

HOUSE BILL NO. 259

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVE CRAWFORD

Introduced: 4/26/01

Referred: Health, Education and Social Services, Finance

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to testing public and private school students for abnormal spinal**
2 **curvature."**

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

4 *** Section 1.** AS 14.07.020(a) is amended to read:

5 (a) The department shall

6 (1) exercise general supervision over the public schools of the state
7 except the University of Alaska;

8 (2) study the conditions and needs of the public schools of the state,
9 adopt or recommend plans, administer and evaluate grants to improve school
10 performance awarded under AS 14.03.125, and adopt regulations for the
11 improvement of the public schools;

12 (3) provide advisory and consultative services to all public school
13 governing bodies and personnel;

14 (4) prescribe by regulation a minimum course of study for the public

1 schools; the regulations must provide that if a course in American Sign Language is
2 given, the course shall be given credit as a course in a foreign language;

3 (5) establish, in coordination with the Department of Health and Social
4 Services, a program for the continuing education of children who are held in detention
5 facilities in the state during the period of detention;

6 (6) accredit those public schools that meet accreditation standards
7 prescribed by regulation by the department; these regulations shall be adopted by the
8 department and presented to the legislature during the first 10 days of any regular
9 session, and become effective 45 days after presentation or at the end of the session,
10 whichever is earlier, unless disapproved by a resolution concurred in by a majority of
11 the members of each house;

12 (7) prescribe by regulation, after consultation with the state fire
13 marshal and the state sanitarian, standards in addition to the requirements of
14 AS 18.15.145 that will assure healthful and safe conditions in the public and private
15 schools of the state including a requirement of physical examinations and
16 immunizations in pre-elementary schools; the standards for private schools may not be
17 more stringent than those for public schools;

18 (8) exercise general supervision over pre-elementary schools that
19 receive direct state or federal funding;

20 (9) provide accredited elementary and secondary correspondence study
21 programs available to any Alaskan through a centralized office of correspondence
22 study;

23 (10) accredit private schools that request accreditation and that meet
24 accreditation standards prescribed by regulation by the department; nothing in this
25 paragraph authorizes the department to require religious or other private schools to be
26 licensed;

27 (11) review plans for construction of new public elementary and
28 secondary schools and for additions to and major rehabilitation of existing public
29 elementary and secondary schools and, in accordance with regulations adopted by the
30 department, determine and approve the extent of eligibility for state aid of a school
31 construction or major maintenance project; for the purposes of this paragraph, "plans"

1 include educational specifications, schematic designs, and final contract documents;

2 (12) provide educational opportunities in the areas of vocational
3 education and training, and basic education to individuals over 16 years of age who
4 are no longer attending school;

5 (13) administer the grants awarded under AS 14.11;

6 (14) establish, in coordination with the Department of Public Safety, a
7 school bus driver training course;

8 (15) require the reporting of information relating to school disciplinary
9 and safety programs under AS 14.33.120 and of incidents of disruptive or violent
10 behavior;

11 **(16) establish a program to detect abnormal spinal curvature in**
12 **students; a person who provides screening services must be appropriately**
13 **licensed as a health care provider or must have completed a training program for**
14 **screening abnormal spinal curvature approved by the department.**

15 * **Sec. 2.** AS 14.07.030 is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

16 (14) train a person to administer or approve training programs for the
17 spinal screening procedure required under AS 14.07.020(a)(16).

18 * **Sec. 3.** AS 14.07.165 is amended to read:

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

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

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

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

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

27 **(5) regulations for mandatory spinal screening of students in**
28 **grades 6 and 10 attending a public or private school; a regulation adopted under**
29 **this paragraph may not require an expenditure by a governing body, except for**
30 **an incidental expense required for certification training for nonhealth**
31 **practitioners or for notice required under AS 14.30.075(d).**

1 * **Sec. 4.** AS 14.30 is amended by adding a new section to read:

2 **Sec. 14.30.075. Screening program for abnormal spinal curvature.** (a) A
3 student attending public or private school shall undergo screening for abnormal spinal
4 curvature, during grades 6 and 10 as required by the board. A parent or guardian may
5 substitute professional examination for the screening required under this subsection.

6 (b) A student is exempt from screening required under (a) of this section if
7 screening conflicts with the tenets and practices of a recognized church or religious
8 denomination of which the student is an adherent or a member. To qualify for an
9 exemption, the student's parent or guardian shall submit an affidavit stating the
10 objections to screening to the student's principal on or before the day of the screening
11 procedure.

12 (c) The principal of each school shall ensure that each student admitted to the
13 school complies with the screening requirements set by the board or submits an
14 affidavit of exemption.

15 (d) If the screening performed under this section indicates that a student may
16 have abnormal spinal curvature, the individual performing the screening shall
17 complete a report on a form prescribed by the department. The principal of the school
18 shall retain one copy of the report and shall mail one copy to the parent or guardian of
19 the student screened.