

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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REPRESENTATIVE WES KELLER DISTRICT 14

Sponsor Statement HB 393

"An Act relating to charter school approval and funding."

Over the years, this legislature has continually searched for answers to improve the quality of the education our children receive. We have promoted both verbally and financially many ideas. Some of those have worked while others have failed.

One area that continues to show promise in a traditional classroom scenario are charter schools. Charter Schools succeed because of efforts by the school district, principals, teachers, and especially parents. This team effort has proven to be extremely effective.

House Bill 393 will continue to show our support for these successful education programs by creating a grant program within the Department of Education for charter school construction, leases or major maintenance. The Department will create a five year program of grants based on existing per pupil formulas. The legislature will be able to gage the success of the program annually by reviewing and providing the necessary funding.

HB 393 rewards the success of the program by allowing more school districts to open and maintain charter schools. Your support will ensure that one of the successful education programs we have approved of in the past will continue to prosper.

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