

**SENATE CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 239(HES)**  
**IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA**  
**TWENTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION**

**BY THE SENATE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**Offered: 4/18/02**  
**Referred: Finance**

**Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES FOSTER, James, Dyson, Davies, McGuire, Wilson**

**SENATORS Cowdery, Olson**

**A BILL**

**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

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

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

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

5 FINDINGS. The legislature finds that

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

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

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

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

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

4 **PILOT PROGRAM FOR REGIONAL LEARNING CENTER.** (a) The Department  
5 of Education and Early Development shall, beginning July 1, 2002, and ending June 30, 2006,  
6 establish a pilot program regional learning center for the purpose of supplementing secondary  
7 education programs. The pilot program regional learning center shall be established in a rural  
8 educational attendance area with an average daily membership in fiscal year 2000 of at least  
9 1,750, but not more than 2,000, and must

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

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

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

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