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CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 225(EDC)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

**Offered:
Referred:**

Sponsor(s): SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to a paraprofessional training program; creating a limited teacher**
2 **resident certificate; creating a teacher residency program; relating to requirements to**
3 **issue a teacher certificate; relating to subject-matter expert limited teacher certificates;**
4 **relating to limited teacher certificates; creating a teacher registered apprenticeship**
5 **program; and creating a teacher recruitment fund."**

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

7 *** Section 1.** AS 14.07.020(a) is amended to read:

8 (a) The department shall

9 (1) exercise general supervision over the public schools of the state
10 except the University of Alaska;

11 (2) study the conditions and needs of the public schools of the state,
12 adopt or recommend plans, administer and evaluate grants to improve school
13 performance awarded under AS 14.03.125, and adopt regulations for the improvement

1 of the public schools; the department may consult with the University of Alaska to
2 develop secondary education requirements to improve student achievement in college
3 preparatory courses;

4 (3) provide advisory and consultative services to all public school
5 governing bodies and personnel;

6 (4) prescribe by regulation a minimum course of study for the public
7 schools; the regulations must provide that, if a course in American Sign Language is
8 given, the course shall be given credit as a course in a foreign language;

9 (5) establish, in coordination with the Department of Health and Social
10 Services, a program for the continuing education of children who are held in juvenile
11 detention facilities or juvenile treatment facilities, as those terms are defined in
12 AS 47.12.990, in the state during the period of detention or treatment;

13 (6) accredit those public schools that meet accreditation standards
14 prescribed by regulation by the department; these regulations shall be adopted by the
15 department and presented to the legislature during the first 10 days of any regular
16 session, and become effective 45 days after presentation or at the end of the session,
17 whichever is earlier, unless disapproved by a resolution concurred in by a majority of
18 the members of each house;

19 (7) prescribe by regulation, after consultation with the state fire
20 marshal and the state sanitarian, standards that will ensure healthful and safe
21 conditions in the public and private schools of the state, including a requirement of
22 physical examinations and immunizations in pre-elementary schools; the standards for
23 private schools may not be more stringent than those for public schools;

24 (8) exercise general supervision over pre-elementary schools that
25 receive direct state or federal funding;

26 (9) exercise general supervision over elementary and secondary
27 correspondence study programs offered by municipal school districts or regional
28 educational attendance areas; the department may also offer and make available to any
29 Alaskan through a centralized office a correspondence study program;

30 (10) accredit private schools that request accreditation and that meet
31 accreditation standards prescribed by regulation by the department; nothing in this

1 paragraph authorizes the department to require religious or other private schools to be
2 licensed;

3 (11) review plans for construction of new public elementary and
4 secondary schools and for additions to and major rehabilitation of existing public
5 elementary and secondary schools and, in accordance with regulations adopted by the
6 department, determine and approve the extent of eligibility for state aid of a school
7 construction or major maintenance project; for the purposes of this paragraph, "plans"
8 include educational specifications, schematic designs, projected energy consumption
9 and costs, and final contract documents;

10 (12) provide educational opportunities in the areas of vocational
11 education and training, and basic education to individuals over 16 years of age who
12 are no longer attending school; the department may consult with businesses and labor
13 unions to develop a program to prepare students for apprenticeships or internships that
14 will lead to employment opportunities;

15 (13) administer the grants awarded under AS 14.11;

16 (14) establish, in coordination with the Department of Public Safety, a
17 school bus driver training course;

18 (15) require the reporting of information relating to school disciplinary
19 and safety programs under AS 14.33.120 and of incidents of disruptive or violent
20 behavior;

21 (16) establish by regulation criteria, based on low student performance,
22 under which the department may intervene in a school district to improve instructional
23 practices, as described in AS 14.07.030(a)(14) or (15); the regulations must include

24 (A) a notice provision that alerts the district to the deficiencies
25 and the instructional practice changes proposed by the department;

26 (B) an end date for departmental intervention, as described in
27 AS 14.07.030(a)(14)(A) and (B) and (15), after the district demonstrates three
28 consecutive years of improvement consisting of not less than two percent
29 increases in student proficiency on standards-based assessments in language
30 arts and mathematics, as provided in AS 14.03.123(f)(1)(A); and

31 (C) a process for districts to petition the department for

1 continuing or discontinuing the department's intervention;

2 (17) notify the legislative committees having jurisdiction over
3 education before intervening in a school district under AS 14.07.030(a)(14) or
4 redirecting public school funding under AS 14.07.030(a)(15);

5 **(18) collaborate with the University of Alaska and districts to**
6 **establish a paraprofessional training program for districts designed to prepare**
7 **high school students for entry into the teacher registered apprenticeship program**
8 **established in AS 14.20.700.**

9 * **Sec. 2.** AS 14.20 is amended by adding new sections to read:

10 **Sec. 14.20.013. Limited teacher resident certificate.** (a) Notwithstanding
11 AS 14.20.020, the department shall issue a limited teacher resident certificate to a
12 person who meets the requirements of (b) of this section.

13 (b) To be eligible for a limited teacher resident certificate, a person must

14 (1) either

15 (A) hold a baccalaureate degree from an institution of higher
16 education accredited by a recognized regional or national accrediting
17 association or approved by the commissioner and be currently enrolled in an
18 approved

19 (i) post-baccalaureate teacher education program at a
20 nationally or regionally accredited institution meeting the requirements
21 of AS 14.20.020(b) that provides for completion of the regular teacher
22 certificate education requirements within three years after receipt of a
23 limited teacher resident certificate under this section; or

24 (ii) nontraditional or alternative teacher education
25 program at a nationally or regionally accredited institution; or

26 (B) be currently enrolled in the final year of a baccalaureate
27 degree teacher education program at an institution of higher education
28 accredited by a recognized regional or national accrediting association or
29 approved by the commissioner;

30 (2) have submitted fingerprints and the fees required by the
31 Department of Public Safety under AS 12.62.160 for criminal justice information and

1 a national criminal history record check to the department; the department must have
2 submitted the fingerprints and fees to the Department of Public Safety for a report of
3 criminal justice information under AS 12.62 and a national criminal history record
4 check under AS 12.62.400, and the person must have been found by the department to
5 be suitable for employment as a teacher under AS 14.20.020(f); and

6 (3) have taken the competency examination or examinations described
7 in AS 14.20.020(i).

8 (c) A limited teacher resident certificate is valid for one school year and only
9 valid while a teacher resident is participating in the teacher residency program
10 established under AS 14.20.014. A limited teacher resident certificate may be renewed
11 for two additional school years upon a showing of substantial progress toward
12 completion of a teacher education program required under (b)(1) of this section and
13 continued participation in the teacher residency program under AS 14.20.014. In this
14 subsection, "teacher resident" means a teacher qualified to teach under (b) of this
15 section.

16 (d) The department shall adopt regulations necessary to implement this section
17 and shall consult with school districts, regional educational attendance areas, the
18 University of Alaska, and other stakeholders before adopting regulations as required
19 under this subsection.

20 **Sec. 14.20.014. Teacher residency program.** (a) The teacher residency
21 program is established in the department. The department shall adopt regulations to
22 establish, implement, and govern the program. At a minimum, the regulations must

23 (1) establish a program designed to help a teacher resident work as a
24 teacher while progressing toward completion of the teacher education program
25 required under AS 14.20.013(b)(1); the program must require that, during a teacher
26 resident's first year of participation in the program, the teacher resident teach in
27 conjunction with a program mentor who is an experienced teacher;

28 (2) allow a school district or a regional educational attendance area to
29 participate in the program if the school district or regional educational attendance area
30 provides compensation to a teacher resident who is participating in the program and
31 working for the school district or regional educational attendance area under the

1 program; and

2 (3) require that a school district and a regional educational attendance
3 area participating in the program ensure that a program mentor provided by the
4 department under this section is trained in accordance with the standards established
5 by the board under (e) of this section.

6 (b) The department shall

7 (1) provide each teacher resident participating in the program with a
8 program mentor who is an experienced teacher and who will teach in conjunction with
9 the teacher resident;

10 (2) help a school district or a regional educational attendance area meet
11 the standards for the training of program mentors established by the board under (d) of
12 this section; and

13 (3) help place a teacher resident in a school district or regional
14 educational attendance area where the teacher resident will work as a teacher while
15 progressing toward completion of the teacher education program required under
16 AS 14.20.013(b)(1).

17 (c) Before adopting regulations under (a) of this section, the department shall
18 consult with school districts, regional educational attendance areas, the University of
19 Alaska, and other stakeholders.

20 (d) A person employed as a teacher resident under this section is considered a
21 certificated employee for purposes of AS 14.25 (teachers' retirement system).
22 Employment as a teacher resident under this section counts as employment for
23 purposes of acquiring tenure under AS 14.20.150; however, a teacher resident is not
24 entitled to tenure until the teacher resident receives a teacher certificate under
25 AS 14.20.020.

26 (e) The board shall establish standards for the training of program mentors as
27 described in this section.

28 (f) In this section,

29 (1) "program" means the teacher residency program established under
30 this section;

31 (2) "teacher resident" means a teacher qualified to teach under

1 AS 14.20.013(b).

2 * **Sec. 3.** AS 14.20.020(h) is amended to read:

3 (h) A person is not eligible for a teacher certificate unless the person has
4 completed **the coursework, training, and examinations** [THREE SEMESTER
5 HOURS] in Alaska studies and [THREE SEMESTER HOURS] in multicultural
6 education or cross-cultural communications **as required by the board by regulation.**
7 However, the commissioner may issue a provisional certificate, valid for **not** [NO]
8 longer than two years, to an applicant who has not completed the **coursework,**
9 **training, and examinations** [SEMESTER HOURS] required under this subsection at
10 the time of application. **A school district or regional educational attendance area**
11 **may establish coursework, training, and examination requirements that are more**
12 **stringent than the coursework, training, and examinations required under this**
13 **subsection.**

14 * **Sec. 4.** AS 14.20.022(b) is amended to read:

15 (b) To be eligible for a subject-matter expert limited teacher certificate, a
16 person shall

17 (1) hold at least a baccalaureate degree from an institution of higher
18 education accredited by a recognized regional or national accrediting association or
19 approved by the commissioner and

20 (A) have majored or minored in the subject that the person will
21 be teaching; [OR]

22 (B) have at least five years **of** experience in the subject matter
23 that the person will be teaching; **or**

24 **(C) have achieved a passing score, as defined by**
25 **department regulations, on a subject-matter examination approved by the**
26 **board;**

27 (2) have submitted fingerprints and the fees required by the
28 Department of Public Safety under AS 12.62.160 for criminal justice information and
29 a national criminal history record check to the department; the department must have
30 submitted the fingerprints and fees to the Department of Public Safety for a report of
31 criminal justice information under AS 12.62 and a national criminal history record

1 check under AS 12.62.400 and the person must have been found by the department to
2 be suitable for employment as a teacher under AS 14.20.020(f); [AND]

3 (3) be currently enrolled in an approved

4 (A) post-baccalaureate teacher education program at a
5 nationally or regionally accredited institution meeting the requirements of
6 AS 14.20.020(b) that provides for completion of the regular teacher certificate
7 education requirements within three [TWO] years after receipt of a subject-
8 matter expert limited teacher certificate under this section; or

9 (B) nontraditional or alternative teacher education
10 program at a nationally or regionally accredited institution; and

11 (4) have taken the competency examination or examinations
12 described in AS 14.20.020(i).

13 * **Sec. 5.** AS 14.20.022(d) is amended to read:

14 (d) A subject-matter expert limited teacher certificate is valid for one school
15 year and may be renewed for two [ONE] additional school years [YEAR] upon a
16 showing of substantial progress toward [TOWARDS] completion of a [THE] teacher
17 education program required under (b)(3) of this section.

18 * **Sec. 6.** AS 14.20.022(e) is amended to read:

19 (e) A school district or regional educational attendance area that employs a
20 subject-matter expert teacher shall provide a mentor who is an experienced teacher for
21 the subject-matter expert teacher for at least the first two years [YEAR] of the
22 subject-matter expert teacher's employment in the school district or regional
23 educational attendance area.

24 * **Sec. 7.** AS 14.20.025 is amended to read:

25 **Sec. 14.20.025. Limited teacher certificates.** Notwithstanding
26 AS 14.20.020(b), a person may be issued a limited certificate, valid only in the area of
27 expertise for which it is issued, to teach Alaska Native language or culture, military
28 science, or a vocational or technical course [FOR WHICH THE BOARD
29 DETERMINES BY REGULATION THAT BACCALAUREATE DEGREE
30 TRAINING IS NOT SUFFICIENTLY AVAILABLE]. A limited certificate may be
31 issued under this section only if the school board of the district or regional educational

1 attendance area in which the person will be teaching has requested its issuance. A
2 person who applies for a limited certificate shall demonstrate, as required by
3 regulations adopted by the board, instructional skills and subject matter expertise
4 sufficient to ensure the public that the person is competent as a teacher. The board
5 may require a person issued a limited certificate to undertake academic training as
6 may be required by the board by regulation and make satisfactory progress in the
7 academic training.

8 * **Sec. 8.** AS 14.20 is amended by adding new sections to read:

9 **Article 8. Teacher Registered Apprenticeship Program.**

10 **Sec. 14.20.700. Teacher registered apprenticeship program.** (a) The teacher
11 registered apprenticeship program is established in the department.

12 (b) The department shall

13 (1) adopt regulations to establish, implement, and govern the program;
14 at a minimum, the regulations must establish

15 (A) a program for school districts designed to help
16 paraprofessionals or persons who possess a valid limited teacher certificate
17 issued under AS 14.20.025 continue to work as a paraprofessional or teacher
18 under a limited teacher certificate issued under AS 14.20.025 while earning
19 credit toward a bachelor's degree and teaching certification; the program must

20 (i) be a multi-year program designed for a person who
21 has not yet obtained a bachelor's degree;

22 (ii) include tiered compensation and responsibilities that
23 increase as the participant gains pedagogical expertise; and

24 (iii) be designed to allow participants who successfully
25 complete the program to obtain a teacher certificate; and

26 (B) program standards that meet the requirements necessary to
27 qualify the program as a registered apprenticeship program under 29 U.S.C. 50
28 - 50c (National Apprenticeship Act);

29 (2) establish a standard form a school district may use to apply to
30 register the program as a registered apprenticeship program under 29 U.S.C. 50 - 50c
31 (National Apprenticeship Act);

1 (3) consult with the Department of Labor and Workforce Development
2 and the United States Department of Labor before establishing the standard form
3 described in (2) of this subsection; and

4 (4) in conjunction with the Department of Labor and Workforce
5 Development, help school districts

6 (A) develop programs established under this section; and

7 (B) secure funding for the programs from sources other than
8 the state.

9 (c) A school district may apply to register a program established under this
10 section as a registered apprenticeship program under 29 U.S.C. 50 - 50c (National
11 Apprenticeship Act). A school district may use the standard form established by the
12 department under (b)(2) of this section to apply under this subsection.

13 (d) In this section, "program" means the teacher registered apprenticeship
14 program.

15 **Sec. 14.20.710. Teacher recruitment fund.** (a) The teacher recruitment fund
16 is established in the general fund for the purpose of providing grants under (b) of this
17 section. The fund consists of money appropriated to it by the legislature, including
18 grants and donations, money from other sources, and interest earned on money in the
19 fund. Appropriations to the fund do not lapse.

20 (b) Money in the fund may be appropriated for the department to provide
21 grants to school districts for the school districts to design, develop, implement, or fund

22 (1) teacher registered apprenticeship programs;

23 (2) teacher residency programs;

24 (3) alternative pathway programs;

25 (4) student loan repayment;

26 (5) housing stipends;

27 (6) cost of living subsidies;

28 (7) recruitment bonuses;

29 (8) longevity bonuses;

30 (9) mentorship coaching;

31 (10) teacher training;

1 (11) administrator development;
2 (12) continuing education; and
3 (13) other programs approved by the department that are likely to
4 improve teacher recruitment and reduce teacher turnover.

5 (c) The department shall

6 (1) apply for and use funds from the teacher recruitment fund to obtain
7 private and federal grants for the purposes under AS 14.20.700 and this section;

8 (2) help school districts complete grant applications for a grant under
9 (b) of this section;

10 (3) award grants under (b) of this section based on a scoring matrix
11 established by the department in regulation; the scoring matrix must give the most
12 weight to applications from school districts that

13 (A) have the greatest need for a grant; and

14 (B) will use the grant money for purposes that most greatly
15 benefit student performance through improved teacher recruitment and
16 retention rates.

17 (d) The department may require that a school district provide matching funds
18 for the implementation and operation of the program for which the school district
19 requests the grant. The matching funds may come from private sources, including a
20 corporation organized under 43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq. (Alaska Native Claims Settlement
21 Act).

22 (e) The department shall, after each award cycle, provide to each school
23 district a copy of each grant application that resulted in an award of a grant under (b)
24 of this section for the purpose of spreading innovative ideas across the state.

25 (f) In this section, "fund" means the teacher recruitment fund.

26 * **Sec. 9.** AS 37.05.146(c) is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

27 (80) the teacher recruitment fund under AS 14.20.710.

28 * **Sec. 10.** AS 14.16.050(a)(3)(C); AS 14.20.022(c), and 14.20.220 are repealed.