

SENATE CS FOR CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 145(FIN)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTIETH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Offered: 4/25/97

Referred: Rules

Sponsor(s): HOUSE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act relating to certification of teachers; and providing for an effective date."

2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

3 * Section 1. AS 14.20.020(b) is amended to read:

4 (b) A person is not eligible for a teacher certificate unless that person has
5 received at least a baccalaureate degree from an institution of higher education
6 accredited by a recognized regional accrediting association or approved by the
7 commissioner **and, if applicable, has passed the examination or examinations**
8 **required by (i) of this section.** However, this subsection is not applicable to

9 (1) persons employed in the state public school system on September 1,
10 1962;

11 (2) persons issued an emergency certificate during a situation **that**
12 [WHICH], in the judgment of the commissioner, requires the temporary issuance of
13 a certificate to a person not otherwise qualified.

14 * Sec. 2. AS 14.20.020(c) is amended to read:

15 (c) The board may establish by regulation additional requirements for the

issuance of certificates. The department shall establish by regulation [
INCLUDING] the fees to be charged for each certificate, including fees for criminal
history background checks and for other charges assessed against teachers as part
of certification. In establishing the fees to be charged, the department shall
establish the fee levels so that the total amount of the fees collected relating to the
certification of teachers approximately equals, when added to the other fees
collected from teachers, the actual regulatory costs for certifying and disciplining
teachers in the state. The department shall annually review each fee level to
determine whether the regulatory costs are approximately equal to fee collections.
If the review indicates that fee collections and regulatory costs are not
approximately equal, the department shall calculate fee adjustments to the fees
for certification of teachers and adopt regulations under this subsection to
implement the adjustments. In January of each year, the department shall report
on all fee levels and revisions for the previous year under this subsection to the
office of management and budget. The department shall consider the board's
recommendations concerning the fee levels and regulatory costs before revising
fee schedules to comply with this subsection. In this subsection, "regulatory
costs" means costs of the department that are attributable to regulation of the
teaching profession, including the portion of the expenses of the board that are
attributable to the regulation of the teaching profession and the expenses of the
Professional Teaching Practices Commission.

* **Sec. 3.** AS 14.20.020 is amended by adding a new subsection 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. 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.

* **Sec. 4.** The requirements for examination established in secs. 1 and 3 of this Act do not

1 apply to a teacher who holds a valid regular teacher certificate on the effective date of secs.
2 1 and 3 of this Act.

3 * **Sec. 5.** The Department of Education shall report to the legislature by March 1, 1998,
4 on the examinations the department has selected in compliance with AS 14.20.020(i), enacted
5 by sec. 3 of this Act. The department shall also report to the legislature by March 1, 1999,
6 on the progress made in using competency examinations in issuing initial regular teacher
7 certificates.

8 * **Sec. 6.** Section 2 of this Act takes effect July 1, 1998.