

Alaska House of Representatives

33RD ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



HOUSE RULES COMMITTEE

SECTIONAL ANALYSIS SB 140, Draft 33-LS0687\D

HCS for CSSB 140 (blank): “An Act relating to education; relating to funding for Internet services for school districts; requiring the department of Education and Early Development to provide information relating to public schools on an Internet website; relating to charter schools; relating to public school students who are deaf or hard of hearing; relating to information on the post-secondary education, career path, and residency of graduates from high schools in the state; relating to transportation of students; relating to state funding for districts operating residential schools; relating to funding for correspondence study programs; increasing the base student allocation; relating to education tax credits; authorizing lump sum payments for certain teachers as retention and recruitment incentives; providing for an effective date by repealing the effective dates of secs. 1, 2, and 21, ch. 61, SLA 2014; and providing for an effective date.”

Section 1: Adds new subsections to AS 14.03.120, Education planning; reports. Directs the department to establish and maintain a user-friendly Internet website that allows the public to view and download information that is described within this section and allow the public to make recommendations on how to improve education. The information that shall be made available are reports required under this section, copies of audits made under AS 14.14.050, and a description of how each district is addressing special education services students. This subsection also directs the department to collaborate with the Department of Labor and Workforce Development to gather data on the progress of each high school graduating class in a district by collecting career, postsecondary education, and residency data on each student within that graduating class. The data shall be collected every five years for 20 years.

Section 2: Amends AS 14.03.127(a), Funding for internet services. Increases broadband share for eligible schools from 25 megabits per second (Mbps) to 100 Mbps of download speed and provides funding to help those schools reach 100 Mbps through the School Broadband Assistance Grant (BAG).

Section 3: Adds a new section to AS 14.03, Public Schools Generally. This new section gives the Board of Education the authority to authorize a charter school in a district under regulations adopted by the board. The regulations must include an application procedure and provisions for the establishment of an academic policy committee. The local school boards shall operate a charter school under this section as provided in AS 14.03.255-14.03.290.

Section 4: Amends AS 14.07.020(a), Duties of the department. Directs the department to work with the Department of Labor and Workforce Development to gather data on the progress of each high school graduating class as required under AS 14.03.120(m).

Section 5: Amends AS 14.07.020(a), Duties of the department. Directs the department to work with the Department of Labor and Workforce Development to gather data on the progress of each high school graduating class as required under AS 14.03.120(m).

Section 6: Amends AS 14.07.165(a), Duties. Adds a new subsection stating regulations regarding establishment of charter schools be made by the Board of Education.

Section 7: Repeals and reenacts AS 14.09.010(a), Transportation of students. Increases pupil transportation funding by over \$7.3 million.

Section 8: Amends AS 14.16.200(b), State funding for districts operating residential schools. Increases the per-pupil monthly stipend to cover room and board expenses by over \$4 million.

Section 9: Amends AS 14.17.430, State funding for correspondence study. Adds subsection 2 that adds the special needs factor to the ADM of the correspondence program.

Section 10: Amends AS 14.17.470, Base student allocation. Adds a \$300 increase to the BSA.

Section 11: Adds new subsections to AS 14.30.272, Procedural Safeguards. Adds provisions for deaf and hearing impaired that must be adopted by school districts. This acts as a deaf and hard of hearing children's bill of rights that establishes consistency in the information provided to parents by the school district, allows parents to choose the best method of communication for their child and requires the school district to provide services using the parent's chosen method of communication.

Section 12: Adds a new subsection to AS 14.30.276, Least restrictive environment. Requires the department to establish and operate a centralized program for students whose primary language is American Sign Language, provide residential services as part of the program, establishes that a school district may operate the program under specific requirements, and provide funding for the students who attend the program operated by a school district.

Section 13: Amends AS 44.31.020, Duries of the department. Directs the Department of Labor and Workforce Development to gather data on the progress of high school graduating classes and publish a biennial report on their progress.

Section 14: Repeals Sections 1, 2 and 21, chapter 61, SLA 2014, and sec. 38(b), ch.101, SLA 2018. This language proposes to keep the same structure of tax deductions and tax credits that began in 2021, while removing the sunset provision.

Section 15: Uncodified law. Provides subject to appropriation, a lump sum payment to eligible teachers as a retention and recruitment incentive. The criteria for eligibility is contained within this provision.

Section 16: Uncodified law. Allows the State Board of Education to adopt regulations to implement the changes made in sections 3 and 6 of this bill.

Section 17: Repeals the education tax credit statutes as noted in Section 14.

Section 18: Section 5 is affected by the adoption of Sections 4, 6, 8, 11, 12, 16, 20, 23, 28, 30, 33, and 47 of ch. 40, SLA 2022, and takes effect on June 30, 2034.

Section 19: Section 16 takes effect immediately.

Section 20: All sections with the exception of Sections 18 and 19 take effect on July 1, 2024.