

SENATE BILL NO. 303

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTIETH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE SENATE RULES COMMITTEE BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR

Introduced: 2/16/98

Referred: HESS, Finance

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act relating to scholarships to attend the University of Alaska; and
2 providing for an effective date."

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

4 * **Section 1.** AS 14.43 is amended by adding new sections to read:

5 **Sec. 14.43.011. Purpose.** The purpose of AS 14.43.013 - 14.43.049 is to
6 establish the Alaska Scholars Program to provide incentives for Alaska high school
7 students to achieve excellence, for school districts to provide a high quality of
8 education, and for the highest achieving Alaska high school graduates to choose to
9 attend and remain in academic good standing at the University of Alaska.

10 **Sec. 14.43.013. Creation of the Alaska Scholars Program.** There is created
11 the Alaska Scholars Program. The scholarship program is administered by the board
12 of regents of the University of Alaska.

13 **Sec. 14.43.016. Scholarship eligibility.** (a) To be eligible for a scholarship
14 from the Alaska Scholars Program, the student must

1 (1) be a high school graduate from a public or accredited school in this
2 state during the 1998-1999 school year or in a following school year;

3 (2) meet one of the following achievement standards:

4 (A) for a high school graduating class of 30 or more students,
5 be in the top 10 percent of the applicant's graduating class;

6 (B) for a high school graduating class of 15 - 29 students, be
7 one of the top two graduates;

8 (C) for a high school graduating class of less than 15 students,
9 be the top graduate; and

10 (3) within 16 months after high school graduation be enrolled in a
11 certificate or degree program of the University of Alaska.

12 (b) To maintain eligibility for a scholarship awarded under (a) of this section,
13 the student must

14 (1) successfully complete, each semester, University of Alaska courses
15 totaling at least 12 credit hours;

16 (2) be in academic good standing in accordance with University of
17 Alaska requirements; and

18 (3) be making progress toward completion of a certificate or degree
19 program.

20 (c) A student is not eligible for a scholarship or to receive a disbursement
21 under AS 14.43.021 unless the student meets the applicable requirements of this
22 section.

23 (d) Notwithstanding (c) of this section, a student may continue in the
24 scholarship program for one semester immediately after the student fails to meet the
25 requirements of (b)(1) - (3) of this section. If the student is not in compliance with
26 those requirements by the end of that semester, the student is no longer eligible for a
27 scholarship or a disbursement from a scholarship under the program.

28 (e) A student may not receive scholarships under this section for more than
29 four, or the equivalent of four, academic years.

30 **Sec. 14.43.021. Scholarship award.** Subject to appropriation, the board of
31 regents shall award to an eligible student a scholarship of \$2,700 for the first academic

1 year commencing after July 1, 1999. For each subsequent academic year, the board
2 of regents shall adjust the amount of the scholarship based on the increase or decrease
3 in average tuition and fee costs. One-half of the scholarship shall be disbursed at the
4 beginning of the fall semester and the other half shall be disbursed at the beginning
5 of the spring semester.

6 **Sec. 14.43.031. Financing; administration.** (a) The Alaska Scholars
7 Program shall be financed from a fund administered by the board of regents. The fund
8 consists of appropriations by the legislature, gifts, bequests, contributions, and, subject
9 to appropriation, income and earnings of the fund. Appropriations to the fund do not
10 lapse. The fund may be used only to finance the Alaska Scholars Program.

11 (b) The board of regents shall make information about the scholarship program
12 available in each school district in the state and at each campus of the University of
13 Alaska.

14 (c) Each public or accredited school in the state with a high school graduating
15 class shall provide to

16 (1) the board of regents a list of the students in that class who meet the
17 eligibility requirements of AS 14.43.016(a)(1) and (2); and

18 (2) those students on the list under (1) of this subsection a notice of
19 their eligibility for the scholarship program.

20 (d) The board of regents may adopt rules, orders, and plans to implement
21 AS 14.43.011 - 14.43.049.

22 **Sec. 14.43.049. Definitions.** In AS 14.43.011 - 14.43.049,

23 (1) "board of regents" means the board of regents of the University of
24 Alaska;

25 (2) "scholarship" means a scholarship financed through the Alaska
26 Scholars Program;

27 (3) "scholarship program" means the Alaska Scholars Program.

28 * **Sec. 2.** AS 14.43.010, 14.43.015, 14.43.020, 14.43.025, 14.43.030, 14.43.050, 14.43.055,
29 14.43.060, 14.43.065, and 14.43.075 are repealed.

30 * **Sec. 3.** REVISOR'S CHANGES. The revisor of statutes is requested to change the
31 heading of art. 1 of AS 14.43 from "Article 1. University of Alaska Scholarships for High

1 School Graduates" to "Article 1. Alaska Scholars Program."

2 * **Sec. 4.** This Act takes effect July 1, 1998.