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Caouette
3/20/19

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 30(EDC)
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Offered:
Referred:

Sponsor(s): SENATORS STEVENS, Begich

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act establishing the Alaska middle college program for public school students;**
2 **relating to the powers of the University of Alaska; and providing for an effective date."**

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 *** Section 1. AS 14.07.168 is amended to read:**

5 **Sec. 14.07.168. Report to the legislature.** Not later than the 30th legislative
6 day of each regular session of the legislature, the board shall prepare and present in
7 person to the legislative committees having jurisdiction over education an annual
8 report that describes the efforts of the board to develop, maintain, and continuously
9 improve a comprehensive quality public education system, as provided for under the
10 bylaws of the board. The report must include

11 (1) a summary of the resolves and rationales provided in support of
12 policy decisions made under AS 14.03.015;

13 (2) program and curriculum changes made, discussed, or
14 recommended in meetings held under AS 14.07.125;

1 (3) additional information relevant to efforts made to improve and
2 maintain the public education system;

3 **(4) a summary of the Alaska middle college program established in**
4 **AS 14.30.780; the summary must include the**

5 **(A) number of students participating in the program;**

6 **(B) types of courses in which students have enrolled;**

7 **(C) total number of credits that students have earned;**

8 **(D) rate of subsequent enrollment in postsecondary**
9 **institutions by students who participated in the program; and**

10 **(E) postsecondary remediation rates of students who**
11 **participated in the program for courses taken through the program.**

12 * Sec. 2. AS 14.30 is amended by adding a new section to read:

13 **Article 15. Dual Credit.**

14 **Sec. 14.30.780. Alaska middle college program established.** (a) The Alaska
15 middle college program is established for eligible students to enroll in courses offered
16 by the University of Alaska. A student shall earn both high school and college credit
17 for each course the student has satisfactorily completed through the program. College
18 credit earned through the program is fully transferable within the University of Alaska
19 system.

20 (b) Every school district shall participate in the program. Each school district
21 shall enter into an agreement with the University of Alaska for the purpose of carrying
22 out the program. An agreement under this subsection must allow any student eligible
23 under (c) of this section to participate in the program.

24 (c) A student is eligible for the program if the student

25 (1) is enrolled in public school in the state;

26 (2) has completed the eighth grade and has demonstrated, to the
27 satisfaction of the school district and the University of Alaska, the academic ability
28 necessary to complete college level coursework;

29 (3) has not been awarded a high school diploma; and

30 (4) complies with the requirements of the program.

31 (d) Every school district shall provide information about the program to

1 students in grades eight through 12 who are enrolled in a public school in the state.

2 The information provided must include the

3 (1) process that the University of Alaska uses in awarding credit for
4 completing a course through the program, including the minimum scores generally
5 required to receive college credit from a state postsecondary institution;

6 (2) availability of program courses offered online and throughout the
7 school district;

8 (3) benefits of earning college credit while enrolled in high school;

9 (4) availability of academic support services;

10 (5) academic and social responsibilities associated with participating in
11 the program; and

12 (6) consequences of failing or not completing a course taken through
13 the program.

14 (e) A student who is enrolled in the program may not be required to pay
15 tuition or other costs associated with the program. An agreement entered into by a
16 school district and the University under (b) of this section must state the manner in
17 which costs associated with the program will be shared between the participating
18 school district and the University of Alaska. The agreement may provide for
19 scholarship opportunities and fee waivers to reduce the cost to the school district of
20 participating in the program.

21 (f) A program course may be offered and taught at a public high school in the
22 state if

23 (1) the content and curriculum of the course is consistent with the
24 standards and learning outcomes of the equivalent course offered at the University of
25 Alaska;

26 (2) the instructor teaching the course meets the University of Alaska's
27 standards for adjunct faculty members;

28 (3) the instructor uses the same textbooks and instructional materials
29 used for the equivalent course offered at the University of Alaska; and

30 (4) the course and the instructor are subject to regular evaluation by the
31 University of Alaska to ensure compliance with these standards.

1 (g) A student who enrolls in the program shall be permitted to enroll in up to
2 12 credits each semester and earn up to 60 total credits.

3 (h) For the purpose of calculating a school district's ADM under
4 AS 14.17.410, a student participating in the program is considered a full-time student
5 of the school district in which the student is enrolled.

6 (i) The University of Alaska and a school district may release to each other the
7 transcript of a student to determine the student's eligibility for the program or for
8 graduation.

9 (j) In this section,

10 (1) "program" means the middle college program established under
11 this section;

12 (2) "school district" has the meaning given in AS 14.30.350.

13 * **Sec. 3.** AS 14.40.040 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

14 (c) The University of Alaska shall implement the Alaska middle college
15 program established under AS 14.30.780. The University of Alaska may not require an
16 applicant to the program to meet eligibility criteria in addition to the eligibility
17 requirements under AS 14.30.780(c). The University of Alaska shall

18 (1) evaluate and regularly review each course offered in the middle
19 college program under AS 14.30.780(f) to ensure consistency with national standards
20 for awarding dual credit;

21 (2) enter into an agreement with a school district consistent with the
22 middle college program standards; and

23 (3) award to a student college credit that is fully transferable within the
24 University of Alaska system for each course satisfactorily completed under the middle
25 college program.

26 * **Sec. 4.** This Act takes effect July 1, 2020.