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CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 120()

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY

Offered:

Referred:

Sponsor(s): SENATORS FRENCH, Hoffman, Thomas, Stevens

A BILL**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

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

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

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

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

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

10 PARENTS AS TEACHERS PROGRAM ESTABLISHED. (a) The department shall
11 devise and implement a statewide parents as teachers program for the benefit of children who
12 are under five years of age. The program must provide a system of early childhood education
13 that

14 (1) is evidence-based;

- 1 (2) involves parents;
- 2 (3) is consistent with available research and best practices for high quality
- 3 early childhood education;
- 4 (4) incorporates guidelines adopted by the department for early learning that
- 5 (A) enhances school readiness;
- 6 (B) increases parent understanding of child development and
- 7 developmental milestones;
- 8 (C) reduces the incidence of child abuse and neglect;
- 9 (D) increases identification of health problems and developmental
- 10 delays through regular screenings;
- 11 (E) improves child health indicators, including immunization rates;
- 12 (F) increases parental involvement; and
- 13 (5) provides for effective and efficient coordination with or expansion of pre-
- 14 elementary education programs operating in the state, to the extent permitted by law.
- 15 (b) A school district shall, to the extent space is needed and available, provide for the
- 16 use of a room in a school at no charge to support the program established under this section.
- 17 (c) The department may develop and enter into local partnerships to implement the
- 18 program established under this section.
- 19 (d) On or before January 15, 2015, the department shall provide a report to the
- 20 legislature on the effectiveness and participation rates of the program established in this
- 21 section. The report must include a comparison of performance of participants and
- 22 nonparticipants.
- 23 (e) The program established under this section terminates on July 1, 2015.
- 24 (f) In this section, "department" means the Department of Education and Early
- 25 Development.