

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 221(EDC)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Offered: 2/1/10

Referred: Finance

Sponsor(s): SENATORS STEVENS, McGuire, Davis, Kookesh, Meyer, Paskvan, Menard, Stedman, Thomas, Egan

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act establishing an advisory task force on higher education and career readiness in**
2 **the legislative branch 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 AND CAREER READINESS; COMPOSITION. (a) An advisory task force on higher
8 education and career readiness is established in the legislative branch of state government for
9 the purpose of compiling data and advising the legislature on matters pertaining to college and
10 career readiness of students who graduate from public secondary schools in the state.

11 (b) The task force established under this section consists of 18 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) one member appointed by the governor who represents vocational,
4 technical training, or apprenticeship programs in the state;

5 (5) a student representative appointed by the Board of Education and Early
6 Development;

7 (6) the student member of the Board of Regents of the University of Alaska or
8 the student's designee;

9 (7) the president of the University of Alaska or the president's designee;

10 (8) the executive director of the Association of Alaska School Boards or the
11 executive director's designee;

12 (9) the executive director of the Alaska Association of School Administrators
13 or the executive director's designee;

14 (10) the president of the National Education Association of Alaska or the
15 president's designee;

16 (11) the president of the Alaska Federation of Natives or the president's
17 designee;

18 (12) the chair of the senate committee having jurisdiction over education;

19 (13) the chair of the house committee having jurisdiction over education;

20 (14) one member appointed by the governor who represents private colleges
21 or universities;

22 (15) one member appointed by the governor who represents public
23 postsecondary institutions and who is not affiliated with the University of Alaska;

24 (16) three members appointed by the governor who have specialized
25 knowledge, skill, or experience in education remediation and who are employed as faculty at
26 postsecondary institutions located in separate major administrative units in the state, at least
27 one of whom resides outside of Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Juneau.

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

30 (d) Members of the task force serve without compensation but are entitled to per diem
31 and travel expenses authorized for boards and commissions under AS 39.20.180, except that

1 per diem and travel expenses shall be paid from the budget of the agency or institution the
2 member represents on the task force. The agency or institution may opt out of participating to
3 avoid payment of per diem and travel expenses. The staff of the legislative members of the
4 task force shall serve as staff for the task force.

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

11 (f) The task force shall

12 (1) compile research conducted in the state and nationally on reducing
13 remediation, improving retention, and increasing college and postsecondary vocational or
14 technical program graduation rates;

15 (2) summarize data on

16 (A) types of testing used to determine college and career readiness;

17 (B) remediation rates;

18 (C) effectiveness of remediation for students entering college or
19 postsecondary vocational or technical training programs with skill deficits;

20 (D) characteristics of programs that are most effective in addressing
21 skill deficits;

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

24 (4) identify the contributing causes of a lack of college and career readiness of
25 students who graduate from public secondary schools in the state and the course topics taken
26 in college or postsecondary vocational or technical training programs for which students
27 require remediation;

28 (5) identify best practices examples of school systems, colleges, and
29 postsecondary vocational or technical training programs that are succeeding in reducing the
30 need for remedial education;

31 (6) explore new approaches that may be effective in producing increased

1 levels of college and career readiness;

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

4 (8) review graduation rates of colleges, universities, and postsecondary
5 vocational or technical training programs located in the state for the six years preceding the
6 effective date of this Act;

7 (9) prepare for the legislature a set of written recommendations to improve
8 remediation, retention, and graduation rates at colleges, universities, and postsecondary
9 vocational or technical training programs in the state.

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

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

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