

HOUSE BILL NO. 171

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE HOUSE RULES COMMITTEE BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR

Introduced: 3/31/99

Referred: Health, Education and Social Services, 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; to nourish efforts of school districts to provide a high
8 quality education; and for the highest achieving Alaska high school graduates to attend
9 and graduate from the University of Alaska, thus increasing the likelihood that these
10 students will make this state their permanent home.

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

14 **Sec. 14.43.016. Scholarship eligibility.** (a) To be eligible to apply for a

1 scholarship from the Alaska Scholars Program, the student must

2 (1) be a United States citizen or an alien lawfully admitted for
3 permanent residence in the United States; and

4 (2) meet one of the following achievement standards as determined by
5 each public or accredited school in this state, at the end of the student's junior year:

6 (A) for a junior class of 30 or more students, be in the top 10
7 percent of the class;

8 (B) for a junior class of 15 - 29 students, be one of the top two
9 students;

10 (C) for a junior class of less than 15 students, be the top
11 student;

12 (b) A student who does not meet the requirements of (a) of this section, but
13 graduates in the top 10 percent of the student's graduating class, may apply to the
14 University of Alaska for a scholarship under its rules and procedures.

15 (c) To receive a scholarship disbursement from the Alaska Scholars Program,
16 the student must

17 (1) have a high school diploma from a public or accredited high school
18 in this state;

19 (2) by the fall semester that begins within 16 months following the
20 student's high school graduation, be accepted into a certificate or degree program of
21 the University of Alaska; and

22 (3) be enrolled as a full-time student at the University of Alaska.

23 (d) To maintain eligibility for a scholarship disbursement under AS 14.43.021,
24 the student must

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

27 (2) be in good standing in accordance with University of Alaska
28 institutional and program standards; and

29 (3) be making progress toward completion of a certificate or degree
30 program.

31 **Sec. 14.43.021. Scholarship award.** Subject to appropriation, the president

1 of the University of Alaska shall award to an eligible student under the Alaska
2 Scholars Program a scholarship of \$10,800, to be disbursed in the amount of \$1,350
3 per semester. Disbursements under this section may not be made for more than eight
4 semesters or for enrollment commencing more than six years after initial enrollment
5 at the University of Alaska.

6 (b) The award may be used only for tuition, fees, room, board, books, supplies,
7 necessary transportation, and other costs incurred for attendance at the University of
8 Alaska.

9 (c) The board of regents may adjust the amount of the scholarship award and
10 disbursement to reflect changes in the average cost of education.

11 **Sec. 14.43.031. Financing; administration.** (a) The Alaska Scholars
12 Program is financed from a fund administered by the board of regents. The fund
13 consists of appropriations from the general fund, university receipts, and income and
14 earnings of the fund. Appropriations to the fund do not lapse. The fund may be used
15 only to finance the Alaska Scholars Program.

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

19 (c) At least six months before each graduation, a public or accredited school
20 in the state with a high school graduating class shall provide to

21 (1) the board of regents a list of the names and addresses of students
22 in the graduating class who met the eligibility requirements of AS 14.43.016(a); and

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

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

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

28 (1) "accredited" means a school that has been accredited by the
29 Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges;

30 (2) "board of regents" means the board of regents of the University of
31 Alaska;

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

2 * **Sec. 2.** AS 14.43.010, 14.43.015, 14.43.020, 14.43.025, 14.43.030, 14.43.050, 14.43.055,
3 14.43.060, 14.43.065, and 14.43.075 are repealed.

4 * **Sec. 3.** REVISOR'S CHANGE. The revisor of statutes is requested to change the
5 heading of art. 1 of AS 14.43 from "Article 1. University of Alaska Scholarships for High
6 School Graduates" to "Article 1. Alaska Scholars Program."

7 * **Sec. 4.** APPLICABILITY. This Act applies to students who were in their senior year
8 of high school in the 1998-1999 or a subsequent school year.

9 * **Sec. 5.** TRANSITION PROVISION. Notwithstanding the deadline in AS 14.43.031(c),
10 enacted by sec. 1 of this Act, a public or accredited school in the state with a high school
11 graduating class for the 1998-1999 school year shall provide the list and notice specified in
12 AS 14.43.031(c)(1) and (2), enacted by sec. 1 of this Act, no later than 30 days after the
13 effective date of this Act.

14 * **Sec. 6.** This Act takes effect July 1, 1999.