

CS FOR SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 10(FIN)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Offered: 5/12/03

Referred: Rules

Sponsor(s): SENATOR DYSON

A RESOLUTION

1 **Establishing the Joint Legislative Charter School Task Force.**

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

3 **WHEREAS** Alaskans clearly believe in the value of quality education; and

4 **WHEREAS** school districts in Alaska and local school boards have implemented
5 innovations and programs that demonstrate a commitment to excellence in education,
6 including charter schools, district correspondence programs, boarding school programs, and
7 quality schools/quality students; and

8 **WHEREAS** the legislature has acted to rejuvenate Alaska public education by passing
9 legislation to implement standardized testing and other accountability measures; and

10 **WHEREAS** the legislature has provided for orderly, safe, disciplined, classroom
11 learning environments by mandating that each community establish and maintain its own
12 student behavior standards that, at a minimum, require respect and honesty; and

13 **WHEREAS** Alaskans have spent \$6,152,800,833 on public K-12 education over the
14 past five years (fiscal year 1998 through fiscal year 2002), averaging \$10,083 a student in
15 fiscal year 2002; on top of this expenditure, Alaskans have spent liberally to build school
16 buildings and pay debt service; and

1 **WHEREAS** the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 makes unprecedented demands on
 2 states and local school districts to raise academic achievement and to take direct action to
 3 improve poorly performing schools involving increased public school choice including
 4 charter schools;

5 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature establishes the Joint Legislative
 6 Charter School Task Force to review Alaska statutes related to charter schools and other
 7 alternative public schools regarding the establishment, organization, operation, and funding of
 8 alternative schools; and be it

9 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the duties of the task force include

10 (1) recommending improvements or additions to the laws regulating charter
 11 schools;

12 (2) researching ways to improve charter schools or how charter schools can
 13 develop tools to meet requirements imposed under the federal No Child Left Behind Act of
 14 2001;

15 (3) examining issues related to how charter schools meet the requirement of a
 16 school term imposed under AS 14.03.030; and

17 (4) taking public comments on charter schools and on ways to improve charter
 18 schools; and be it

19 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the task force shall be composed of nine members as
 20 follows:

21 (1) four members of the legislature, of which two members shall be from the
 22 senate appointed by the president of the senate and two members shall be from the house of
 23 representatives appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives;

24 (2) two members appointed by the Governor, one of which is a school
 25 administrator, superintendent, or principal;

26 (3) one member appointed by the Association of Alaska School Boards;

27 (4) the chair and secretary of the Alaska Charter School Association; and be it

28 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the president of the senate and the speaker of the house
 29 of representatives shall jointly appoint the chair and vice-chair of the task force; and be it

30 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the task force may meet during the session and during
 31 the interim between sessions and that task force members are entitled to per diem and travel

1 expenses; and be it

2 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the task force shall submit a report of its findings and
3 proposed legislative changes to the legislature by March 1, 2004, and may make any interim
4 reports it considers advisable; and be it

5 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the task force is terminated at 11:59 p.m. on May 15,
6 2004.