

**CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 292(STA)**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE SENATE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Offered: 4/14/00

Referred: Health, Education and Social Services

Sponsor(s): SENATE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

**A BILL**

**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1 "An Act relating to student immunizations and to information relating to  
2 immunizations provided by the commissioner of health and social services."

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

4 \* **Section 1.** AS 14.07.020(a) is amended to read:

5 (a) The department shall

6 (1) exercise general supervision over the public schools of the state  
7 except the University of Alaska;

8 (2) study the conditions and needs of the public schools of the state,  
9 adopt or recommend plans, administer and evaluate grants to improve school  
10 performance awarded under AS 14.03.125, and adopt regulations for the improvement  
11 of the public schools;

12 (3) provide advisory and consultative services to all public school  
13 governing bodies and personnel;

14 (4) prescribe by regulation a minimum course of study for the public

1 schools; the regulations must provide that if a course in American Sign Language is  
2 given, the course shall be given credit as a course in a foreign language;

3 (5) establish, in coordination with the Department of Health and Social  
4 Services, a program for the continuing education of children who are held in detention  
5 facilities in the state during the period of detention;

6 (6) accredit those public schools that meet accreditation standards  
7 prescribed by regulation by the department; these regulations shall be adopted by the  
8 department and presented to the legislature during the first 10 days of any regular  
9 session, and become effective 45 days after presentation or at the end of the session,  
10 whichever is earlier, unless disapproved by a resolution concurred in by a majority of  
11 the members of each house;

12 (7) prescribe by regulation, after consultation with the state fire marshal  
13 and the state sanitarian, standards in addition to the requirements of AS 18.15.145 that  
14 will assure healthful and safe conditions in the public and private schools of the state  
15 including a requirement of physical examinations and immunizations in pre-elementary  
16 schools; the standards for private schools may not be more stringent than those for  
17 public schools; **a regulation adopted under this paragraph may not require a child**  
18 **to receive an immunization if**

19 **(A) in the opinion of a physician licensed in this state, the**  
20 **child should not receive the immunization; or**

21 **(B) a parent or legal guardian of the child objects to the**  
22 **immunization based on religious or personal beliefs;**

23 (8) exercise general supervision over pre-elementary schools that  
24 receive direct state or federal funding;

25 (9) provide accredited elementary and secondary correspondence study  
26 programs available to any Alaskan through a centralized office of correspondence  
27 study;

28 (10) accredit private schools that request accreditation and that meet  
29 accreditation standards prescribed by regulation by the department; nothing in this  
30 paragraph authorizes the department to require religious or other private schools to be  
31 licensed;

1 (11) review plans for construction of new public elementary and  
 2 secondary schools and for additions to and major rehabilitation of existing public  
 3 elementary and secondary schools and, in accordance with regulations adopted by the  
 4 department, determine and approve the extent of eligibility for state aid of a school  
 5 construction or major maintenance project; for the purposes of this paragraph, "plans"  
 6 include educational specifications, schematic designs, and final contract documents;

7 (12) provide educational opportunities in the areas of vocational  
 8 education and training, and basic education to individuals over 16 years of age who  
 9 are no longer attending school;

10 (13) administer the grants awarded under AS 14.11;

11 (14) establish, in coordination with the Department of Public Safety,  
 12 a school bus driver training course.

13 [(15) REPEALED.]

14 \* **Sec. 2.** AS 14.30.125 is amended to read:

15 **Sec. 14.30.125. Immunization.** If, in the judgment of the commissioner of  
 16 health and social services, it is necessary for the welfare of the children or the general  
 17 public in an area, the governing body of the school district shall require the children  
 18 attending school in that area to be immunized against the diseases the commissioner  
 19 of health and social services may specify. **This section does not require a child to**  
 20 **receive an immunization if, in the opinion of a physician licensed in this state, that**  
 21 **child should not receive the immunization or if a parent or legal guardian of the**  
 22 **child objects to the immunization based on religious or personal beliefs.**

23 \* **Sec. 3.** AS 44.29.010 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

24 (b) The commissioner of health and social services shall make available to the  
 25 public a safety and public needs brochure that describes the risks and benefits of  
 26 vaccines and immunizations that are required for attendance in a licensed day care  
 27 center, public school, or private school. The brochure described in this subsection  
 28 must disclose the source of the information used in the brochure.