

CS FOR SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 16(SED)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE SENATE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Offered: 3/5/08

Referred: Finance

Sponsor(s): SENATOR STEVENS BY REQUEST OF THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION FUNDING TASK FORCE

A RESOLUTION

1 **Establishing and relating to the Education Funding District Cost Factor Commission.**

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

3 **WHEREAS**, under art. VII, sec. 1, Constitution of the State of Alaska, a system of
4 public schools is required to be established and maintained; and

5 **WHEREAS** the cost of providing adequate public education for children living in the
6 state varies significantly among geographic areas of the state; and

7 **WHEREAS** accurately measuring relative cost differences is integral to equitable
8 funding for education across geographic areas; and

9 **WHEREAS** the cost differentials have been a recurring policy issue since the current
10 funding formula was adopted in 1998; and

11 **WHEREAS** the findings of economic analyses conducted in 1983 - 1985, 1999, 2002,
12 and 2004 have raised questions and controversy within the Alaska State Legislature; and

13 **WHEREAS** previous determinations of cost differentials have been static and,
14 consequently, have become outdated;

15 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Alaska State Legislature that the Education Funding
16 District Cost Factor Commission is established on January 20, 2009, for the purpose of

1 examining school district relative cost differentials and creating a valid and durable model
2 that can be updated to accurately reflect the costs of providing education; and be it

3 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the commission consists of 11 members as follows:

4 (1) three shall be from the senate appointed by the president of the senate;

5 (2) three shall be from the house of representatives appointed by the speaker
6 of the house of representatives; and

7 (3) five shall be appointed by the governor; and be it

8 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the president of the senate and the speaker of the house
9 of representatives shall jointly appoint the chair and vice-chair of the commission; and be it

10 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that a commission member is subject to reappointment or
11 replacement if either the president of the senate or speaker of the house of representatives is
12 replaced and the member was appointed by the former president or speaker; and be it

13 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that development of a model may include consideration of
14 socioeconomic or other geographical components affecting the cost of delivering education
15 throughout the state; and be it

16 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the division of legislative audit may, at the request of
17 the commission, provide necessary staff to the commission and enter into contracts for
18 professional services for the commission; and be it

19 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the commission shall submit a preliminary report of its
20 findings and a draft model to the governor and the legislature before April 21, 2010; and be it

21 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the preliminary report and draft model submitted by
22 the commission shall be distributed and made available for public comment for a period of 60
23 days, after which the commission shall prepare and submit a final report and proposed
24 legislation to the governor and the legislature before August 1, 2010; and be it

25 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that proposed legislation submitted by the commission
26 must include

27 (1) a repeal of the existing district cost factor index in AS 14.17.460, to be
28 effective in April 2011; and

29 (2) a new district cost factor index for use in funding education under
30 AS 14.17; and be it

31 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Education Funding District Cost Factor

1 Commission is terminated on July 31, 2010.