

SENATE BILL NO. 398

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

BY THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Introduced: 5/6/04

Referred: Health, Education and Social Services

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act establishing the Academic Achievement and Accountability Commission; and
2 relating to statewide education and assessment standards."

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

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

5 (b) In implementing its duties under (a)(2) of this section, the department shall
6 **consider all applicable recommendations of the Academic Achievement and**
7 **Accountability Commission to** develop

8 (1) performance standards in reading, writing, and mathematics to be
9 met at designated age levels by each student in public schools in the state; and

10 (2) a comprehensive system of student assessments, composed of
11 multiple indicators of proficiency in reading, writing, and mathematics; this
12 comprehensive system must

13 (A) be made available to all districts and regional educational
14 attendance areas;

1 (B) include a developmental profile for students entering
2 kindergarten or first grade; and

3 (C) include performance standards in reading, writing, and
4 mathematics for students in age groups five through seven, eight through 10,
5 and 11 through [-] 14.

6 * **Sec. 2.** AS 14.07.165 is amended to read:

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

8 (1) statewide goals, taking into consideration the recommendations
9 of the Academic Achievement and Accountability Commission, and require each
10 governing body to adopt written goals that are consistent with local needs;

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

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

14 (4) regulations requiring approval by the board before a charter school,
15 state boarding school, or [A] public school may provide domiciliary services;

16 (5) regulations implementing the secondary school student competency
17 examination provisions of AS 14.03.075, including the criteria and procedure under
18 which a governing body uses a waiver to grant a diploma to a student; criteria
19 regarding granting a waiver must include provisions that a waiver may only be granted
20 for students who enter the system late or have rare or unusual circumstances meriting
21 a waiver.

22 * **Sec. 3.** AS 14.07 is amended by adding new sections to read:

23 **Article 3. State Academic Achievement and Accountability Commission.**

24 **Sec. 14.07.200. Creation.** There is created in the Department of Education
25 and Early Development the Academic Achievement and Accountability Commission
26 consisting of five members.

27 **Sec. 14.07.205. Appointment of members.** (a) The members of the
28 commission shall be appointed by the governor, subject to confirmation by the
29 legislature, including a balance of individuals who are employed by the public
30 education system and those who are not employed by the public education system. Of
31 the persons appointed,

1 (1) at least one member must be an educator;
 2 (2) at least one member must be a business leader;
 3 (3) at least one member must be a parent of a school-age child;
 4 (4) one member must be recommended by the Alaska House of
 5 Representatives and one member must be recommended by the Senate.

6 (b) Each member appointed must
 7 (1) be supportive of the concept of educational improvement;
 8 (2) have a positive record of service; and
 9 (3) be willing to devote sufficient time to the responsibilities of the
 10 commission to ensure that the objectives of the commission are achieved.

11 **Sec. 14.07.210. Term of office.** The members of the commission shall be
 12 appointed for overlapping four-year terms commencing on the July 1 following the
 13 date of the member's appointment. Except as provided in AS 39.05.080(4), a member
 14 appointed to fill a vacancy serves for the unexpired term of the member whose
 15 vacancy is filled. A vacancy occurring during a term of office is filled in the same
 16 manner as the original appointment. Appointees may be reappointed to serve more
 17 than one term.

18 **Sec. 14.07.215. Quorum and chair.** (a) Three members constitute a
 19 quorum.

20 (b) The commission shall designate one member of the commission as the
 21 chair from among its members.

22 **Sec. 14.07.220. Purpose and duties.** (a) The commission shall ensure
 23 statewide academic accountability in grades kindergarten through 12 in the public
 24 schools in the state.

25 (b) The commission shall
 26 (1) adopt and revise statewide performance standards, content
 27 standards, and grade level expectations in the areas of reading, writing, science, and
 28 math in public schools in the state as appropriate for improved student learning;
 29 (2) before adopting a standard under (1) of this subsection and before
 30 March 1 of each year in which a standard is adopted, present the standards
 31 recommended for adoption under that paragraph to each education committee of the

1 legislature;

2 (3) adopt objective and systematic criteria to identify a successful
3 school and school district, including accountability standards required under
4 AS 14.03.123 and based on accountability standards proposed by an organization
5 recognized as having expertise in the area;

6 (4) make annual recommendations of at least one school and one
7 school district to be recognized by the commissioner for its high student achievement
8 and for its improvement in student achievement;

9 (5) provide oversight and recommendations pertaining to the selection,
10 preparation, and implementation of statewide assessments, including the secondary
11 school competency examination under AS 14.03.075, and establish the proficiency
12 score that each student must achieve on each statewide assessment;

13 (6) carry out all other functions necessary under (a) of this section; and

14 (7) collect information and make findings on the condition of the
15 public schools in the state and report the findings annually to the legislature.

16 (c) The commission may employ staff to assist the commission in meeting its
17 duties under this section. Until such time as staff is employed by the commission, the
18 department shall provide necessary assistance, including technical assistance, and
19 logistical support. The chief financial officer for the department shall serve as the
20 fiscal agent for the commission.

21 (d) The commission may direct the department to enter into a contract with a
22 qualified entity to assist the commission in carrying out its duties, subject to available
23 funding.

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

26 **STAGGERED TERMS.** Notwithstanding AS 39.05.055, the members appointed to
27 the Academic Achievement and Accountability Commission in the Department of Education
28 and Early Development under AS 14.07.205, enacted by sec. 3 of this Act, shall serve
29 staggered terms as follows:

30 (1) the governor shall appoint the initial commission members before
31 September 1, 2004;

- 1 (2) two members shall serve four-year terms;
- 2 (3) two members shall serve three-year terms;
- 3 (4) one member shall serve a two-year term.

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

6 INITIAL MEETING. The first meeting of the Academic Achievement and
7 Accountability Commission in the Department of Education and Early Development, created
8 under AS 14.07.200, enacted by sec. 3 of this Act, shall be convened by the commissioner of
9 education and early development before September 30, 2004.