

SENATE BILL NO. 86

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATORS KELLY, Donley, Taylor, Wilken, Leman

Introduced: 2/13/01

Referred: Health, Education and Social Services, Finance

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to employment of teachers who have subject-matter expertise; and**
2 **providing for an effective date."**

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

4 * **Section 1.** AS 14.20.010 is amended to read:

5 **Sec. 14.20.010. Teacher certificate required. Except as provided in**
6 **AS 14.20.015, a** [A] person may not be employed as a teacher in the public schools of
7 the state unless that person possesses a valid teacher certificate. **However,** [EXCEPT
8 THAT] a person who has made application to the department for a teacher certificate
9 or renewal of a teacher certificate that has not been acted upon by the department may
10 be employed as a teacher in the public schools of the state until the department has
11 taken action on the application, but in no case may employment without a certificate
12 last longer than three months.

13 * **Sec. 2.** AS 14.20 is amended by adding a new section to read:

14 **Sec. 14.20.015. Exception from certification requirement for subject-**

1 **matter expert teachers.** (a) A school district or regional educational attendance area
2 in the state may employ a person as a subject-matter expert teacher if the person

3 (1) has received at least a baccalaureate degree from an institution of
4 higher education accredited by a recognized regional accrediting association or
5 approved by the commissioner and

6 (A) majored in the subject that the person will be teaching; or

7 (B) has at least five years' work experience in the subject
8 matter that the person will be teaching;

9 (2) has submitted fingerprints to the department to be used for a
10 criminal history background check and has been found by the department to be
11 suitable for employment as a teacher under AS 14.20.020(f); and

12 (3) pays the fee required by the department under AS 14.20.020(c) to
13 defray the cost of the criminal history background check; the amount may not exceed
14 the fee required for application for an initial regular certificate.

15 (b) Before a school district or regional educational attendance area determines
16 whether to hire a person as a subject-matter expert teacher under this section, the
17 school district or regional educational attendance area may administer a competency
18 examination.

19 (c) A person who is employed as a subject-matter expert teacher under this
20 section may only be employed to teach subjects in which the person has satisfied the
21 education or experience requirements set out in (a)(1) of this section. A teacher
22 employed under this section is subject to nonretention for the following school year
23 even if the teacher has tenure if the school district or regional educational attendance
24 area removes from its curriculum the subject that the subject-matter expert teacher is
25 employed to teach or significantly reduces the number of classes offered in the
26 subject.

27 (d) A person who is employed by a school district or regional educational
28 attendance area under this section is considered to be a certificated teacher or a
29 certificated employee for all purposes.

30 (e) In this section, a "subject-matter expert teacher" is a teacher qualified to
31 teach under (a) of this section.

1 * **Sec. 3.** AS 14.20.177(d) is amended to read:

2 (d) For purposes of this section, a tenured teacher is considered qualified for a
3 position if [THE POSITION IS IN]

4 (1) **the position is in** grades K - 8 and the teacher has an elementary
5 endorsement;

6 (2) **the position is in** an established middle school and the teacher has

7 (A) an elementary endorsement;

8 (B) a middle school endorsement; or

9 (C) a secondary certificate with a subject area endorsement in
10 the area of assignment in which the teacher filling the position will spend at
11 least 40 percent of the teacher's time or the teacher has, within the five years
12 immediately preceding the last date on which the teacher performed teaching
13 services in the district before being laid off, received an evaluation stating that
14 the teacher's performance in the subject or subjects meets the district
15 performance standards; [OR]

16 (3) **the position is in** grades 9 - 12 and the teacher has an endorsement
17 for each subject area in which the teacher filling the position will spend at least 40
18 percent of the teacher's time or the teacher has, within the five years immediately
19 preceding the last date on which the teacher performed teaching services in the district
20 before being laid off, received an evaluation stating that the teacher's performance in
21 the subject or subjects meets the district performance standards; **or**

22 **(4) the teacher is a subject-matter expert teacher employed under**
23 **AS 14.20.015 and is employed to teach in a position in which the teacher has**
24 **subject-matter expertise.**

25 * **Sec. 4.** This Act takes effect July 1, 2001.