

**SENATE BILL NO. 221**

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

**BY SENATORS STEVENS, McGuire**

**Introduced: 1/19/10**

**Referred: Education, Finance**

**A BILL**

**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1 **"An Act establishing an advisory task force on higher education in the legislative branch**  
2 **of government; and providing for an effective date."**

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

4 \* **Section 1.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section  
5 to read:

6 ESTABLISHMENT OF ADVISORY TASK FORCE ON HIGHER EDUCATION;  
7 COMPOSITION. (a) An advisory task force on higher education is established in the  
8 legislative branch of state government for the purpose of compiling data and advising the  
9 legislature on matters pertaining to college readiness of students who graduate from public  
10 secondary schools in the state.

11 (b) The task force established under this section consists of 13 members, as follows:

12 (1) the governor or the governor's designee;

13 (2) the executive director of the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary  
14 Education or the executive director's designee;

1 (3) the commissioner of education and early development or the  
2 commissioner's designee;

3 (4) the president of the University of Alaska or the president's designee;

4 (5) the executive director of the Association of Alaska School Boards or the  
5 executive director's designee;

6 (6) the president of the National Education Association of Alaska or the  
7 president's designee;

8 (7) the chair of the senate committee having jurisdiction over education;

9 (8) the chair of the house committee having jurisdiction over education;

10 (9) one member appointed by the governor who represents private colleges or  
11 universities;

12 (10) one member appointed by the governor who represents public  
13 postsecondary institutions and who is not affiliated with the University of Alaska;

14 (11) three members appointed by the governor who have specialized  
15 knowledge, skill, or experience in education remediation and who are employed as faculty at  
16 postsecondary institutions located in separate major administrative units in the state, one of  
17 which is located outside of Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Juneau.

18 (c) A majority of the members of the task force constitutes a quorum. A vacancy on  
19 the task force shall be filled in the same manner as the original selection or appointment.

20 (d) Members of the task force serve without compensation but are entitled to per diem  
21 and travel expenses authorized for boards and commissions under AS 39.20.180, except that  
22 per diem and travel expenses shall be paid from the budget of the agency or institution the  
23 member represents on the task force. The agency or institution may opt out of participating to  
24 avoid payment of per diem and travel expenses. The staff of the legislative members of the  
25 task force shall serve as staff for the task force.

26 (e) The task force shall meet at the call of the chair not less than once every three  
27 months. The chair of the house committee having jurisdiction over education shall call the  
28 first meeting of the task force not later than 30 days after the effective date of this Act and  
29 shall serve as chair of the first meeting. The members of the task force shall elect a chair from  
30 among the members of the task force and other officers as needed to conduct the business of  
31 the task force.

1 (f) The task force shall

2 (1) compile research conducted in the state and nationally on reducing  
3 remediation, improving retention, and increasing college graduation rates;

4 (2) summarize data on

5 (A) types of testing used to determine college readiness;

6 (B) remediation rates;

7 (C) effectiveness of remediation of students entering college with skill  
8 deficits;

9 (D) characteristics of programs that are most effective in addressing  
10 skill deficits;

11 (3) create a definition of remediation to ensure consistency in reporting of  
12 remediation rates by postsecondary institutions in the state;

13 (4) identify the contributing causes of a lack of college readiness of students  
14 who graduate from public secondary schools in the state and the course topics taken in college  
15 for which students require remediation;

16 (5) identify best practices examples of school systems and colleges that are  
17 experiencing success in reducing the need for remedial education;

18 (6) explore new approaches that may be effective in producing increased  
19 levels of college readiness;

20 (7) determine the role various types of postsecondary institutions may play in  
21 addressing the need for remediation;

22 (8) review graduation rates of colleges and universities located in the state for  
23 the six years preceding the effective date of this Act;

24 (9) prepare for the legislature a set of written recommendations to improve  
25 remediation, retention, and graduation rates at colleges and universities in the state.

26 (g) The task force shall submit the assessment and recommendations developed under  
27 (f) of this section in a report to the legislature not later than March 1, 2011.

28 \* **Sec. 2.** This Act is repealed on July 1, 2011.

29 \* **Sec. 3.** This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).