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Official Business

Senate Finance CS for House Bill 26: Alaska Native Language Council Summary of Changes from Prior Version (“B” to “S”)

February 29, 2024

Change #1 At the request of the Council, the Council is being moved from the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development to the Department of Education and Early Development. To do so, the current statute establishing the Council, in AS 44.33.520, is repealed. Similar language re-establishing the Council is added in AS 14.07.200.

The other changes that the earlier version of the bill was making, which included changing the name of the Council, adding two languages to the list of official language of the state, and expanding the Council from five to seven members, remain in the new Department of Education language.

Change #2 Adds transition language ensuring that current Council members' appointments, as well as any adopted orders and regulations, remain in effect despite moving the council.

The staff position providing services to the Council does not automatically move to Education; this would have to be done through the budget process.

Change #3 Deletes one sentence in AS 44.12.320 that states the English language is to be used in all government functions and actions, because this has been determined to be unconstitutional and is notated as such in the statute books.