

**CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 145(HES)**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTIETH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE HOUSE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Offered: 3/5/97

Referred: Finance

Sponsor(s): HOUSE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

**A BILL**

**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1 "An Act relating to certification of teachers."

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

3 \* **Section 1.** AS 14.20.020(b) is amended to read:

4 (b) A person is not eligible for a teacher certificate unless that person has  
5 received at least a baccalaureate degree from an institution of higher education  
6 accredited by a recognized regional accrediting association or approved by the  
7 commissioner **and, if applicable, has passed the examination or examinations**  
8 **required by (i) of this section.** However, this subsection is not applicable to

9 (1) persons employed in the state public school system on September 1,  
10 1962;

11 (2) persons issued an emergency certificate during a situation **that**  
12 **[WHICH]**, in the judgment of the commissioner, requires the temporary issuance of  
13 a certificate to a person not otherwise qualified.

14 \* **Sec. 2.** AS 14.20.020 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

15 (i) Beginning on July 1, 1998, a person is not eligible for an initial regular

1 teacher certificate unless the person has taken and successfully completed a  
2 competency examination or examinations designated, at the time the person took the  
3 test, by the board. The board shall review nationally recognized examinations that are  
4 designed to test the competency of new teachers and shall designate those  
5 examinations that it finds adequately test the skills and abilities of new teachers. For  
6 each examination designated under this subsection, the board shall establish the  
7 minimum acceptable level of performance.

8 \* **Sec. 3.** The requirements for examination established in this Act do not apply to a  
9 teacher who holds a valid regular teacher certificate on the effective date of this Act.

10 \* **Sec. 4.** The Department of Education shall report to the legislature by March 1, 1998,  
11 on the examinations the department has selected in compliance with AS 14.20.020(i), enacted  
12 by sec. 2 of this Act. The department shall also report to the legislature by March 1, 1999,  
13 on the progress made in using competency examinations in issuing initial regular teacher  
14 certificates.