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House Bill 164 – Early Ed Programs; Reading; Virtual Ed

Version G – Summary of Changes

Version G of House Bill 164 removes sections 4, 6, 8, 12, 16, 19, 22, 26, 30, 32, and 40. In version I of the bill these sections repealed the changes made by the bill on June 30, 2034. As a result of removing the repealers, any changes described in version G pertaining to Sections 3, 5, 7, 10, 11, 15, 18, 21, 25, 29, 31, and 39 would be permanent.

Version G amends the title of the bill to align with changes made through the amendment process. *(Page 1, lines 1-11)*

Version G amends the short title to “The Alaska Reads Act.” *(Page 2, line 3)*

Version G inserts legislative intent language affirming that this legislation does not promote English-only reading curricula and recognizes a student’s right to learn to read through culturally responsive materials in multiple languages. *(Page 2, lines 4-11)*

Section 3 of version G aligns with section 2 of version I. *(Page 2)*

Section 4 of version G aligns with Section 3 of version I. *(Page 2)*

Version G removes section 4 of version I.

Section 5 of version G amends section 6 of version I to clarify when parents and guardians receive early reading information and inserts subsection 6 regarding the role of socio-emotional learning on developmental success. *(Page 3, lines 1-15)*

Version G removes section 6 of version I.

Section 6 of version G amends section 7 of version I by directing DEED to employ a data analyst. *(Page 3, Line 17 and removing 8(a)(b)(c) from section 7 of v. I Page 4, Lines 6-11)*

Version G removes sections 8 and 9 of version I.

Section 7 of version G. aligns with Section 10 of version I and clarifies that a child who is at least four years of age maybe be admitted to a public early education program. *(Page 4)*

Version G removes sections 11 and 12 of version I.

Section 8 of version G aligns with Section 13 of version I. However, reporting requirements under subsections (e) and (f) in version I are removed. This is because changes made to version I removed progression waivers and good causes exemptions. *(Pages 4-5, Lines 24-18)*

Section 9 of version G aligns with section 14 of version I and inserts subsection (d) under AS 14.03.420 Parents as Teachers program, clarifying the term “parent,” to include a broad and culturally responsive definition. *(Page 8, Lines 2-5)*

Section 10 of version G aligns with section 15 of version I. *(Pages 8-9)*

Version G removes section 16 of version I.

Section 11 of version G aligns with section 17 of version I and inserts clarifying language regarding the exclusion of head start from the definition of an early education program operated by a public school. *(Page 10, Lines 25-26)*

Section 12 of version G aligns with Section 18 of version I and directs DEED to consult schools and tribes when providing optional textbooks to school districts who request additional support while implementing reading intervention services provided under authorizing statutes in this Act. *(Page 11, Lines 5-8)*

Version G removes section 19 of version I.

Section 13 of version G aligns with section 20 of version I by amending subsection (5)(B)(i) to extend the allotted time an educator may complete minimum requirements in early education from one to two years. *(Page 11, Lines 27-30)*

Section 14 of version G aligns with Section 21 of version I. *(Page 12)*

Version G removes section 22 of version I.

Section 15 of version G aligns with section 23 of version I. *(Page 13)*

Version G removes section 24 of version I.

Section 16 of version G aligns with section 25 of version I. *(Page 13)*

Version G removes section 24 of version I.

Section 17 of version G aligns with section 27 of version I. *(Pages 13-14)*

Section 18 of version G aligns with section 28 of version I. *(Page 14)*

Section 19 of version G aligns with section 29 of version I. *(Page 14)*

Version G removes section 30 of version I.

Section 20 of version G aligns with section 31 of version I by inserting a provision that requires any out-of-state preliminary teacher being certified under this section to teach in Alaska to also complete additional training through an Alaska Native lens and using Alaska Native cultural standards. *(Page 15, Lines 16-19)*

Version G removes sections 32 and 33 of version I.

Section 21 of version G aligns with section 34 of version I and inserts a new subsection (m) that requires any out-of-state preliminary teacher being certified under this section to teach in Alaska to also complete additional through an Alaska Native lens and using Alaska Native cultural standards. *(Page 15, Lines 28-31)*

Version G inserts a new section to AS 14.30 and authorizes DEED to collaborate with and provide technical and financial support to a school district to develop Alaska Native language immersion programs for kindergarten through grade three. *(Page 16, Lines 2-7)*

Section 23 of version G aligns with section 35 of version I and makes the following changes:

- Permits school districts to opt-out of offering individualized intensive reading services to students in grades kindergarten through three. *(Page 18, Line 5)*
- Permits school districts to opt-out of providing intensive reading services in addition to core reading instruction to all students. *(Page 18, Line 8)*
- Aligns AS 14.30.765 subsection (c)(7) with the removal of subsections (8) and (9) in version I by removing the provision that prohibits a struggling kindergarten through 3rd-grade reader from being retained more than once. *(Page 20, Lines 19-20)*
- Removes AS 14.30.765 subsections (8) and (9) that requires a school district to explain the waiver process to a parent or guardian.
- Amends AS 14.30.765 subsection (d) to require a parent or guardian to determine whether a struggling reader may progress to the next grade and removes any contingency provision if a parent or guardian is unavailable for consultation. *(Pages 20 & 21, Lines 26-2)*

- Removes AS 14.30.765 subsection (g) which required DEED to develop a recognition program for districts that demonstrate intervention reading services success.
- Removes AS 14.30.765 subsection (h) which permitted a superintendent to exempt a student from grade retention and provided good cause exemptions for students with disabilities, students who have previously received intensive reading services, or students who are English language learners.
- Removes AS 14.30.765 subsection (i) which permitted a parent or guardian to request a good cause exemption for their struggling reader.
- Removes AS 14.30.765 subsection (j) which outlined the process for notification of a parent or guardian when the superintendent retention contingency provision under version I AS 14.30.765 was enacted.
- Removes AS 14.30.765 subsection (m)(1) & (2), which outlined specific criteria school districts must consider when adopting a mid-year progression policy.
- Removes AS 14.30.765 subsection (o) which prohibited a struggling reader from being retained more than once.
- Amends AS 14.30.770 by removing the limiting percentage of low-performing schools served, frequency in which schools may be served, removing the application process, permitting schools to opt-out of the program, increasing the number of participating schools to ten (10), requiring DEED to hire a reading specialist for at least a year or until every student requiring intervention has progressed, requiring a reading specialist to work directly with struggling readers and their primary teacher, inserting

language requiring DEED to hire at least one reading specialist for every four (4) classes in which 25 percent of students require individual reading plans, broaden membership and participation in an annual convening of stakeholders regarding program efficacy and implementation, and authorizes equal consideration of the academic or professional experience in qualifying a candidate for a DEED-funded reading specialist position. *(Pages 25-26)*

- Inserts AS 14.30.775 and directs the state to appropriate \$1,000 for each K-3 grade struggling reader to a school district. *(Page 26, Lines 19-24)*
- Inserts AS 14.30.780 and exempts an Alaska Native language immersion program from AS 14.30.770. This section does permit DEED to assist in reading program strategies if requested. *(Page 26 & 27, Lines 25-1)*

Section 24 of version G aligns with Section 36 of version I and makes the following changes:

- Amends all references of “consortium,” to “library.”
- Directs DEED to establish and maintain a library that is created by local educators, school districts, the University of Alaska, and other locally sourced resources. *(Page 27, Lines 19-24)*
- Removes a provision under subsection (b) and associated subsections (b)(1) and (2) that permitted virtual instruction.
- Substantially amends subsection (d) by removing the ability for DEED to charge a fee to school districts that participate in the consortium and instead permit a school district to charge a fee for a course included in the library. *(Page 28, Lines 12-14)*
- Removes subsections (e) and (f).

Section 25 of version G aligns with Section 37 of version I.

Section 26 of version G aligns with Section 38 of version I.

Version G removes Sections 39 & 40 of version I.

Section 27 of version G aligns with Section 41 of version I.

Section 28 of version G aligns with Section 42 of version I.

Section 29 of version G aligns with Section 43 of version I.

Section 30 of version G aligns with Section 44 of version I.

Section 31 of version G aligns with Section 45 of version I.

Version G removes section 46 of version I.

Section 32 of version G aligns with Section 47 of version I and removes reference to the above section as all the changes made in this Act will continue in perpetuity unless amended by future legislatures.