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CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 206( )

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY

Offered:
Referred:

Sponsor(s): HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

"An Act establishing a career assessment requirement in public schools; relating to postsecondary courses for secondary school students; and relating to student counts and count estimates for school funding purposes."

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

*** Section 1.** AS 14.03 is amended by adding new sections to read:

Sec. 14.03.073. Secondary student career assessment. (a) Each school district in the state shall require students in grade 12 to complete a career preparedness assessment as described in (b) of this section.

(b) The commissioner shall select for use in the state an assessment designed to measure a student's level of preparedness to make the transition to work or college. The assessment must assess a student's career aptitude and readiness for postsecondary education or training in the areas of

(1) applied mathematics;

(2) reading for information; and

(3) locating information.

(c) Subject to the availability of appropriations, the department shall

(1) obtain a license that enables school districts to administer the assessment described in (b) of this section with no charge assessed to the district by the vendor of the assessment;

(2) provide districts with training and support in administering the assessment;

(3) provide a report to each student on the results of the student's assessment, based on nationally recognized criteria for evaluating a student's preparedness to make the transition to work or college; and

(4) provide to the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education information needed to determine a student's eligibility for financial assistance.

(d) The results of a student's career preparedness assessment shall be displayed in summary form on the student's high school transcript.

Sec. 14.03.074. Secondary student enrollment in postsecondary institution. (a) A secondary student who passes all portions of the examination required under AS 14.03.075 may enroll in a postsecondary institution in the state that is approved by the commissioner if

(1) the student is enrolled in a public secondary school in the state;

(2) the student is otherwise eligible to enroll, as determined by the postsecondary institution; and

(3) the postsecondary courses will be completed before the student's graduation from secondary school.

(b) The school district in which the student is enrolled in secondary school shall make arrangement for the fees for the appropriate postsecondary courses in which the student enrolls under this section.

* **Sec. 2.** AS 14.17.600 is amended to read:

Sec. 14.17.600. Student count periods. (a) Within two weeks after the end of the **80-school-day period ending the second Friday in February** [20-SCHOOL-DAY PERIOD ENDING THE FOURTH FRIDAY IN OCTOBER], each district shall transmit a report to the department that, under regulations adopted by the department,

reports its ADM for that count period and other student count information that will aid the department in making a determination of its state aid under the public school funding program. [FOR CENTRALIZED CORRESPONDENCE STUDY, THE OCTOBER REPORT SHALL BE BASED ON THE PERIOD FROM JULY 1 THROUGH THE FOURTH FRIDAY IN OCTOBER.] The department may make necessary corrections in the report submitted and shall notify the district of changes made. The commissioner shall notify the governor of additional appropriations the commissioner estimates to be necessary to fully finance the public school funding program for the current fiscal year.

(b) Upon written request and for good cause shown, the commissioner may permit a district to use **an 80-school-day** [A 20-SCHOOL-DAY] count period other than the period set out in (a) of this section. However, a count period approved under this subsection must be **80** [20] consecutive school days unless one or more alternate count periods are necessary to permit a district to implement flexible scheduling that meets the district's needs and goals without jeopardizing the state aid for which the district would ordinarily be eligible under this chapter.

*** Sec. 3.** AS 14.17.600 is amended by adding new subsections to read:

(c) The student count conducted for the immediately preceding school year shall be used for calculating state aid under AS 14.17.410.

(d) A student who is enrolled and graduates from secondary school during the counting period shall be included in the student count for the full counting period.

*** Sec. 4.** AS 14.17.610(a) is amended to read:

(a) **Except as provided in (d) of this section, the** [THE] department shall determine the state aid for each school district in a fiscal year on the basis of the district's student count reported under AS 14.17.600 **for the preceding fiscal year**. On or before the 15th day of each of the first nine months of each fiscal year, one-twelfth of each district's state aid shall be distributed on the basis of the data reported for the preceding fiscal year. On or before the 15th day of each of the last three months of each fiscal year, one-third of the balance of each district's state aid shall be distributed, after the balance has been recomputed **under (d) of this section** [ON THE BASIS OF STUDENT COUNT AND OTHER DATA REPORTED FOR THE CURRENT

FISCAL YEAR].

*** Sec. 5.** AS 14.17.610 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

(d) If the student count made and reported by a district under AS 14.17.600 for the current year is higher than the count made under that section for the preceding fiscal year, the department shall recompute the state aid, including per school student count data, to adjust for the higher student count, and the higher count shall be used for the student count for the current year and for the estimates made for the succeeding fiscal year under AS 14.17.500. The student count must be submitted to the department by March 1 of the current year for a recomputation to be made under this subsection.

*** Sec. 6.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to read:

TRANSITION. In the first school year following the effective date of this Act, the student count completed in the immediately preceding school year shall be used as the student count under AS 14.17.610(a), as amended by sec. 4 of this Act.