

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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Sponsor Statement

Senate Bill 208

"An Act eliminating the Alaska education grant program and the Alaska performance scholarship program; and providing for an effective date."

Senate Bill 208 sunsets the direct State aid for post-secondary scholarships and grants provided through the Alaska performance scholarship (APS) program and the Alaska education grant (AEG) program. This legislation proposes a wind down period to allow current APS participants, and high school seniors in the preparatory process for this application period, to finish their course of study. The APS will close to new entrants following the application deadline this July and the program will be repealed in July of 2022. Although students must qualify annually for grants under the AEG program, the sunset coincides with that of the APS in this legislation.

These state scholarship programs were adopted at a time when oil value was setting not only record price, but record state revenue. Under SB 208 the State would still continue to fund the APS the program, and the corresponding AEGs during the wind down phase, providing an orderly closure of these programs as well as a glide path for the transition.