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House Bill 180

"An Act relating to the Alaska Challenge Youth Academy; and providing for an effective date."

The Alaska Military Youth Academy has seen unparalleled success in serving Alaska's at-risk youth. A military-style 24-hour school, the AMYA serves only high school drop-outs between the ages of 16 and 19.

In almost 20 years of operation, the AMYA has graduated more than 4,000 cadets. Like any program, the AMYA started out small and has grown to graduating about 300 cadets each year.

The funding formula that currently serves the AMYA is outdated and must be changed. It was designed to protect a fledgling program from the budget cuts associated with \$9-barrel oil prices. The AMYA has weathered the storm and proven itself as a successful program that can stand on its own merits.

With this proven track record, it is time to move the Academy to a direct appropriation based on the number of cadets that graduate.