

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 26(TRB)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON TRIBAL AFFAIRS

Offered: 3/22/23

Referred: Finance

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES STORY, Galvin, Hannan, Mina, McCormick, Dibert

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to the official languages of the State of Alaska; renaming the Alaska**
2 **Native Language Preservation and Advisory Council as the Council for Alaska Native**
3 **Languages; and relating to the Council for Alaska Native Languages."**

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

5 * **Section 1.** AS 44.12.310(a) is amended to read:

6 (a) The English, Inupiaq, Siberian Yupik, Central Alaskan Yup'ik, **Cup'ig,**
7 Alutiiq, Unanga/Cx, Dena'ina, Deg Xinag, Holikachuk, Koyukon, Upper Kuskokwim,
8 Gwich'in, [TANANA,] Upper Tanana, **Sahcheeg xut'een xneege' (Middle Tanana),**
9 **Benhti Kokhwt'ana Kenaga' (Lower Tanana),** Tanacross, Hän, Ahtna, **Wetal**
10 **(Ts'etsa'ut),** Eyak, Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian languages are the official languages
11 of the State of Alaska.

12 * **Sec. 2.** AS 44.33.520(a) is amended to read:

13 (a) The **Council for Alaska Native Languages** [ALASKA NATIVE
14 LANGUAGE PRESERVATION AND ADVISORY COUNCIL] is established in the

1 department for the purpose of recommending the establishment or reorganization of
2 programs to support the preservation, restoration, and revitalization of Alaska Native
3 languages.

4 * **Sec. 3.** AS 44.33.520(c) is amended to read:

5 (c) The governor shall appoint to the council established in this section **seven**
6 [FIVE] voting members who are professional language experts and who represent
7 diverse regions of the state. In addition, one member of the senate appointed by the
8 president of the senate and one member of the house of representatives appointed by
9 the speaker of the house of representatives shall serve on the council as nonvoting
10 members. In appointing the nonvoting members of the council, the president of the
11 senate and the speaker of the house of representatives shall appoint a member of the
12 bush caucus, if a bush caucus exists. In this subsection, "bush caucus" means a group
13 of legislators that represents rural areas of the state.

14 * **Sec. 4.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
15 read:

16 TRANSITION. As soon as practicable after the effective date of sec. 3 of this Act, the
17 governor shall appoint to the Council for Alaska Native Languages the two additional voting
18 members created by sec. 3 of this Act.