



Alaska State Legislature

Representative Lynn Gattis

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House Bill 291 – Sponsor Statement

HB291 adjusts education funding to meet the true costs of housing and feeding boarding school students. This bill increases boarding school student funding in two ways:

Section 1. (1) provides for one round trip ticket for student travel in the most economical manner, and,
(2) increases the per-pupil monthly stipend, by region, to cover room and board expenses at residential high schools.

These schools provide access to academic courses that are unavailable to smaller schools. They allow students to develop the skills necessary to transition to a college or vocational post-secondary path or directly into the skilled workforce. They teach academic, life and career skills that do not exist in the most remote parts of our state and make a tremendous impact on many disadvantaged or rural students.

In 2006, the legislature provided funding through AS 14.16.200, “State funding for districts operating statewide residential educational programs,” to offset room and board costs and provide students more educational choices.

In 2013, the legislature didn’t fund the amount needed for continued operation of these programs. Without this allocation, the capital fell short of offsetting the true costs of operating a boarding school facility.

This increase brings the amount of funding for residential schools in line with the true delivery costs of the programs. I thank you for your support.

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