



Representative Andi Story

Alaska State Legislature

Sponsor Statement

HB 237; Version M

March 3, 2020

“An Act making special appropriation from the general fund for early literacy programs in public schools”

Reading is a foundational skill, critical to a student’s continued progression and success. As “Alaska’s Education Challenge” states, research suggests that school readiness at an early age is a critical strategy for improving future student outcomes and closing achievement gaps.

School districts across Alaska recognize the importance of early literacy and have taken to heart the goal of children reading at grade level by the end of third grade. Many districts have already devoted considerable resources to this end, even in these times of budget constraints.

HB 237 provides resources to bolster and support school districts in this important work. It distributes \$10 million in early literacy grants to districts outside the formula, as though through the foundation formula. This approach ensures every district receives funds to support their early literacy initiatives. In directing funds to school districts, HB 237 honors local control and community-based decisions in meeting the literacy needs of its youngest students.

The proposed appropriation for FY21 is \$10 million, and for FY22, an inflation adjusted \$10,225,000.

HB 237 recognizes the value of community-based services, interventions and choices in determining the most effective and culturally relevant strategies to increase the number of students who are reading at grade level by the end of third grade.

HB 237 includes intent language that directs the Department of Education and Early Development to report on the use of the early literacy funds to the Alaska Legislature by January 31, 2021.

The data from this report will highlight the ways schools are supporting students and meeting early literacy goals.

Contact

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HOUSE BILL NO. 237

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES STORY, Drummond, Spohnholz

Introduced: 2/5/20

Referred: Education, Finance

Funding Information:	General Fund	\$	20,225,000
	Other Funds		-0-
	Total	\$	20,225,000

A BILL**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1 **"An Act making special appropriations from the general fund for early literacy**
 2 **programs in public schools; and providing for an effective date."**

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

4 * **Section 1.** LEGISLATIVE INTENT. It is the intent of the legislature that school districts
 5 report to the Department of Education and Early Development not later than January 15,
 6 2021, on use of early literacy program funds appropriated under sec. 2(a) of this Act and that
 7 the Department of Education and Early Development compile and submit a report containing
 8 the information to the chief clerk of the house of representatives and senate secretary not later
 9 than January 31, 2021, and notify the legislature that the report is available.

10 * **Sec. 2.** DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND EARLY DEVELOPMENT. (a) The sum
 11 of \$10,000,000 is appropriated from the general fund to the Department of Education and
 12 Early Development to be distributed as grants for early literacy programs to school districts
 13 according to the average daily membership for each district adjusted under
 14 AS 14.17.410(b)(1)(A) - (D) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021.

1 (b) The sum of \$10,225,000 is appropriated from the general fund to the Department
2 of Education and Early Development to be distributed as grants for early literacy programs to
3 school districts according to the average daily membership for each district adjusted under
4 AS 14.17.410(b)(1)(A) - (D) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022.

5 * **Sec. 3.** Section 2(b) of this Act takes effect July 1, 2021.

6 * **Sec. 4.** Except as provided in sec. 3 of this Act, this Act takes effect July 1, 2020.



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Sectional Analysis

House Bill 237; Version M

March 3, 2020

“An Act making special appropriation from the general fund for early literacy programs in public schools”

Section 1. Reflects legislative intent that directs school districts to report to the Department of Education and Early Development on the use of early literacy funds appropriated in section 2, by January 15, 2021. The Department of Education and Early Development is to compile district reports and present a summary to the Alaska Legislature by January 31, 2021 for early literacy programs.

Section 2(a). Appropriates \$10,000,000 to the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development to be distributed to school districts as grants “outside the formula”, as though through the foundation formula for FY21 for early literacy programs.

Section 2(b). Appropriates \$10,225,000 to the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development to be distributed to school districts as grants “outside the formula”, as though through the foundation formula for FY22 for early literacy programs.

Section 3. Effective date for Section 2(b), is July 1, 2021.

Section 4. Immediate effective date for all other sections of the bill.

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Department of Education & Early Development

Prepared by School Finance

Prepared 3/4/2020

HB237 Projected distribution by district

School District	FY2021 Proj. Adjusted ADM	FY2021 \$10,000,000	FY2022 \$10,225,000
Alaska Gateway	1,534.54	\$ 59,059	\$ 60,387
Aleutian Region	200.04	7,699	7,872
Aleutians East Borough	971.99	37,408	38,250
Anchorage	74,525.43	2,868,197	2,932,731
Annette Island	909.52	35,004	35,792
Bering Strait	7,155.85	275,401	281,598
Bristol Bay Borough	322.82	12,424	12,704
Chatham	630.99	24,284	24,831
Chugach	710.38	27,340	27,955
Copper River	1,127.04	43,375	44,351
Cordova	887.36	34,151	34,919
Craig	877.05	33,754	34,514
Delta/Greely	1,741.09	67,008	68,516
Denali Borough	1,318.19	50,732	51,874
Dillingham	1,207.29	46,464	47,509
Fairbanks N. Star Borough	25,433.13	978,823	1,000,847
Galena	4,778.26	183,897	188,034
Haines Borough	607.43	23,378	23,904
Hoonah	456.66	17,575	17,971
Hydaburg	340.21	13,093	13,388
Iditarod Area	1,070.19	41,187	42,114
Juneau Borough	8,746.50	336,619	344,193
Kake	395.47	15,220	15,563
Kashunamiut	1,064.27	40,960	41,881
Kenai Peninsula Borough	17,882.69	688,236	703,721
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	5,097.92	196,199	200,609
Klawock	453.89	17,468	17,862
Kodiak Island Borough	5,073.12	195,245	199,638
Kuspuk	1,771.41	68,175	69,709
Lake & Peninsula Borough	1,661.61	63,949	65,388
Lower Kuskokwim	13,609.16	523,764	535,549
Lower Yukon	7,532.97	289,915	296,438
Mat-Su Borough	34,225.59	1,317,211	1,346,848
Nenana	1,660.72	63,915	65,353
Nome	1,695.10	65,238	66,706
North Slope Borough	6,288.32	242,013	247,459
Northwest Arctic Borough	7,047.01	271,212	277,315
Pelican	84.24	3,242	3,315
Petersburg	1,232.25	47,425	48,492
Pribilof	239.03	9,199	9,406
Saint Mary's	616.08	23,711	24,244
Sitka Borough	2,635.99	101,449	103,732
Skagway	318.58	12,261	12,537
Southeast Island	944.57	36,353	37,171
Southwest Region	2,368.68	91,161	93,212
Tanana	182.20	7,012	7,170
Unalaska	1,038.02	39,949	40,848
Valdez	1,528.67	58,833	60,156
Wrangell	751.26	28,913	29,564
Yakutat	267.48	10,294	10,526
Yukon Flats	1,200.50	46,203	47,242
Yukon/Koyukuk	2,989.74	115,064	117,653
Yupitit	1,698.66	65,375	66,846
Mt. Edgecumbe High School	726.59	27,964	28,593
TOTAL	259,833.75	\$ 10,000,000	\$ 10,225,000