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CS FOR HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 8(FIN)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Offered:

Referred:

Sponsor(s): HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

A RESOLUTION

1 **Establishing the Task Force on Sustainable Education in the House of Representatives.**

2 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:**

3 **WHEREAS** state education funding support for public education in grades
4 kindergarten through 12 is increasing at a significant rate and real dollar value; and

5 **WHEREAS** state revenue, including revenue paid for education, is almost entirely
6 dependent on revenue generated by oil production on state-owned land; and

7 **WHEREAS** production of oil on state-owned land is forecast to continue to decline;
8 and

9 **WHEREAS** implementation of new education standards influences capital and
10 operational costs for public education funding; and

11 **WHEREAS** local school districts achieve varying levels of success, as indicated by
12 drop-out and graduation rates; and

13 **WHEREAS** the public school funding formula under AS 14.17 may mask the effect
14 of energy, health care, pupil transportation, and other inflationary factors that erode the
15 amount of instructional dollars available to classrooms; and

16 **WHEREAS** continued increases in public school funding under AS 14.17 restrict the

1 flexibility of both the legislature and local school districts to respond to changing funding
2 needs for public schools in the state;

3 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the House of Representatives that the Task Force on
4 Sustainable Education is established in the House of Representatives for the purpose of
5 examining the efficiency and effectiveness of public education delivery in the state, including

6 (1) the ability of the state's public schools to prepare students for various
7 rewarding careers; and

8 (2) all aspects of public education funding in the state; and be it

9 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the duties of the task force include

10 (1) performing an analysis of public education funding that includes

11 (A) a determination of the adequacy of public school funding provided
12 under AS 14.17.410 for coverage of appropriate education expenses;

13 (B) a determination of the appropriate uses of the base student
14 allocation;

15 (C) alternative methods of addressing fluctuating energy, health,
16 insurance, personnel, and pupil transportation costs;

17 (D) a calculation of the total amounts of state, local, and federal
18 funding available to each district and for each category of special needs service area;

19 (E) a comparison of the allocation of administrative and instructional
20 personnel among districts;

21 (F) a determination as to whether the allocation of administrative and
22 instructional personnel affects the ability of each district to provide effective
23 instructional services;

24 (G) a calculation of the effect of pension and health care expenses on
25 total education costs;

26 (2) evaluating the availability of courses that meet core academic curriculum
27 requirements under AS 14.43.820(a)(3) in each district; and

28 (3) submitting to the governor, the Department of Education and Early
29 Development, and the legislature, by October 1, 2014, a report of findings and
30 recommendations of the task force and submitting additional reports the task force considers
31 advisable; and be it

1 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the task force may meet between and during legislative
2 sessions; and be it

3 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the task force consists of

4 (1) the chairs of the House Education Committee and the House Finance
5 Subcommittee on Education and Early Development, who shall serve as cochairs of the task
6 force;

7 (2) members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives in
8 consultation with the cochairs of the task force, as follows:

9 (A) one member representing a regional Native corporation organized
10 under 43 U.S.C. 1602(m) (Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act) or the Alaska
11 Federation of Natives;

12 (B) two educators;

13 (C) one member who is a cochair of the special committee having
14 jurisdiction over energy in the House of Representatives;

15 (D) two businesspersons; and be it

16 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that

17 (1) a majority of the members of the task force constitutes a quorum; a
18 vacancy on the task force shall be filled in the same manner as the original selection or
19 appointment;

20 (2) the staff of the legislative members of the task force shall serve as staff for
21 the task force;

22 (3) the task force shall meet at the call of the cochairs;

23 (4) the task force may request data and other information from the Department
24 of Education and Early Development;

25 (5) members of the task force serve without compensation but are entitled to
26 per diem and travel expenses authorized for boards and commissions under AS 39.20.180;
27 and

28 (6) the task force expires January 1, 2015.