

STATE OF ALASKA
THE LEGISLATURE

1998

Source

HCS CSSCR 19(FIN)

Legislative
Resolve No.

55



Relating to the use of prototype designs in public school construction projects.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

WHEREAS art. VII, sec. 1, Constitution of the State of Alaska, requires the state to establish and maintain a system of public schools to meet the educational needs of children throughout the state; and

WHEREAS the Alaska State Legislature recognizes the crucial role that local school districts serve in the state in meeting this most important constitutional responsibility; and

WHEREAS the Alaska State Legislature understands the challenges school districts face to ensure Alaska's children have skilled teachers, quality curriculum, and safe schools; and

WHEREAS continued growth is projected in the state's school age population that will increase the need for new schools and place further pressure on school district budgets; and

WHEREAS prudent stewardship of state resources requires that every effort be made to get the best value for each state dollar spent; and

WHEREAS use of prototype school designs has enabled the Municipality of Anchorage, Fairbanks North Star Borough, Kenai Peninsula Borough, and Matanuska-Susitna Borough school districts to more quickly respond to their district's need for new schools while

realizing cost savings; and

WHEREAS the use of prototype school designs reduces future maintenance cost by improving a school district's maintenance program through the use of standardized building components, systems, and products; and

WHEREAS school districts experience substantially fewer problems during the school year in a prototype school, thereby reducing the school district's costs and improving the learning environment for teachers and students; and

WHEREAS public facilities should be designed to accurately reflect the unique needs of our subarctic and arctic environments, and northern design principles can help minimize annual operating and maintenance costs;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature encourages school districts to use prototype school designs wherever feasible so future school classrooms can be constructed more quickly and funds maximized; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor is requested to direct the Department of Education to develop prototype school designs in consultation with engineering and architecture design professionals, including their statewide and regional organizations, who are familiar with the unique regional climatic conditions in this state as well as other conditions that affect application of appropriate school designs; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor is requested to direct the Department of Education to identify components within prototype building designs that can be standardized and can be incorporated into the school design in those instances where a prototype design may not be appropriate; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor is requested to direct the Department of Education to consult with the bond reimbursement and grant review committee established under AS 14.11.014 in developing incentives for school districts to use prototype school designs in school construction funded through the educational facilities maintenance and construction fund (AS 37.05.560); and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that, if statutory changes are necessary to implement these incentives, the Department of Education is requested to report suggested statutory changes to the legislature by April 1, 1998, so the changes can be considered by the Second Regular Session of the Twentieth Alaska State Legislature.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to Shirley J. Holloway, commissioner of education, to the Alaska State Board of Education, and to the school board of each school district.