

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
SENATE EDUCATION STANDING COMMITTEE

March 13, 2009

8:04 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Senator Bettye Davis, Vice Chair
Senator Donald Olson
Senator Gary Stevens

MEMBERS ABSENT

Senator Charlie Huggins

COMMITTEE CALENDAR

SENATE BILL NO. 18

"An Act increasing the number of students pursuing a medical education who are provided postsecondary educational services and programs; and providing for an effective date."

MOVED CSSB 18(EDC) OUT OF COMMITTEE

SENATE BILL NO. 102

"An Act relating to compulsory school attendance; relating to the crime of contributing to the delinquency of a minor; and relating to school disciplinary action and truancy."

MOVED CSSB 102(EDC) OUT OF COMMITTEE

PREVIOUS COMMITTEE ACTION

BILL: SB 18

SHORT TITLE: POSTSECONDARY MEDICAL EDUC. PROG.

SPONSOR(S): SENATOR(S) WIELECHOWSKI

01/21/09	(S)	PREFILE RELEASED 1/9/09
01/21/09	(S)	READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
01/21/09	(S)	EDC, FIN
02/27/09	(S)	EDC AT 8:00 AM BELTZ 211
02/27/09	(S)	Heard & Held
02/27/09	(S)	MINUTE(EDC)
03/13/09	(S)	EDC AT 8:00 AM BELTZ 211

BILL: SB 102

SHORT TITLE: RAISE COMP. SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AGE/TRUANCY

SPONSOR(S): SENATOR(S) DAVIS

02/06/09 (S) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
02/06/09 (S) EDC, JUD, FIN
02/23/09 (S) EDC AT 8:00 AM BELTZ 211
02/23/09 (S) Heard & Held
02/23/09 (S) MINUTE(EDC)
03/13/09 (S) EDC AT 8:00 AM BELTZ 211

WITNESS REGISTER

SENATOR WIELECHOWSKI
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, AK

POSITION STATEMENT: Introduced SB 18 as sponsor.

ROD BETIT, President
Alaska State Hospital and Nursing Home Association (ASHNHA)
Juneau, AK

POSITION STATEMENT: Supported SB 18.

TOM OBERMEYER, aid to Senator Davis
State Capital
Juneau, AK

POSITION STATEMENT: Read the sponsor statement for SB 102.

ACTION NARRATIVE

8:04:55 AM

VICE CHAIR BETTYE DAVIS called the Senate Education Standing Committee meeting to order at 8:04 a.m. Present at the call to order were Senators Stevens, Olson and Davis.

SB 18-POSTSECONDARY MEDICAL EDUC. PROG.

8:05:12 AM

VICE-CHAIR DAVIS announced consideration of SB 18 and said it is her desire to pass it out of committee this morning.

SENATOR WIELECHOWSKI said he does not have much to add to his previous testimony of February 27th. The Anchorage Daily News did run a positive editorial on this bill and Senator Olson's bill SB 102.

8:06:15 AM

ROD BETIT, Alaska State Hospital and Nursing Home Association (ASHNHA), Juneau, AK, spoke in support of SB 18. He thinks it is prudent to make periodic increases in the number of students the state supports at the University of Washington Medical School.

There is complementary legislation on the table this session as well, that ASHNHA thinks is equally important, but this would enhance their ability to ensure that students continue to be educated with the intent to return to work in Alaska. He served on the Alaska Physician Supply Task Force, which determined two years ago that Alaska was 300 physicians short of the need. This is a key step to further improve on the number of physicians available to give care in this state.

[8:07:08 AM](#)

VICE-CHAIR DAVIS closed public testimony on SB 18 and asked the will of the committee.

SENATOR OLSON moved to report CSSB 18 from committee with individual recommendations and attached fiscal note(s).

VICE-CHAIR DAVIS delayed taking action on SB 18 awaiting a quorum.

SB 102-RAISE COMP. SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AGE/TRUANCY

[8:07:58 AM](#)

VICE-CHAIR DAVIS announced consideration of SB 102.

TOM OBERMEYER, staff to Senator Davis, said SB 102 increases compulsory school attendance relating to the crime of contributing to the delinquency of a minor and relating to school disciplinary action and truancy. This bill increases the compulsory school attendance age to 18; at the same time it necessarily amends the crime of contributing to the delinquency of a minor from 16 to 18. He mentioned that in the members' packets is the National Education Association's (NEA) 12-point plan and the first item on their list was increasing the compulsory school age. It has been supported by school districts and superintendents throughout the state.

[8:09:30 AM](#)

VICE-CHAIR DAVIS called a brief at ease.

[8:10:31 AM](#)

VICE-CHAIR DAVIS called the meeting back to order and made a brief statement about SB 102.

SB 102 has been endorsed by teachers, the Department of Education and Early Development (DEED), many school superintendents and others. This bill is just one of the steps the state needs to take to try to help students finish school;

many kids are not graduating and, although keeping them in school until 18 is not the whole answer, it is part of it. She stressed that 16 is too young an age to make the decision to drop out of school and this will provide more time to engage kids and get them through to graduation. She clarified that it is not the intent of this bill to require students to stay in school if they have earned sufficient credits for graduation; those who have enough credits to graduate before age 18 may do so. She added that many kids who drop out do so not because they are failing, but for lack of interest; she thinks we can do something about that, and she would like to move this bill forward.

[8:13:19 AM](#)

VICE-CHAIR DAVIS called a brief at ease awaiting a quorum.

SB 18-POSTSECONDARY MEDICAL EDUC. PROG.

[8:14:40 AM](#)

VICE-CHAIR DAVIS returned attention to SB 18.

SENATOR OLSON moved to report CS for SB 18, referred to as Version S, from committee with individual recommendations and accompanying fiscal notes. Hearing no objection, CSSB 18(EDC) moved from the Senate Education Standing Committee.

SB 102-RAISE COMP. SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AGE/TRUANCY

[8:15:18 AM](#)

VICE-CHAIR DAVIS returned attention to SB 102.

SENATOR OLSON moved to report CS for SB 102, referred to as Version R, from committee with individual recommendations and accompanying fiscal notes. Hearing no objection, CSSB 102(EDC) moved from the Senate Education Standing Committee.

[8:16:15 AM](#)

There being no further business to come before the committee, Vice-Chair Davis adjourned the Senate Education Standing Committee at 8:16 a.m.