

**SENATE BILL NO. 112**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATOR ELTON

Introduced: 3/19/99

Referred: HESS, Finance

**A BILL**

**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1 "An Act relating to a program of postsecondary education for high school  
2 students."

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

4 \* **Section 1.** SHORT TITLE. This Act may be known as the Running Start Education  
5 Program of 1999.

6 \* **Sec. 2.** FINDINGS. The legislature finds that

7 (1) secondary student academic achievement can be improved with more  
8 opportunities for study;

9 (2) offering opportunities for secondary students to take postsecondary courses  
10 will help students make a successful transition between secondary school and postsecondary  
11 classes; and

12 (3) providing a program for public school students to attend a state  
13 postsecondary institution will help parents achieve academic goals for their children in a  
14 manner that also provides assets to the entire state.

1 \* **Sec. 3.** AS 14.30 is amended by adding new sections to read:

2 **Article 10. Postsecondary Enrollment Options Program.**

3 **Sec. 14.30.760. Postsecondary enrollment program.** (a) A student enrolled  
4 in the 11th or 12th grade in a school district and who maintains a grade point average  
5 of at least 2.25 or the equivalent may also apply for enrollment in courses at a  
6 postsecondary institution operated by the state. If a postsecondary institution accepts  
7 a secondary school student, the institution shall send written notice of the acceptance  
8 to the student, the student's school district, and the department within 10 days after  
9 acceptance. The notice must include the student's courses and hours of enrollment.

10 (b) A school district shall provide general information regarding enrollment  
11 in postsecondary courses to students and to parents or guardians of students.

12 (c) A student may not enroll in postsecondary courses for secondary credit for  
13 more than the equivalent of two school years. A student who has graduated from high  
14 school may not participate in the postsecondary enrollment program established under  
15 this section, but a student who has completed course requirements for graduation but  
16 has not received a diploma may participate.

17 (d) A postsecondary institution may provide program information but may not  
18 recruit or solicit secondary school student participation. A governing body may not  
19 prohibit a secondary school student from participating in extracurricular activities if  
20 the prohibition results from enrollment in a postsecondary course as described under  
21 this section.

22 **Sec. 14.30.770. Calculation of academic credit.** (a) The district shall  
23 determine the secondary school academic credit to be granted to a student who  
24 successfully completes a postsecondary course. As determined by the governing body,  
25 a district shall grant academic credit for graduation requirements and subject area  
26 requirements. The completion of a postsecondary course must be included in the  
27 student's academic record.

28 (b) If a secondary school student successfully completes a postsecondary  
29 course, the postsecondary institution shall provide academic credit for graduation  
30 requirements. A postsecondary institution may not charge a tuition fee for the award  
31 of credit described in this subsection.

1           **Sec. 14.30.780. Funding for postsecondary institutions.** (a) Subject to  
2 appropriation, the district shall make payments required under this section for  
3 postsecondary courses taken for secondary school credit. The district may not make  
4 payments for a course from which a student withdraws during the first 14 days of the  
5 quarter or semester, or a course taken by a student who is a full-time secondary school  
6 student.

7           (b) The district shall pay a postsecondary institution operated by the state that  
8 enrolls a secondary school student the lesser of the following amounts:

9                   (1) the tuition fee for the student; or

10                   (2) the per student amount represented by that student in that school  
11 district under AS 14.17, multiplied by a percentage equal to the number of hours of  
12 instruction at the postsecondary institution in proportion to the total number of hours  
13 of secondary and postsecondary school instruction that the student receives.

14           (c) The district shall pay the amounts described under (b) of this section within  
15 30 days after receiving initial enrollment information for each quarter or semester.  
16 The postsecondary institution shall report any changes in enrollment information at the  
17 time for reporting enrollment information in the following quarter or semester. If the  
18 district determines that an overpayment has occurred, the institution shall promptly  
19 remit the amount overpaid to the district.

20           **Sec. 14.30.790. Prohibited fees.** A postsecondary institution that receives  
21 reimbursement under AS 14.30.780 may not charge that student for fees, textbooks,  
22 materials, or support services except for items that become the property of the student.

23           **Sec. 14.30.799. Definitions.** In AS 14.30.760 - 14.30.799,

24                   (1) "district" has the meaning given in AS 14.17.990;

25                   (2) "postsecondary institution" means a school, college, or university  
26 primarily offering academic, vocational or technical education to a person who has  
27 completed secondary school.