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**CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 330(FIN)**

**IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA**

**TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION**

**BY THE HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**Offered:  
Referred:**

**Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVE DICK**

**A BILL**

**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1 **"An Act establishing a Joint Legislative Task Force on Sustainable Education;**  
2 **establishing state education standards; amending the authority of the Department of**  
3 **Education and Early Development to adopt education standards; and providing for an**  
4 **effective date."**

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

6 **\* Section 1.** The uncoded law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section  
7 to read:

8 **ESTABLISHMENT OF JOINT LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE ON SUSTAINABLE**  
9 **EDUCATION; COMPOSITION; DUTIES. (a)** A Joint Legislative Task Force on Sustainable  
10 Education is established in the legislative branch of state government for the purpose of  
11 examining the efficiency and effectiveness of public education delivery in the state. The task  
12 force shall consider

13 (1) all aspects of public education funding in the state;

14 (2) matters pertaining to education standards for students in grades

1 kindergarten through 12 in the state; and

2 (3) the ability of the public education system to prepare students in the state  
3 for various rewarding careers.

4 (b) The duties of the task force established under this section include

5 (1) creation of a process for vetting proposed education standards before the  
6 standards are adopted by the state Board of Education and Early Development;

7 (2) examination of the possibility for dual education tracks for postsecondary  
8 vocational and college readiness;

9 (3) evaluation of school district challenges that result from implementation of  
10 federal education laws;

11 (4) evaluation of the efficacy, cost-effectiveness, and redundancies of various  
12 education assessments, including the high school graduation qualifying examination, and the  
13 submission of recommendations to the legislature, the governor, and the state Board of  
14 Education and Early Development for improvement of student assessment;

15 (5) analysis of public education funding that includes

16 (A) coverage of appropriate education expenses under AS 14.17.410;

17 (B) alternative methods of addressing fluctuating energy, health,  
18 insurance, personnel, pupil transportation, and other relevant costs;

19 (C) a comparison of the allocation of administrative and instructional  
20 personnel among districts;

21 (D) a calculation of the effect of pension and health care expenses on  
22 total education costs;

23 (E) a cost-benefit review of the process for hiring, evaluating, and  
24 retaining staff members; and

25 (6) submission of a report of its findings and proposed legislation to the  
26 governor, the Department of Education and Early Development, and the legislature by  
27 September 30, 2013, and of additional reports the task force considers advisable.

28 (c) The task force established under this section consists of

29 (1) three members of the senate, one of whom shall be the chair of the senate  
30 committee having jurisdiction over education, appointed by the president of the senate;

31 (2) three members of the house of representatives, one of whom shall be the

1 chair of the house committee having jurisdiction over education, appointed by the speaker of  
2 the house of representatives;

3 (3) five members appointed jointly by the president of the senate and the  
4 speaker of the house of representatives, as follows:

5 (A) the president of the Association of Alaska School Boards;

6 (B) a superintendent of a public school district in the state;

7 (C) a representative of a major career destination of high school  
8 graduates in the state;

9 (D) the president of the Alaska Council of School Administrators; and

10 (E) a representative of the University of Alaska; and

11 (4) one member appointed by the governor.

12 (d) A majority of the members of the task force constitutes a quorum. A vacancy on  
13 the task force shall be filled in the same manner as the original selection or appointment.

14 (e) Members of the task force serve without compensation but are entitled to per diem  
15 and travel expenses authorized for boards and commissions under AS 39.20.180. The staff of  
16 the legislative members of the task force shall serve as staff for the task force.

17 (f) The task force shall meet at the call of the cochaIRS. The president of the senate and  
18 the speaker of the house of representatives shall jointly appoint the cochaIRS of the task force.  
19 The task force may meet during and between legislative sessions.

20 (g) The Department of Education and Early Development shall provide data and other  
21 information that is requested by a majority of the task force as necessary to fulfill the duties of  
22 the task force under (b) of this section.

23 \* **Sec. 2.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to  
24 read:

25 **BOARD OF EDUCATION AND EARLY DEVELOPMENT; EDUCATION**  
26 **STANDARDS.** (a) Notwithstanding the authority in AS 14.07.020(b), the state Board of  
27 Education and Early Development shall adopt content and performance education standards,  
28 including grade level expectations, only after the standards have been vetted under a process  
29 created by the Joint Legislative Task Force on Sustainable Education under sec. 1 of this Act.

30 (b) Until education standards are adopted by the state Board of Education and Early  
31 Development as provided under (a) of this section, the education standards for the state public

schools serving students in grades kindergarten through 12 are as follows:

(1) the content standards for the subjects listed in this subsection, as set out in the department's publication entitled Alaska Standards: Content and Performance Standards for Alaska Students, as revised on March 2006, are adopted by reference; the subjects are

- (A) English/language arts;
- (B) mathematics;
- (C) science;
- (D) geography;
- (E) government and citizenship;
- (F) history;
- (G) skills for a healthy life;
- (H) arts;
- (I) world languages;
- (J) technology; and
- (K) employability;

(2) the content standards for physical education, as set out in the department's publication entitled Alaska Physical Education Standards, as revised on March 9, 2010, are adopted by reference;

(3) the performance standards for reading, writing, mathematics, science, and Alaska history for grades three through 10, as set out in the department's publication entitled Alaska Standards: Content and Performance Standards for Alaska Students, as revised on March 2006, are adopted by reference;

(4) the performance standards for reading, writing, and mathematics for grades kindergarten through two, as set out in the department's publication entitled Alaska Performance Standards (Grade Level Expectations) Kindergarten - Grade 2, as revised on September 28, 2006, are adopted by reference.

\* **Sec. 3.** This Act is repealed July 1, 2014.

\* **Sec. 4.** This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).