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CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 29()

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY

**Offered:
Referred:**

Sponsor(s): SENATORS STEVENS, Tobin, Giessel, Bjorkman, Claman

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to civics education, civics assessments, and secondary school**
2 **graduation requirements; establishing the Alaska Civics Education Commission; and**
3 **providing for an effective date."**

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

5 * **Section 1.** AS 14.03 is amended by adding a new section to read:

6 **Sec. 14.03.076. Civics curriculum and assessment requirement.** (a) The
7 board shall develop and periodically review a statewide civics education curriculum
8 and assessment that are based on the civics portion of the naturalization examination
9 used by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services of the Department of
10 Homeland Security and primary source documents. The curriculum and assessment
11 must also include systems of government used by Alaska Natives. A district may use
12 the curriculum to educate students in civics.

13 (b) A school may not issue a secondary school diploma to a student unless the
14 student

1 (1) has completed one semester of a civics education course taught
2 using the curriculum developed under (a) of this section;

3 (2) has achieved a passing score on the civics assessment developed
4 under (a) of this section; or

5 (3) is a student with a disability and receives a waiver from the
6 governing body.

7 (c) If a student has achieved a passing score on the civics assessment
8 developed under (a) of this section, the school shall document on the student's
9 transcript that the student achieved a passing score. A student may retake the
10 assessment as needed to achieve a passing score.

11 (d) In this section, "passing score" means a student correctly answers 70
12 percent or more of the questions.

13 * **Sec. 2.** AS 14.07.168, as amended by sec. 22, ch. 40, SLA 2022, is amended to read:

14 **Sec. 14.07.168. Report to the legislature.** Not later than the 30th legislative
15 day of each regular session of the legislature, the board shall prepare and present [IN
16 PERSON] to the legislative committees having jurisdiction over education an annual
17 report that describes the efforts of the board to develop, maintain, and continuously
18 improve a comprehensive quality public education system, as provided for under the
19 bylaws of the board. The report must include

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

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

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

26 (4) a summary of implementation and utilization of the consortium
27 established under AS 14.30.800, including a review of consortium effectiveness and
28 the participation rates of districts, teachers, and students;

29 **(5) recommendations made by the Alaska Civics Education**
30 **Commission to the board under AS 14.07.215.**

31 * **Sec. 3.** AS 14.07.168, as amended by sec. 23, ch. 40, SLA 2022, is amended to read:

1 **Sec. 14.07.168. Report to the legislature.** Not later than the 30th legislative
 2 day of each regular session of the legislature, the board shall prepare and present [IN
 3 PERSON] to the legislative committees having jurisdiction over education an annual
 4 report that describes the efforts of the board to develop, maintain, and continuously
 5 improve a comprehensive quality public education system, as provided for under the
 6 bylaws of the board. The report must include

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

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

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

13 **(4) recommendations made by the Alaska Civics Education**
 14 **Commission to the board under AS 14.07.215.**

15 * **Sec. 4.** AS 14.07 is amended by adding new sections to read:

16 **Article 3. Alaska Civics Education Commission.**

17 **Sec. 14.07.200. Alaska Civics Education Commission.** The Alaska Civics
 18 Education Commission is established in the department. The department shall provide
 19 staff to the commission.

20 **Sec. 14.07.205. Composition; chair.** The commission consists of 12 members
 21 as follows:

22 (1) the lieutenant governor, who shall serve as chair;

23 (2) a retired judicial officer, appointed by the chief justice; if no retired
 24 judicial officers are available to be appointed under this paragraph, the administrative
 25 director described in AS 22.20.300 shall appoint a member with judicial experience in
 26 the state; in this paragraph, "judicial officer" has the meaning given in AS 22.20.010;

27 (3) the commissioner of education and early development or the
 28 commissioner's designee;

29 (4) two members from the house of representatives, one of whom is
 30 appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives and one of whom is appointed
 31 by the minority leader of the house of representatives;

1 (5) two members from the senate, one of whom is appointed by the
2 president of the senate and one of whom is appointed by the minority leader of the
3 senate;

4 (6) five members appointed by the governor as follows:

5 (A) two members who are teachers and have experience
6 teaching courses in civics education, United States government, or social
7 studies; one member must be a teacher for a correspondence study program in
8 the state and the other must be a member of the National Education
9 Association;

10 (B) one member who represents a nonprofit organization that
11 promotes civics education and engagement as its core mission;

12 (C) one member who is an active member in good standing of
13 the Association of Alaska School Boards;

14 (D) one member who is a student in good standing enrolled in
15 grade 11 or 12 and demonstrates an interest in promoting civics education.

16 **Sec. 14.07.210. Terms of office.** Members of the commission serve terms of
17 two years. A vacancy shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment. A
18 person appointed to a vacancy serves for the unexpired portion of the term.

19 **Sec. 14.07.215. Duties of the commission.** The commission shall

20 (1) discuss and review the most current information regarding best
21 practices, pedagogies, and policies for civics education;

22 (2) make recommendations to the board regarding civics education and
23 provide guidance for statewide implementation of the recommendations established by
24 the commission.

25 **Sec. 14.07.220. Meetings.** The commission shall meet at least once every three
26 months at the call of the chair. The commission may meet and transact business
27 electronically. The legislative council may assist the commission in conducting
28 meetings under this section, including by providing office space, equipment, and
29 additional staff support for the commission.

30 **Sec. 14.07.225. Compensation, per diem, and expenses.** Members of the
31 commission serve without compensation, but are entitled to per diem and travel

1 expenses authorized for boards and commissions under AS 39.20.180.

2 **Sec. 14.07.295. Definition.** In AS 14.07.200 - 14.07.295, "commission" means
3 the Alaska Civics Education Commission established in AS 14.07.200.

4 * **Sec. 5.** Section 3 of this Act takes effect on the effective date of sec. 23, ch. 40, SLA
5 2022.

6 * **Sec. 6.** Except as provided in sec. 5 of this Act, this Act takes effect July 1, 2023.