

Alaska State Legislature

Session:
Alaska State Capitol, Rm.104
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
Office: (907) 465-2693



Interim:
145 Main St Loop
Kenai, AK 99611
Office: (907) 283-2030

Representative Justin Ruffridge
District 7 - Kenai/Soldotna

HB 391

Sponsor statement

Charter schools have a proven model of success in the education of Alaskan students. The goal of HB 391 is to refine the current process of approving new charter schools. Current statutes and regulations allow for the Alaska Board of Education (BOE) to hear an appeal if the local school board declines a new charter school application. This legislation would create a secondary method for approval of charter school applications.

HB 391 would give authority to the BOE to authorize a charter school that would operate in a local school district. This bill recognizes the important role parents play and that they should be involved in the education process of their children by reviewing the education content taught in the charter school.

HB 391 recognizes and encourages high levels collaboration between parents, teachers, and school staff members through an academic policy committee. This partnership brings together all parties who have a vested interest in the success of the student.

Under HB 391 the BOE can authorize a charter school, with that school still operating under the local school board framework. HB 391 makes improvements in the process to authorize new charter schools and can help foster the formation of additional charter schools in our communities.