

**SENATE BILL NO. 203**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTIETH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATOR TAYLOR

Introduced: 5/9/97

Referred: Health, Education and Social Services

**A BILL**

**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1 "An Act requiring that phonics be taught in kindergarten through third grades  
2 in the public school system."

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

4 \* **Section 1.** SHORT TITLE. This Act may be known as the Literacy Restoration Act.

5 \* **Sec. 2.** FINDINGS. The legislature finds that the English language is the common  
6 language of the United States of America, that written English is based on the principle of the  
7 alphabet, and that English is a phonetic language. The legislature also finds that it is the  
8 existing practice of the public schools to teach phonics only incidentally and that phonics  
9 should be a part of the public school curriculum.

10 \* **Sec. 3.** AS 14.30 is amended by adding a new section to read:

11 **Article 12. Required Language Education.**

12 **Sec. 14.30.800. Required language education curriculum.** A governing  
13 body shall include intensive systematic phonics in the curriculum for kindergarten  
14 through third grade. In this section, "phonics" means the direct teaching of a

- 1 preplanned sequence of relationships between speech sounds and all their letter
- 2 equivalents, instruction in blending or sounding out two or more letter groups, and
- 3 practice with reading material that includes letters and letter groups that are explicitly
- 4 taught.