



Representative Harriet Drummond Sponsor Statement

House Bill 64 "Reading Proficiency Task Force"

HB 64 establishes a fifteen member task force on reading proficiency and instruction with the goal of making recommendations regarding reading practices for students across the state. The task force will examine how current regulations affect reading proficiency outcomes with the goal of increasing statewide reading proficiency scores within three years.

Approximately 47,000 students in Alaska did not meet state standards in 2015. Students who cannot read by third grade are four times more likely to drop out of school than those who can read. More than \$60 billion is lost annually in American business productivity due to a lack of basic reading skills. The statistics are staggering and we must identify evidence-based approaches to instructing students affected by dyslexia.

The fifteen member task force will consist of six members from the House and Senate, the commissioner of Education and Early Development and eight members of the public.