

**SENATE BILL NO. 167**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATORS WILKEN, Tim Kelly, Pete Kelly

Introduced: 4/30/99

Referred: HESS, Finance

**A BILL**

**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1 "An Act relating to scholarships to attend the University of Alaska; establishing  
2 the Alaska scholars program; and 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 Alaska school districts to provide  
8 a high quality education, and to encourage the highest achieving Alaska high school  
9 graduates to attend and graduate from the University of Alaska, thus increasing the  
10 likelihood that these students will make Alaska 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. 2.** AS 14.43 is amended by adding a new section to read:

1                   **Sec. 14.43.016. Scholarship eligibility.** (a) To be eligible to apply for a  
2 scholarship from the Alaska scholars program, the student must

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

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

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

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

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

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

17                   (c) To receive a scholarship disbursement from the Alaska scholars program,  
18 the student must

19                   (1) have a high school diploma from the qualified high school in this  
20 state that determined the student's eligibility;

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

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

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

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

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

31                   (3) be making progress toward completion of a certificate or degree

1 program.

2 \* **Sec. 3.** AS 14.43 is amended by adding a new section to read:

3 **Sec. 14.43.021. Scholarship award.** Subject to appropriation, the president  
4 of the University of Alaska shall award to an eligible student under the Alaska scholars  
5 program a scholarship each semester. Disbursements under this section may not be  
6 made for more than eight semesters or for enrollment commencing more than six years  
7 after initial enrollment at the University of Alaska.

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

11 (c) The Board of Regents shall determine the amount of the scholarship award  
12 and may adjust the amount and disbursement to reflect changes in the average cost of  
13 education.

14 \* **Sec. 4.** AS 14.43 is amended by adding new sections to read:

15 **Sec. 14.43.031. Financing; administration.** (a) The Alaska scholars program  
16 is financed from a fund, known as the Alaska scholars fund, administered by the Board  
17 of Regents. The fund consists of appropriations from the general fund, university  
18 receipts, and income and earnings of the fund. Appropriations to the fund do not  
19 lapse. The fund may be used only to finance the Alaska scholars program.

20 (b) The Board of Regents shall make information about the scholarship  
21 program available in each school district in the state and at each campus of the  
22 University of Alaska.

23 (c) By September 15 before each annual graduation, a qualified high school  
24 in the state with a high school graduating class shall provide

25 (1) to the Board of Regents a list of the names and addresses of  
26 students in the graduating class who met the eligibility requirements of  
27 AS 14.43.016(a); and

28 (2) a notice of eligibility for the scholarship program to those students  
29 on the list prepared under (1) of this subsection.

30 (d) The Board of Regents may adopt regulations, orders, and plans to  
31 implement AS 14.43.011 - 14.43.049.

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

2                   (1) "Board of Regents" means the Board of Regents of the University  
3 of Alaska;

4                   (2) "qualified high school" means a public high school, a high school  
5 accredited by the Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges, or a high school  
6 registered with the department;

7                   (3) "scholarship program" means the Alaska scholars program.

8       \* **Sec. 5.** AS 14.43.010, 14.43.015, 14.43.020, 14.43.025, 14.43.030, 14.43.050, 14.43.055,  
9 14.43.060, 14.43.065, and 14.43.075 are repealed.

10       \* **Sec. 6.** APPLICABILITY. This Act applies to students who were in their senior year  
11 of high school in the 1998 - 1999 or a subsequent school year.

12       \* **Sec. 7.** TRANSITION PROVISION. Notwithstanding the deadline in AS 14.43.031(c),  
13 enacted by sec. 4 of this Act, a qualified high school in the state with a high school graduating  
14 class for the 1998 - 1999 school year shall provide the list and notice specified in  
15 AS 14.43.031(c)(1) and (2), enacted by sec. 4 of this Act, not later than 30 days after the  
16 effective date of this Act.

17       \* **Sec. 8.** REVISOR'S CHANGE. The revisor of statutes is requested to change the  
18 heading of art. 1 of AS 14.43 from "Article 1. University of Alaska Scholarships for High  
19 School Graduates" to "Article 1. Alaska Scholars Program."

20       \* **Sec. 9.** This Act takes effect July 1, 1999.