

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Senate Education Committee

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Senator Roger Holland (chair)
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Senator Peter Micciche
Senator Shelley Hughes
Senator Tom Begich

Senate Bill 236

Facilities Constituting a School

Sponsor Statement

SB 236 seeks to remedy a technical problem in the education funding formula. The problem occurs when a district with a single school and more than 425 students opens a charter school. Under current law, the existence of the charter school implies that there is no longer “only one facility administered as a school.” Consequently, the district must calculate the adjusted ADM in the public school with a lower school size factor. As a result, opening a charter school in such a district comes with a financial penalty of about \$1 million per year.

SB 236 adds three words to existing law: “excluding charter schools.” These three words allow the district to maintain its full funding and remove the disincentive a school board faces when considering a charter school application. While it is tempting to consider the fiscal note as a \$1 million per year funding increase, it’s important to remember that simply closing the charter school would yield the same result.

The Senate Education Committee supports charter schools and requests your support in removing this barrier to ensure they are available to students across the state.