

Alaska State Legislature

Senate Education Committee

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SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Senators Kevin Meyer & Joe Thomas, Co-Chairs

Senate Concurrent Resolution 21

In 2008 the Alaska Legislature changed the Uniform Rules by creating a stand-alone Education Committee, separate from the Health and Social Services Committee in both bodies. Due to uncertainty of the logistics of successfully maintaining another standing committee in the Senate, there was a 5-year sunset provision established, such that, effective on the first day of the 28th Legislature (January 15, 2013), jurisdiction over education issues will revert back to a merged "Health, Education, and Social Services Committee."

SCR 21 will make permanent the stand-alone Education Committees in both bodies of the Legislature. The work of the committees over the past four years has encompassed a wide array of issues in education, some of which have even warranted the creation of legislative task forces in order to study and make recommendations on the complex nature of providing quality education in our state. There are many challenges we face in education that are unique to Alaska, and it is the belief of the Senate Education Committee that in order to research and develop the best education policies possible to address these challenges, a permanent standing Education Committee is appropriate.