

HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE
May 07, 2003
2:08 PM

TAPE HFC 03 - 81, Side A

CALL TO ORDER

Co-Chair Williams called the House Finance Committee meeting to order at 2:08 PM.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Representative John Harris, Co-Chair
Representative Bill Williams, Co-Chair
Representative Kevin Meyer, Vice-Chair
Representative Mike Chenault
Representative Richard Foster
Representative Mike Hawker
Representative Carl Moses
Representative Bill Stoltze
Representative Jim Whitaker

MEMBERS ABSENT

Representative Eric Croft
Representative Reggie Joule

ALSO PRESENT

Eddy Jeans, Manager, School Finance and Facilities Section,
Department of Education and Early Development

PRESENT VIA TELECONFERENCE

None

SUMMARY

HB 174 An Act relating to the state centralized correspondence study program, to funding for educational programs that occur primarily outside school facilities, and to the duties of school boards of borough and city school districts and regional educational attendance areas; and providing for an effective date.

CSHB 174 (FIN) was REPORTED out of Committee with a "do pass" recommendation and two previously published fiscal impact notes: #2 from Department of Education and Early Development (K12) and #3 from Department of Education and Early Development (Alyeska).

#hb174

HOUSE BILL NO. 174

An Act relating to the state centralized correspondence study program, to funding for educational programs that occur primarily outside school facilities, and to the duties of school boards of borough and city school districts and regional educational attendance areas; and providing for an effective date.

Co-Chair Williams MOVED to ADOPT CS HB 174 (STA). There being NO OBJECTION it was ADOPTED.

Co-Chair Williams MOVED Amendment #1 (23-GH1126\H.1 Ford):

Page 2, following line 2:
Insert a new bill section to read:

"*Sec. 3 AS 14.08.111(1) is amended to read:
(1) provide during the school term of teach year, an educational program for each school age child who is enrolled in or a resident of the district;"

Renumber the following bill sections accordingly:

Page 3, line 9:
Delete "5 and 6"
Insert "6 and 7"
Page 3, line 10
Delete "sec. 8"
Insert "sec. 9"

EDDY JEANS, MANAGER, SCHOOL FINANCE AND FACILITIES SECTION, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND EARLY DEVELOPMENT discussed changes proposed by Amendment #1. He stated that the amendment pertains to existing statute, and that the language mirrors section 3 of the proposed bill. He noted that there were two provisions in statute which addressed school boards, in AS 14.14.090 and 14.08.111 pertaining to Regional Education Attendance Areas (REAA). He pointed out that the amendment ensured that all districts offering statewide correspondence programs must accept all students in an open enrollment process. He noted that some districts put caps on the number of students allowed, and the amendment would remove the caps and require programs to have open enrollment.

Representative Whitaker asked to which section of the bill the amendment pertained. Mr. Jeans clarified that the changes were made to the reference of statute: section 3 refers to 14.14.090, which applies to duties of any school

board, and that the amendment pertained to AS 14.08.111, which was specific to the duties of REAA school boards.

Vice-Chair Meyer expressed his support of the amendment and asked if the Administration supported the Committee Substitute. Mr. Jeans pointed out that although the Administration would prefer the original bill, they understood the Committee's choice to adopt the State Affairs Substitute. In response to a question by Vice-Chair Meyer, he noted that the Department had on contract personnel to implement a closure plan for the school and desired to move forward with the process.

Vice-Chair Meyer asked if the state lost money by continuing the program for the year. He pointed out that the major cost savings came from closing the summer school program. Mr. Jeans confirmed that this was the primary costs savings, but raised the concern that they did not know how many students would now enroll for the school year given the prospect that the school would eventually close.

Vice-Chair Meyer pointed out that by delaying for a year it gave the opportunity for other schools to pick up programs not currently offered.

There being NO OBJECTION, Amendment #1 was ADOPTED.

Representative Foster MOVED to report CSHB 174 (FIN) out of Committee with the accompanying fiscal note. There being NO OBJECTION, it was so ordered.

CSHB 174 (FIN) was REPORTED out of Committee with a "do pass" recommendation and two previously published fiscal impact notes: #2 from Department of Education and Early Development (K12) and #3 from Department of Education and Early Development (Alyeska).

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Co-Chair Williams ADJOURNED the meeting at 2:30.