

SENATE BILL NO. 133

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE SENATE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Introduced: 3/9/01

Referred: Health, Education and Social Services, Finance

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to a two-year transition for implementation of the public high school**
2 **competency examination and to establishing an essential skills examination as a high**
3 **school graduation requirement; and providing for an effective date."**

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

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

7 INTENT. It is the intent of this Act

8 (1) to encourage schools and school districts to develop and promote
9 endorsements and awards that document high levels of academic, artistic, or vocational
10 achievement on the part of graduating students;

11 (2) to implement testing procedures that are reasonable, fair, and in the best
12 interest of students who are being tested; and

13 (3) that the high school essential skills examination focus on essential and
14 foundational skills in the areas of reading, English, and mathematics that the general

1 community would expect a student to have or know in order to function in our society.

2 * **Sec. 2.** AS 14.03.075, added by sec. 1, ch. 58, SLA 1997, is amended to read:

3 **Sec. 14.03.075. High school essential skills examination [SECONDARY**
 4 **PUPIL COMPETENCY TESTING].** (a) A **student** [PUPIL] may not be issued a
 5 secondary school diploma unless the **student** [PUPIL] passes a **high school essential**
 6 **skills** [COMPETENCY] examination in the areas of reading, English, and
 7 mathematics **or receives a waiver from the department**. The department shall
 8 determine the form and contents of the examination and shall score completed
 9 examinations. [A PUPIL WHO FAILS TO PASS THE EXAMINATION
 10 REQUIRED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION AND WHO IS NO LONGER IN
 11 ATTENDANCE SHALL RECEIVE A CERTIFICATE OF ATTENDANCE FROM
 12 THE SCHOOL DISTRICT INDICATING THE YEARS OF ATTENDANCE AND
 13 THAT THE PUPIL HAS NOT PASSED A COMPETENCY EXAMINATION OR
 14 RECEIVED A DIPLOMA.]

15 (b) A **student** [PUPIL] who fails the examination required under this section
 16 may be reexamined **under procedures established by the department** [. A
 17 REEXAMINATION MAY NOT BE OFFERED MORE OFTEN THAN ONCE
 18 EVERY THREE MONTHS AND MUST OCCUR WITHIN THREE YEARS AFTER
 19 THE DATE THE PUPIL IS NO LONGER IN ATTENDANCE. A PUPIL WHO
 20 PASSES THE REEXAMINATION AND WHO MEETS ANY OTHER
 21 GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS SHALL RECEIVE A DIPLOMA FROM THE
 22 SCHOOL DISTRICT].

23 * **Sec. 3.** AS 14.03.075, added by sec. 1, ch. 58, SLA 1997, is amended by adding new
 24 subsections to read:

25 (c) An examination required under (a) of this section may not be administered
 26 during a day in session, and final examination results shall be recorded on each
 27 student's transcripts.

28 (d) A student who is a child with a disability and who does not achieve a
 29 passing score on the examination required under (a) of this section is eligible to
 30 receive a diploma if the student

31 (1) completes an alternative assessment program required by the

1 student's individualized education program team or required in the education plan
2 developed for the student under 29 U.S.C. 794; and

3 (2) meets other requirements for graduation imposed by the board.

4 (e) The department shall by regulation establish

5 (1) uniform standards for

6 (A) pre-examination study materials;

7 (B) procedures to be followed during administration of an
8 examination;

9 (C) awarding a waiver under (a) of this section; and

10 (2) procedures for recording examination results on a student's
11 transcripts.

12 (f) In this section,

13 (1) "child with a disability" has the meaning given "children with
14 disabilities" in AS 14.30.350;

15 (2) "individualized education program team" has the meaning given in
16 AS 14.30.350.

17 * **Sec. 4.** AS 14.07.165 is amended to read:

18 **Sec. 14.07.165. Duties.** The board shall adopt

19 (1) statewide goals and require each governing body to adopt written
20 goals that are consistent with local needs;

21 (2) regulations regarding the application for and award of grants under
22 AS 14.03.125;

23 (3) regulations implementing provisions of AS 14.11.014(b);

24 (4) regulations requiring approval by the board before a charter school,
25 state boarding school, or a public school may provide domiciliary services;

26 **(5) regulations implementing the high school essential skills**
27 **examination provisions of AS 14.03.075.**

28 * **Sec. 5.** Section 3, ch. 58, SLA 1997, is amended to read:

29 Sec. 3. This Act takes effect January 1, **2004** [2002].

30 * **Sec. 6.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
31 read:

1 APPLICABILITY. The academic standards and requirements required by
2 AS 14.03.075, as amended by secs. 2 and 3 of this Act, apply to students who graduate on or
3 after January 1, 2004.

4 * **Sec. 7.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
5 read:

6 TRANSITION; ACADEMIC STANDARDS FOR PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL
7 GRADUATION. (a) Beginning January 1, 2002, and ending December 31, 2003, before
8 graduating from public high school, each student is required to

9 (1) take a competency examination or an alternative assessment approved by
10 the student's individualized education program team in the areas of reading, English, and
11 mathematics; and

12 (2) meet academic requirements established by the state and the school board
13 of the borough or city school district or regional educational attendance area in which the
14 student is enrolled.

15 (b) The Department of Education and Early Development shall determine the form
16 and contents of the competency examination and shall score completed examinations. A
17 competency examination may not be administered during a day in session.

18 (c) A student shall receive an endorsement on the student's diploma and transcript
19 identifying the areas of the examination successfully passed.

20 * **Sec. 8.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
21 read:

22 TRANSITION: REGULATIONS. The Department of Education and Early
23 Development shall establish by regulation uniform standards for awarding an endorsement
24 required under sec. 7(c) of this Act.

25 * **Sec. 9.** Sections 2 and 3 of this Act take effect January 1, 2004.

26 * **Sec. 10.** Section 8 of this Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).

27 * **Sec. 11.** Except as provided in secs. 9 and 10 of this Act, this Act takes effect January 1,
28 2002.