senate secretary and chief clerk of the house of representatives and notify the legislature that  
18 the report is available.