

HOUSE BILL NO. 56

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVE B.DAVIS

Introduced: 1/16/95

Referred: State Affairs, Health, Education and Social Services, Finance

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act establishing a secondary school counselor pilot program; and providing
2 for an effective date."

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

4 * **Section 1. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.** (a) The legislature finds that

5 (1) there is a need for information regarding the effect of providing counselors
6 in public secondary schools;

7 (2) preliminary research has shown that school counselors have a positive
8 effect on test scores, school discipline, and parent involvement in schools; and

9 (3) a four-year pilot program would allow the state to collect necessary
10 information on the effects of providing counselors in public secondary schools.

11 (b) The purpose of this Act is to establish a program under which certain public
12 secondary schools would provide increased counseling services, and over a four-year period
13 the state would monitor the effect of the increased counseling services on test scores, school
14 discipline, teacher innovation, and parent involvement in education.

1 * **Sec. 2. SECONDARY SCHOOL COUNSELOR PROGRAM.** (a) The secondary school
2 counselor program is established in the Department of Education. The program must include

3 (1) additional state aid provided under (e) of this section for a school in a
4 district that is selected under (c) of this section;

5 (2) a program application and selection process determined by the department;

6 (3) the objectives of the secondary school counselor program;

7 (4) a method to monitor and review the effects of increased counseling services

8 on students in a school selected to participate in the program; a district selected to participate

9 in the program shall report to the department annually by June 30 while participating in the

10 program; and

11 (5) a certification by the chief school administrator that program funds will be

12 separately accounted for.

13 (b) A district eligible under (c) of this section may apply to participate in the program

14 by submitting an application on a form provided by the department. The application must

15 include

16 (1) the objectives of the program and the district's plan for meeting those
17 objectives;

18 (2) the district's plan for using increased state funds for the purpose of
19 increasing counseling services in certain secondary schools;

20 (3) the existing counseling services in each secondary school in the district that
21 the district is proposing for participation in the program;

22 (4) if available, the most recent standardized test scores for each grade in each
23 school that is proposed for participation by the district; and

24 (5) a program to train teachers to participate in the secondary school
25 counseling program.

26 (c) A district is eligible to propose a secondary school in the district for participation

27 in the program described in this section if, prior to participation in the program, the school

28 does not provide counseling services or only provides counseling services on a part-time basis.

29 (d) The department may not select more than five secondary schools for participation

30 in the program required under this section. A school selected to participate in the program

31 required under this section shall participate until June 30, 1999.

1 (e) Each secondary school selected to participate in the program required under this
2 section shall constitute a separate funding community for purposes of AS 14.17.031 and
3 14.17.041(b)(1). Money required to be expended under this subsection shall be included in
4 the annual operating budget prepared by the department.

5 (f) The department shall include a report on the program established under this Act,
6 as a part of the department's annual report.

7 (g) In this section,

8 (1) "counselor" means a person who is certified in school counseling;

9 (2) "department" means the Department of Education;

10 (3) "district" has the meaning given in AS 14.17.250;

11 (4) "teacher" means a person who is certified under AS 14.20.020 and who is
12 an actual classroom instructor in a regular instructional program.

13 * **Sec. 3.** It is the intent of the legislature that funding for the program established under
14 sec. 2 of this Act not be reduced if AS 14.17 is amended to change the formula providing
15 state aid for education.

16 * **Sec. 4.** Sections 1 and 2 of this Act are repealed June 30, 1999.

17 * **Sec. 5.** This Act takes effect July 1, 1995.