HOUSE BILL NO. 239

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES FOSTER, James, Dyson, Davies, McGuire, Wilson

SENATOR Cowdery

Introduced: 4/9/01
Referred: House Special Committee on Education, Health, Education and Social Services, Finance

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

"An Act establishing a pilot program for a regional learning center."

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

*** Section 1.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to read:

FINDINGS. The legislature finds that

(1) a recently competed study conducted by the Twenty-Second Alaska State Legislature through the Legislative Budget and Audit Committee indicates broad public support for regional learning centers;

(2) the Legislative Budget and Audit Committee's Regional Learning Center Report suggests that long-range strategies for improvement of rural education will be found in a variety of models developed on a regional basis;

(3) a pilot project utilizing excess facilities at former vocational education centers could house rural students from outlying communities, create access to vocational education features not presently available, and allow participation in employment opportunities in the fields of law enforcement, health care, aviation, and education;

(4) federal funding may be available to support the pilot project.

*** Sec. 2.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to read:

PILOT PROGRAM FOR REGIONAL LEARNING CENTER. (a) The Department of Education and Early Development shall, beginning July 1, 2001, and ending June 30, 2005, establish a pilot program regional learning center for the purpose of supplementing secondary education programs. The pilot program regional learning center shall be established in a rural educational attendance area with an average daily membership in fiscal year 2000 of at least 1,750, but not more than 2,000, and must

(1) include classes to expand career awareness and vocational education opportunities for secondary school students;

(2) include classes that increase independent living and working skills; and

(3) use existing facilities within the school district if facilities are available.

(b) In this section, "average daily membership" has the meaning given in AS 14.17.990.