

SPONSOR SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 5

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES KOHRING, Coghill

Introduced: 2/10/99

Referred: Health, Education and Social Services, Finance

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to vouchers for education; and providing for an effective date."**

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

3 *** Section 1.** AS 14 is amended by adding a new chapter to read:

4 **Chapter 31. Education Vouchers.**

5 **Sec. 14.31.010. Department to administer vouchers.** The department shall
6 administer as a pilot program an education voucher program under the provisions of
7 this chapter.

8 **Sec. 14.31.020. Education vouchers.** (a) The parent or guardian of a child
9 who is being educated in the child's home or who is receiving an education at a private
10 school that meets the requirements of (b) of this section is eligible for an education
11 voucher from the department if the parent or guardian applies to the department and
12 the household income of the parent or guardian does not exceed 200 percent of the
13 federal poverty guideline as defined by the federal office of management and budget
14 and revised under 42 U.S.C. 9902(2).

15 (b) A private school qualifies to participate in the education voucher program

1 if the school

2 (1) notifies the department that the school intends to participate in the
3 education voucher program and the notification is received by June 30 of the previous
4 school year; and

5 (2) complies with AS 14.45.030 or 14.45.110 - 14.45.130.

6 (c) An education voucher is equal to the actual cost to the parent or guardian
7 of the child's education for the school year or the per student amount under AS 14.17
8 represented by the child in the school district in which the child resides, whichever is
9 less. A parent or guardian shall establish to the satisfaction of the department the
10 actual cost of the child's education for the school year. The department shall pay an
11 education voucher to the parent or guardian of the child who is being educated in the
12 child's home or attending a private school, in quarterly payments.

13 (d) The department may adopt regulations necessary to administer the
14 education voucher program under this section.

15 **Sec. 14.31.030. Appropriations for education vouchers.** The legislature may
16 make appropriations to the department for the education voucher program. If the
17 appropriation for the education voucher program is insufficient in a given fiscal year,
18 the department shall distribute the available funds on a pro rata basis.

19 **Sec. 14.31.090. Definition.** In this chapter,

20 (1) "cost of the child's education" means, for a child being educated in

21 (A) a private school, the cost of tuition;

22 (B) the child's home, the cost of education materials, fees, or
23 other items used to conduct an education program;

24 (2) "private school" means a school that does not receive direct state
25 or federal funding.

26 * **Sec. 2.** AS 14.31.010, 14.31.020, 14.31.030, and 14.31.090 are repealed June 30, 2004.

27 * **Sec. 3.** This Act takes effect July 1, 1999.