

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 330(EDC)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Offered: 3/23/12

Referred: Finance

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVE DICK

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act establishing a Joint Legislative Task Force on Sustainable Education;**
2 **establishing state education standards; amending the authority of the Department of**
3 **Education and Early Development to adopt education standards; and providing for an**
4 **effective date."**

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

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

8 EDUCATION FUNDING AND STANDARDS; LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS. The
9 legislature finds that

10 (1) state education funding support for public education in grades kindergarten
11 through 12 is increasing at a significant rate and real dollar value;

12 (2) education standards are developed for a small percentage of students who
13 earn a four-year college degree that may be inappropriate for instructing and preparing a
14 student for vocational or other career goals;

1 (3) state revenue, including revenue paid for education, is almost entirely
2 dependent on revenue generated by oil production on state-owned land;

3 (4) production of oil on state-owned land is forecast to continue to decline at
4 an average rate of six percent a year;

5 (5) the implementation of education standards has significant downstream
6 effects on school districts, teachers, and students;

7 (6) implementation of new education standards influences capital and
8 operational costs for public education funding;

9 (7) local school districts achieve varying levels of success, as indicated by
10 drop-out and graduation rates;

11 (8) the high school graduation qualifying examination may discourage
12 students from reaching their highest potential in the third and fourth years of high school;

13 (9) the public school funding formula under AS 14.17 may mask the effect of
14 energy, health care, pupil transportation, and other inflationary factors that erode the amount
15 of instructional dollars available to classrooms;

16 (10) continued increases in public school funding under AS 14.17 restrict the
17 flexibility of both the legislature and local school districts to respond to changing funding
18 needs for public schools in the state.

19 * **Sec. 2.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
20 read:

21 ESTABLISHMENT OF JOINT LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE ON SUSTAINABLE
22 EDUCATION; COMPOSITION; DUTIES. (a) A Joint Legislative Task Force on Sustainable
23 Education is established in the legislative branch of state government for the purpose of
24 examining the efficiency and effectiveness of public education delivery in the state, with a
25 focus on

26 (1) matters pertaining to education standards for students in grades
27 kindergarten through 12 in the state;

28 (2) all aspects of public education funding in the state; and

29 (3) the ability to prepare students in the state for various rewarding careers.

30 (b) The duties of the task force established under this section include

31 (1) creation of a process for vetting proposed education standards before the

1 standards are adopted by the state Board of Education and Early Development;

2 (2) proposal of separate education tracks for postsecondary vocational and
3 college readiness;

4 (3) evaluation of school district challenges that result from implementation of
5 federal education laws;

6 (4) evaluation of the efficacy, cost-effectiveness, and redundancies of various
7 education assessments, including the high school graduation qualifying examination, and the
8 submission of recommendations to the legislature, the governor, and the state Board of
9 Education and Early Development for improvement of assessments;

10 (5) performance of an analysis of public education funding that includes

11 (A) a determination of the adequacy of public school funding provided
12 under AS 14.17.410 for coverage of appropriate education expenses;

13 (B) a determination of the appropriate uses of the base student
14 allocation;

15 (C) alternative methods of addressing fluctuating energy, health,
16 insurance, personnel, and pupil transportation costs;

17 (D) a calculation of the total amounts of state, local, and federal
18 funding available to each district and for each category of special needs service area;

19 (E) a comparison of the allocation of administrative and instructional
20 personnel among districts;

21 (F) a determination as to whether the allocation of administrative and
22 instructional personnel affects the ability of each district to provide effective
23 instructional services;

24 (G) a calculation of the effect of pension and health care expenses on
25 total education costs;

26 (6) evaluation of the availability of courses that meet core academic
27 curriculum requirements under AS 14.43.820(a)(3) in each district; and

28 (7) submission of a report of its findings and proposed legislation to the
29 governor, the Department of Education and Early Development, and the legislature by
30 September 30, 2013, and of additional reports the task force considers advisable.

31 (c) The task force established under this section consists of

1 (1) three members of the senate, one of whom shall be the chair of the senate
2 committee having jurisdiction over education, appointed by the president of the senate;

3 (2) three members of the house of representatives, one of whom shall be the
4 chair of the house committee having jurisdiction over education, appointed by the speaker of
5 the house of representatives; and

6 (3) nine members appointed jointly by the president of the senate and the
7 speaker of the house of representatives, as follows:

8 (A) a representative of the Department of Education and Early
9 Development;

10 (B) a small business owner in the state;

11 (C) a local school board member in the state;

12 (D) a superintendent of a public school district in the state;

13 (E) a representative employed by the University of Alaska to oversee
14 the program that qualifies a person to be employed as an elementary or secondary
15 teacher;

16 (F) a public member; and

17 (G) three representatives of major career destinations of high school
18 graduates in the state, jointly nominated by the commissioner of labor and workforce
19 development and the commissioner of commerce, community, and economic
20 development.

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

23 (e) Members of the task force serve without compensation but are entitled to per diem
24 and travel expenses authorized for boards and commissions under AS 39.20.180. The staff of
25 the legislative members of the task force shall serve as staff for the task force.

26 (f) The task force shall meet at the call of the chair. The president of the senate and
27 the speaker of the house of representatives shall jointly appoint the chair and vice-chair of the
28 task force.

29 * **Sec. 3.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
30 read:

31 **BOARD OF EDUCATION AND EARLY DEVELOPMENT; EDUCATION**

1 STANDARDS. (a) Notwithstanding the authority in AS 14.07.020(b), the state Board of
2 Education and Early Development shall adopt content and performance education standards,
3 including grade level expectations, only after the standards have been vetted under a process
4 created by the Joint Legislative Task Force on Sustainable Education under sec. 1 of this Act.

5 (b) Until education standards are adopted by the state Board of Education and Early
6 Development as provided under (a) of this section, the education standards for the state public
7 schools serving students in grades kindergarten through 12 are as follows:

8 (1) the content standards for the subjects listed in this subsection, as set out in
9 the department's publication entitled Alaska Standards: Content and Performance Standards
10 for Alaska Students, as revised on March 2006, are adopted by reference; the subjects are

- 11 (A) English/language arts;
- 12 (B) mathematics;
- 13 (C) science;
- 14 (D) geography;
- 15 (E) government and citizenship;
- 16 (F) history;
- 17 (G) skills for a healthy life;
- 18 (H) arts;
- 19 (I) world languages;
- 20 (J) technology; and
- 21 (K) employability;

22 (2) the content standards for physical education, as set out in the department's
23 publication entitled Alaska Physical Education Standards, as revised on March 9, 2010, are
24 adopted by reference;

25 (3) the performance standards for reading, writing, mathematics, science, and
26 Alaska history for grades three through 10, as set out in the department's publication entitled
27 Alaska Standards: Content and Performance Standards for Alaska Students, as revised on
28 March 2006, are adopted by reference;

29 (4) the performance standards for reading, writing, and mathematics for grades
30 kindergarten through two, as set out in the department's publication entitled Alaska
31 Performance Standards (Grade Level Expectations) Kindergarten - Grade 2, as revised on

- 1 September 28, 2006, are adopted by reference.
- 2 * **Sec. 4.** This Act is repealed July 1, 2014.
- 3 * **Sec. 5.** This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).