

SENATE CS FOR CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 465(RLS)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE SENATE RULES COMMITTEE

Offered: 4/24/96

Referred: Today's Calendar

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVE IVAN

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act relating to employment of teachers and school administrators and to
2 public school collective bargaining; and providing for an effective date."

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

4 * Section 1. AS 14.20.140 is amended to read:

5 Sec. 14.20.140. NOTIFICATION OF NONRETENTION. (a) If a teacher who
6 has acquired tenure rights is to be laid off under AS 14.20.177 or is not to be
7 retained for the following school year, the employer shall notify the teacher of the
8 layoff or nonretention by writing, delivered before March 16, or by registered mail
9 postmarked before March 16.

10 (b) If a teacher who has not acquired tenure rights is to be laid off under
11 AS 14.20.177 or is not to be retained for the following school year the employer shall
12 notify the teacher of the layoff or nonretention by writing delivered on or before the
13 last day of the school term or by registered mail postmarked on or before the last day
14 of the school term.

1 (c) Notwithstanding a teacher's right to continued employment under
2 AS 23.10.500 - 23.10.550, a school district may notify a teacher of **layoff or**
3 nonretention under this section for the following school year for a permissible reason.

4 * **Sec. 2.** AS 14.20.145 is amended to read:

5 Sec. 14.20.145. AUTOMATIC REEMPLOYMENT. If notification of
6 nonretention **or layoff** is not given according to AS 14.20.140, a teacher is entitled to
7 be reemployed in the same district for the following school year on the contract terms
8 the teacher and the employer may agree upon, or, if no terms are agreed upon, the
9 provisions of the previous contract are continued for the following school year, subject
10 to AS 14.20.158. **Except as provided in AS 14.20.177(e), the** [THE] right to
11 **automatic reemployment under** [BE REEMPLOYED ACCORDING TO] this section
12 expires if the teacher does not accept reemployment within 30 days after the date on
13 which the teacher receives a contract of reemployment. A teacher who is on family
14 leave under AS 23.10.500 - 23.10.550 must comply with the 30-day deadline in this
15 section to retain the teacher's reemployment rights under this section.

16 * **Sec. 3.** AS 14.20.147(b) is amended to read:

17 (b) When a school operated by a federal agency is transferred to or absorbed into
18 a new or existing school district, the teachers shall also be transferred if mutually agreed
19 by the teacher or teachers and the school board of the new or existing district. A teacher
20 transferred from a federal agency school **that** [, WHICH] does not have an official salary
21 schedule or teacher tenure in the same manner as a public school district in the state [,]
22 shall be placed on a position on the salary schedule of the absorbing district; the salary
23 may not be less than the teacher would have received in the federal agency school. If
24 the teacher taught **three** [TWO] or more years in the federal agency school and, at the
25 time of transfer, had a valid Alaska teaching certificate, that teacher shall be placed on
26 tenure in the absorbing district.

27 * **Sec. 4.** AS 14.20 is amended by adding a new section to read:

28 Sec. 14.20.149. EMPLOYEE EVALUATION. (a) A school board shall adopt
29 by July 1, 1997, a certificated employee evaluation system for evaluation and
30 improvement of the performance of the district's teachers and administrators. The
31 evaluation system applies to all the district's certificated employees except the district's
32 superintendent. A school board shall consider information from students, parents,

1 community members, classroom teachers, affected collective bargaining units, and
2 administrators in the design and periodic review of the district's certificated employee
3 evaluation system. An evaluation of a certificated employee under this section must be
4 based on observation of the employee in the employee's workplace.

5 (b) The certificated employee evaluation system must

6 (1) establish district performance standards for the district's teachers and
7 administrators that are based on professional performance standards adopted by the
8 department by regulation;

9 (2) require at least two observations for the evaluation of each nontenured
10 teacher in the district each school year;

11 (3) require at least an annual evaluation of each tenured teacher in the
12 district who met the district performance standards during the previous school year;

13 (4) permit the district to limit its evaluations of tenured teachers who
14 have consistently exceeded the district performance standards to one evaluation every
15 two school years;

16 (5) require the school district to perform an annual evaluation for each
17 administrator;

18 (6) require the school district to prepare and implement a plan of
19 improvement for a teacher or administrator whose performance did not meet the district
20 performance standards, except if the teacher's or administrator's performance warrants
21 immediate dismissal under AS 14.20.170(a); and

22 (7) provide an opportunity for students, parents, community members,
23 teachers, and administrators to provide information on the performance of the teacher or
24 administrator who is the subject of the evaluation to the evaluating administrator.

25 (c) A person may not conduct an evaluation under this section unless the person
26 holds a type B certificate or is a site administrator under the supervision of a person with
27 a type B certificate, is employed by the school district as an administrator, and has
28 completed training in the use of the school district's teacher evaluation system.

29 (d) Once each school year, a school district shall offer in-service training to the
30 certificated employees who are subject to the evaluation system. The training must
31 address the procedures of the evaluation system, the standards that the district uses in
32 evaluating the performance of teachers and administrators, and other information that the

1 district considers helpful.

2 (e) A school district shall provide a tenured teacher whose performance, after
3 evaluation, did not meet the district performance standards with a plan of improvement.
4 The evaluating administrator shall consult with the tenured teacher in setting clear,
5 specific performance expectations to be included in the plan of improvement. The plan
6 of improvement must address ways in which the tenured teacher's performance can be
7 improved and shall last for not less than 90 workdays and not more than 180 workdays
8 unless the minimum time is shortened by agreement between the evaluating administrator
9 and the teacher. The plan of improvement shall be based on the professional
10 performance standards outlined in the locally adopted school district evaluation
11 procedure. The school district must observe the teacher at least twice during the course
12 of the plan. If, at the conclusion of the plan of improvement, the tenured teacher's
13 performance again does not meet the district performance standards, the district may
14 nonretain the teacher under AS 14.20.175(b)(1).

15 (f) A school district may place a tenured administrator whose performance,
16 including performance as an evaluator under the district's certificated employee
17 evaluation system, does not meet the district performance standards on a plan of
18 improvement. The plan must address ways in which the administrator's performance can
19 be improved and shall last for not less than 90 workdays and not more than 210
20 workdays unless the minimum time is shortened by agreement between the evaluating
21 administrator and the administrator being evaluated. The school district must observe
22 the administrator being evaluated at least twice during the course of the plan. If, at the
23 conclusion of the plan of improvement, the administrator's performance again does not
24 meet the district performance standards, the district may terminate its employment
25 contract with the administrator. This subsection does not restrict the right of a school
26 district to reassign an administrator to a teaching position consistent with the terms of
27 an applicable collective bargaining agreement.

28 (g) The department may request copies of each school district's certificated
29 employee evaluation systems and changes the district makes to the systems.

30 (h) Information provided to a school district under the school district's
31 certificated employee evaluation system concerning the performance of an individual
32 being evaluated under the system is not a public record and is not subject to disclosure

1 under AS 09.25. However, the individual who is the subject of the evaluation is
2 entitled to a copy of the information and may waive the confidentiality provisions of
3 this subsection concerning the information.

4 * **Sec. 5.** AS 14.20.150 is repealed and reenacted to read:

5 Sec. 14.20.150. ACQUISITION OF TENURE RIGHTS. (a) Except as
6 provided in (c) of this section, a teacher acquires tenure rights in a district when the
7 teacher

8 (1) possesses a valid teaching certificate that authorizes the teacher to
9 be employed as a certificated teacher or as an administrator under regulations adopted
10 by the department;

11 (2) has been employed as a teacher in the same district continuously
12 for three full school years;

13 (3) receives, in the third year of any three-year period of continuous
14 employment with the district, an evaluation under the district's evaluation system
15 stating that the teacher's performance meets the district performance standards; and

16 (4) on or before October 15 of the school year,

17 (A) accepts a contract for employment as a teacher in the
18 district for a fourth consecutive school year; and

19 (B) performs a day of teaching services in the district during
20 that school year.

21 (b) In this section, a full school year of employment means employment that
22 begins on or before the first student count day required by the department in a school
23 year or October 15, whichever occurs first, and continues through the remainder of the
24 school year.

25 (c) A superintendent may not acquire or maintain tenure in a district.

26 * **Sec. 6.** AS 14.20.155(a) is amended to read:

27 (a) **Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, a** [A] teacher who has
28 acquired tenure rights has the right to employment within the district during continuous
29 service.

30 * **Sec. 7.** AS 14.20.160 is amended to read:

31 Sec. 14.20.160. LOSS OF TENURE RIGHTS. Tenure rights are lost when the

1 teacher's employment in the district is interrupted or terminated. **However, a teacher**
2 **on layoff status does not lose tenure rights during the period of layoff except as**
3 **provided under AS 14.20.177.**

4 * **Sec. 8.** AS 14.20.170 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

5 (c) A teacher who is dismissed under this section is not entitled to a plan of
6 improvement under AS 14.20.149.

7 * **Sec. 9.** AS 14.20.175(b) is amended to read:

8 (b) A teacher who has acquired tenure rights is subject to nonretention for the
9 following school year only for the following causes:

10 (1) **the school district demonstrates that**

11 **(A) the district has fully complied with the requirements of**
12 **AS 14.20.149 with respect to the tenured teacher;**

13 **(B) the teacher's performance, after completion of the plan**
14 **of improvement, failed to meet the performance objectives set out in the**
15 **plan; and**

16 **(C) the evaluation of the teacher established that the teacher**
17 **does not meet the district performance standards** [INCOMPETENCY,
18 WHICH IS DEFINED AS THE INABILITY OR THE UNINTENTIONAL OR
19 INTENTIONAL FAILURE TO PERFORM THE TEACHER'S CUSTOMARY
20 TEACHING DUTIES IN A SATISFACTORY MANNER];

21 (2) immorality, which is defined as the commission of an act that,
22 under the laws of the state, constitutes a crime involving moral turpitude; **or**

23 (3) substantial noncompliance with the school laws of the state, the
24 regulations or bylaws of the department, the bylaws of the district, or the written rules
25 of the superintendent [; OR

26 (4) A NECESSARY REDUCTION OF STAFF OCCASIONED BY A
27 DECREASE IN SCHOOL ATTENDANCE].

28 * **Sec. 10.** AS 14.20 is amended by adding a new section to read:

29 Sec. 14.20.177. REDUCTIONS IN FORCE. (a) A school district may
30 implement a layoff plan under this section if it is necessary for the district to reduce
31 the number of tenured teachers because

1 (1) school attendance in the district has decreased; or
2 (2) the basic need of the school district determined under
3 AS 14.17.021(b) and adjusted under AS 14.17.225(b) decreases by three percent or
4 more from the previous year.

5 (b) Before a school district lays off any tenured teacher, the school board shall
6 adopt a layoff plan. The plan must identify academic and other programs that the
7 district intends to maintain in implementing the layoff plan. The plan must also
8 include procedures for layoff and recall of tenured teachers consistent with this section.

9 (c) Except as provided in this subsection, a school district may place a tenured
10 teacher on layoff status only after the district has given notice of nonretention to all
11 nontenured teachers. However, a school district may retain a nontenured teacher and
12 place on layoff status a tenured teacher if there is no tenured teacher in the district
13 who is qualified to replace the nontenured teacher. The school district shall comply
14 with the notice requirements set out in AS 14.20.140 in placing a tenured or
15 nontenured teacher on layoff status.

16 (d) For purposes of this section, a tenured teacher is considered qualified for a
17 position if the position is in

18 (1) grades K - 8 and the teacher has an elementary endorsement;

19 (2) an established middle school and the teacher has

20 (A) an elementary endorsement;

21 (B) a middle school endorsement; or

22 (C) a secondary certificate with a subject area endorsement in the
23 area of assignment in which the teacher filling the position will spend at least 40
24 percent of the teacher's time or the teacher has, within the five years immediately
25 preceding the last date on which the teacher performed teaching services in the
26 district before being laid off, received an evaluation stating that the teacher's
27 performance in the subject or subjects meets the district performance standards;
28 or

29 (3) grades 9 - 12 and the teacher has an endorsement for each subject
30 area in which the teacher filling the position will spend at least 40 percent of the
31 teacher's time or the teacher has, within the five years immediately preceding the last
32 date on which the teacher performed teaching services in the district before being laid

1 off, received an evaluation stating that the teacher's performance in the subject or
2 subjects meets the district performance standards.

3 (e) For a period of three years after layoff, a teacher is on layoff status and is
4 entitled to a hiring preference in the district where the teacher had been employed. The
5 hiring preference applies only to vacant teaching positions for which the teacher is
6 qualified. If a teacher is offered a teaching position under this subsection and the teacher
7 declines the offer or fails to accept it within 30 days, the teacher is no longer considered
8 to be on layoff status and is no longer entitled to a hiring preference under this section
9 unless the teacher declines the offer because the teacher is contractually obligated to
10 provide professional services to another private or public educational program.

11 (f) Notwithstanding any provision of AS 23.40, the terms of a collective
12 bargaining agreement entered into between a school district and a bargaining organization
13 representing teachers on or after the effective date of this section may not be in conflict
14 with the provisions of this section.

15 (g) A teacher on layoff status is not entitled to be reemployed under
16 AS 14.20.145 and does not accrue leave. However, layoff status does not constitute a
17 break in service for retaining tenure rights and accrued sick leave.

18 (h) In this section, "school district" or "district" means a city or borough school
19 district or a regional educational attendance area.

20 * **Sec. 11.** AS 14.20.180 is repealed and reenacted to read:

21 Sec. 14.20.180. PROCEDURES UPON NOTICE OF DISMISSAL OR
22 NONRETENTION. (a) Before a teacher is dismissed, the employer shall give the
23 teacher written notice of the proposed dismissal and a pretermination hearing. A
24 pretermination hearing under this section must comport with the minimum requirements
25 of due process, including an explanation of the employer's evidence and basis for the
26 proposed dismissal and an opportunity for the teacher to respond. If, following a
27 pretermination hearing, an employer determines that dismissal is appropriate, the
28 employer shall provide written notice, including a statement of cause and a complete bill
29 of particulars, of the decision. The dismissal is effective when the notice is delivered
30 to the teacher.

31 (b) An employer that has decided to nonretain a tenured teacher shall provide
32 the teacher with written notice, including a statement of cause and a complete bill of

1 particulars. The notice must comply with AS 14.20.140(a).

2 (c) Within 15 days after receipt of a decision of dismissal under (a) of this
3 section or nonretention under (b) of this section, a teacher may notify the employer in
4 writing that the teacher is requesting a hearing before the school board under (d) of this
5 section or that the teacher is invoking the grievance procedures under (e) of this section.

6 (d) Upon receipt of a request for a hearing, the employer shall immediately
7 schedule a hearing and notify the teacher in writing of the date, time, and place of the
8 hearing. The teacher may elect to have either a public or a private hearing, and to have
9 the hearing under oath or affirmation. The parties have a right to be represented by
10 counsel and to cross-examine witnesses. The teacher has the right to subpoena a person
11 who has made statements that are used as a basis for the employer's decision to dismiss
12 or nonretain. A written transcript, tape, or similar recording of the proceedings shall be
13 kept. A copy of the recording shall be furnished to the teacher, for cost, upon request
14 of the teacher. A decision of the school board requires a majority vote of the
15 membership, by roll call. The board's decision shall be in writing and must contain
16 specific findings of fact and conclusions of law. A copy of the decision shall be
17 furnished to the teacher within 10 days after the date of the decision. If the school board
18 sustains the dismissal or nonretention, the teacher may appeal the decision to the superior
19 court for judicial review based on the administrative record.

20 (e) Upon receipt of a notice invoking the grievance procedures, the school
21 board shall immediately schedule an informal hearing and notify the teacher in writing
22 of the date, time, and place of the hearing. The hearing is for the purpose of
23 reviewing the statement of cause and bill of particulars and not for the purpose of
24 taking evidence. The teacher may choose whether the informal hearing is held in
25 public or in private. A decision of the school board requires a majority vote of the
26 membership, by roll call. The board's decision shall be in writing. The board shall
27 promptly furnish a copy of the decision to the teacher. If the board sustains the
28 dismissal or nonretention, the teacher may, within 15 days after receipt of the decision,
29 give written notice to the school board and submit the matter to arbitration under the
30 rules of the American Arbitration Association. The decision of the arbitrator is final
31 and binding on the school board, the teacher, and the bargaining organization
32 representing the teacher, if any. If the school board and the teacher agree, they may

1 waive the informal hearing under this subsection and submit the matter directly to
2 arbitration.

3 * **Sec. 12.** AS 14.20.215 is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

4 (8) "district performance standards" means evaluation criteria for the
5 district's teachers and administrators that are adopted by a school district under
6 AS 14.20.149 and that are based on the professional performance standards adopted
7 by the department.

8 * **Sec. 13.** AS 23.40 is amended by adding a new section to read:

9 Sec. 23.40.235. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN SCHOOL DISTRICT
10 NEGOTIATIONS. Before beginning bargaining, the school board of a city or borough
11 school district or a regional educational attendance area shall provide opportunities for
12 public comment on the issues to be addressed in the collective bargaining process.

13 Initial proposals, last-best-offer proposals, tentative agreements before ratification, and
14 final agreements reached by the parties are public documents and are subject to
15 inspection and copying under AS 09.25.110 - 09.25.140.

16 * **Sec. 14.** AS 14.20.205 is repealed.

17 * **Sec. 15.** APPLICABILITY TO INDIVIDUALS. The amendments to AS 14.20.147(b)
18 and 14.20.150, made by secs. 3 and 5 of this Act, apply only to an individual

19 (1) first hired as a teacher by a school district or regional educational
20 attendance area, including Mt. Edgecumbe High School, on or after the effective date of this
21 Act; or

22 (2) rehired as a teacher by a school district or regional educational attendance
23 area, including Mt. Edgecumbe High School, on or after the effective date of this Act and
24 following an interruption in continuous service that resulted in

25 (A) a loss of tenure rights under AS 14.20.160; or

26 (B) failure to acquire tenure rights under AS 14.20.150.

27 * **Sec. 16.** APPLICABILITY TO CONTRACTS. Nothing in this Act affects a collective
28 bargaining agreement in effect on the effective date of this Act.

29 * **Sec. 17.** EFFECTIVE DATE FOR EMPLOYEE EVALUATIONS. Section 4 of this Act
30 takes effect July 1, 1997.