

Alaska State Legislature

House Education
Committee



Alaska State Capitol
120 4th Street
Juneau, Alaska
99801

HOUSE BILL 383 (34-LS1653\A)

“An Act creating building management specialist positions in the Department of Education and Early Development; and providing for an effective date.”

SPONSOR STATEMENT

House Bill 383 addresses a growing and costly challenge facing Alaska’s education system: the maintenance and management of our school facilities. Across the state, districts are struggling to keep up with preventative maintenance and increasingly complex building systems, often without access to specialized expertise. This measure is a practical and proactive approach to remedying this costly issue, reducing the chance of mechanical and infrastructure failures.

HB 383 establishes dedicated building management specialist positions within the Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) to provide technical support, improve coordination, and help districts better plan for and maintain their facilities through their preventative maintenance and capital improvement programs. The additional positions create a career ladder within DEED to help recruit and retain qualified professionals and add capacity for onsite training, assessments, and technical assistance to school districts. By strengthening statewide capacity, this bill aims to extend the life of existing school buildings, reduce long-term costs, and ensure safe, functional learning environments for Alaska’s students.

The growing backlog of major maintenance disproportionately affects rural school districts. Limited local staffing, difficulty recruiting and retaining qualified maintenance professionals, higher construction and repair costs, and the logistical challenges of remote locations all contribute to ever-increasing inventory of deferred maintenance. With additional DEED technical assistance, districts can identify and mitigate issues early, before they become significant problems or catastrophic failures.

House Bill 383 takes a necessary step toward addressing Alaska’s school district deferred maintenance crisis. This bill protects our infrastructure investment and supports districts with tools they need to succeed.