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CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 69()**IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA****TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION****BY****Offered:****Referred:****Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES TUCK, PETERSEN, KAWASAKI AND GARA****A BILL****FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1 **"An Act establishing in the Department of Education and Early Development a**
2 **voluntary parent education home visiting program for pre-elementary aged children."**

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

4 *** Section 1.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section
5 to read:

6 **SHORT TITLE.** This Act may be known as the Alaska Parents as Teachers Act.

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

9 **FINDINGS.** The legislature finds that

- 10 (1) a parent is a child's first and most influential teacher;
- 11 (2) a parent's ability to enhance a child's development and ability to enter
- 12 school ready to succeed can be significantly enhanced through parent education and family
- 13 support that will help parents prepare their child to succeed in school;
- 14 (3) undiagnosed and unaddressed developmental and health problems can

1 impede overall development and school readiness and can contribute to grade retention for a
2 child;

3 (4) early childhood home visits can lead to positive outcomes for children and
4 families, including increased school readiness, sustained school success, improved child
5 health and development, positive parenting practices, and reductions in child maltreatment.

6 * **Sec. 3.** AS 14.03 is amended by adding a new section to article 1 to read:

7 **Sec. 14.03.165. Parent education home visiting program.** (a) The statewide
8 voluntary parent education home visiting program is established in the department.
9 The program shall be implemented through an implementation plan submitted by a
10 local agency and approved by the department to provide home visits and resource
11 information to participating families of a pre-elementary aged child, birth through five
12 years of age.

13 (b) The program must include

14 (1) an opportunity for a participating family to receive home visits to a
15 participating family's home or a mutually agreed on location by a trained parent
16 educator employed by the department or a local agency once a month unless the
17 trained parent educator determines that more frequent visits are required to provide
18 indentified services, in which case, the family must be afforded the opportunity to
19 receive more frequent home visits;

20 (2) parent group meetings, arranged by the local agency, to occur not
21 less than once a month;

22 (3) annual developmental and health screenings as recommended by
23 the Department of Health and Social Services;

24 (4) referrals to and information on available community resources;

25 (5) research and evidence based interventions;

26 (6) program outcomes that demonstrate, five years or less after
27 implementation of the program,

28 (A) enhanced school readiness;

29 (B) increased parent understanding of child development and
30 developmental milestones;

31 (C) a reduction in the incidence of child abuse and neglect;

(D) increased identification of health problems and developmental delays through regular screenings;

(E) improvement of child health indicators, including immunization rates; and

(F) increased parental involvement.

(c) A local agency may apply for funding to provide services under the program by submitting an implementation plan for review and approval by the department. The implementation plan must include

(1) an outline of the agency's plans for delivering the services required for the program under (b) of this section;

(2) a description of the collaborative agreements the agency will form with community service providers to meet the needs of the families participating in the program;

(3) a needs assessment for the community to be served by the agency;

(4) an annual evaluation of and reporting on the program that includes the

(A) number of families and children served;

(B) number of aggregate visits and average number of visits conducted for each family;

(C) demographic information for participating families;

(D) number and type of health and developmental delays identified;

(E) number of group parent meetings held;

(F) average cost for each family served;

(G) number of children screened and receiving referrals for further evaluation; and

(H) the number of referrals to other community organizations and resources.

(d) The department shall adopt regulations to implement this program, including standards for the qualification and approval of trained parent educators that require fingerprinting and criminal justice history screening of applicants.

1 (e) In this section,

2 (1) "developmental and health screening" means the process of
3 measuring the progress of a child to determine whether the child suffers a delay or
4 potential delay in normal development or is advanced in one or more areas of
5 development including understanding and use of language, perception through sight or
6 hearing, motor development and hand-eye coordination, health, and physical
7 development;

8 (2) "family" means one or more biological or adoptive parent and one
9 or more of the parent's pre-elementary aged children;

10 (3) "local agency" means a school district, regional educational
11 attendance area, or a not for profit organization that provides community services;

12 (4) "trained parent educator" means a person employed by the
13 department or a local agency who has been trained and approved to provide parent
14 education under the program.

15 * Sec. 4. AS 14.07.020(a) is amended to read:

16 (a) The department shall

17 (1) exercise general supervision over the public schools of the state
18 except the University of Alaska;

19 (2) study the conditions and needs of the public schools of the state,
20 adopt or recommend plans, administer and evaluate grants to improve school
21 performance awarded under AS 14.03.125, and adopt regulations for the improvement
22 of the public schools;

23 (3) provide advisory and consultative services to all public school
24 governing bodies and personnel;

25 (4) prescribe by regulation a minimum course of study for the public
26 schools; the regulations must provide that, if a course in American Sign Language is
27 given, the course shall be given credit as a course in a foreign language;

28 (5) establish, in coordination with the Department of Health and Social
29 Services, a program for the continuing education of children who are held in detention
30 facilities in the state during the period of detention;

31 (6) accredit those public schools that meet accreditation standards

1 prescribed by regulation by the department; these regulations shall be adopted by the
2 department and presented to the legislature during the first 10 days of any regular
3 session, and become effective 45 days after presentation or at the end of the session,
4 whichever is earlier, unless disapproved by a resolution concurred in by a majority of
5 the members of each house;

6 (7) prescribe by regulation, after consultation with the state fire
7 marshal and the state sanitarian, standards that will assure healthful and safe
8 conditions in the public and private schools of the state, including a requirement of
9 physical examinations and immunizations in pre-elementary schools; the standards for
10 private schools may not be more stringent than those for public schools;

11 (8) exercise general supervision over pre-elementary schools that
12 receive direct state or federal funding;

13 (9) exercise general supervision over elementary and secondary
14 correspondence study programs offered by municipal school districts or regional
15 educational attendance areas; the department may also offer and make available to any
16 Alaskan through a centralized office a correspondence study program;

17 (10) accredit private schools that request accreditation and that meet
18 accreditation standards prescribed by regulation by the department; nothing in this
19 paragraph authorizes the department to require religious or other private schools to be
20 licensed;

21 (11) review plans for construction of new public elementary and
22 secondary schools and for additions to and major rehabilitation of existing public
23 elementary and secondary schools and, in accordance with regulations adopted by the
24 department, determine and approve the extent of eligibility for state aid of a school
25 construction or major maintenance project; for the purposes of this paragraph, "plans"
26 include educational specifications, schematic designs, and final contract documents;

27 (12) provide educational opportunities in the areas of vocational
28 education and training, and basic education to individuals over 16 years of age who
29 are no longer attending school;

30 (13) administer the grants awarded under AS 14.11;

31 (14) establish, in coordination with the Department of Public Safety, a

1 school bus driver training course;

2 (15) require the reporting of information relating to school disciplinary
3 and safety programs under AS 14.33.120 and of incidents of disruptive or violent
4 behavior;

5 (16) establish by regulation criteria, based on low student performance,
6 under which the department may intervene in a school district to improve instructional
7 practices, as described in AS 14.07.030(14) or (15); the regulations must include

8 (A) a notice provision that alerts the district to the deficiencies
9 and the instructional practice changes proposed by the department;

10 (B) an end date for departmental intervention, as described in
11 AS 14.07.030(14)(A) and (B) and (15), after the district demonstrates three
12 consecutive years of improvement consisting of not less than two percent
13 increases in student proficiency on standards-based assessments in math,
14 reading, and writing as provided in AS 14.03.123(f)(2)(A); and

15 (C) a process for districts to petition the department for
16 continuing or discontinuing the department's intervention;

17 (17) notify the legislative committees having jurisdiction over
18 education before intervening in a school district under AS 14.07.030(14) or redirecting
19 public school funding under AS 14.07.030(15);

20 (18) establish standards and provide technical assistance and
21 oversight for the statewide parent education home visiting program under
22 AS 14.03.165.



Representative Chris Tuck

Alaska State Legislature

District 29 - Representing Dimond Estates, Foxridge, Taku
Southwood Manor, Campbell, and Independence Park

Date: February 9, 2009

To: Representative Paul Seaton, Chair
House Education Committee

From : Representative Chris Tuck
House District 29

RE: Description of Differences between HB 69 and HB 69 CS

The committee substitute for House Bill 69, "Alaska Parents as Teachers Act" contains several minor technical changes to House Bill 69. The changes in the committee substitute are as follows:

- Uses the phrase "participating family" in place of "participant" throughout.
- Page 2, lines 15-20 – Amended to make educator-parent visits optional, and allow for parents to opt into more than one meeting per month, and deletes references to cost considerations for reducing visits.
- Page 4, lines 9-10 – Definition of "family" added for clarification of program inclusion.
- Page 4, Line 12 – Added subsection (4) – "'trained parent educator' means agency employee trained and certified in the program curriculum."

The committee substitute also removes the section establishing a pre-K program rating system. Changes related to that are as follows:

- Page 1, Line 3 – Deleted "and establishing a rating system for early childhood education."
- Page 6, Line 18-21 – Deleted section 18.