

**HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 8**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

**BY THE HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**Introduced: 4/5/13**

**Referred: Finance**

**A RESOLUTION**

1 **Establishing the Task Force on Sustainable Education in the House of Representatives.**

2 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:**

3 **WHEREAS** state education funding support for public education in grades  
4 kindergarten through 12 is increasing at a significant rate and real dollar value; and

5 **WHEREAS** state revenue, including revenue paid for education, is almost entirely  
6 dependent on revenue generated by oil production on state-owned land; and

7 **WHEREAS** production of oil on state-owned land is forecast to continue to decline;  
8 and

9 **WHEREAS** implementation of new education standards influences capital and  
10 operational costs for public education funding; and

11 **WHEREAS** local school districts achieve varying levels of success, as indicated by  
12 drop-out and graduation rates; and

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

16 **WHEREAS** continued increases in public school funding under AS 14.17 restrict the

1 flexibility of both the legislature and local school districts to respond to changing funding  
2 needs for public schools in the state;

3 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the House of Representatives that the Task Force on  
4 Sustainable Education is established in the House of Representatives for the purpose of  
5 examining the efficiency and effectiveness of public education delivery in the state, including

6 (1) matters pertaining to education standards for students in grades  
7 kindergarten through 12;

8 (2) the ability of the state's public schools to prepare students for various  
9 rewarding careers; and

10 (3) all aspects of public education funding in the state; and be it

11 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the duties of the task force include

12 (1) creating a process for vetting proposed education standards before the  
13 standards are adopted by the state Board of Education and Early Development;

14 (2) performing an analysis of public education funding that includes

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

17 (B) a determination of the appropriate uses of the base student  
18 allocation;

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

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

23 (E) a comparison of the allocation of administrative and instructional  
24 personnel among districts;

25 (F) a determination as to whether the allocation of administrative and  
26 instructional personnel affects the ability of each district to provide effective  
27 instructional services;

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

30 (3) evaluating the availability of courses that meet core academic curriculum  
31 requirements under AS 14.43.820(a)(3) in each district; and

32 (4) submitting to the governor, the Department of Education and Early

1 Development, and the legislature, by October 1, 2014, a report of findings and  
2 recommendations of the task force and submitting additional reports the task force considers  
3 advisable; and be it

4 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the task force may meet between and during legislative  
5 sessions; and be it

6 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the task force consists of

7 (1) the chairs of the House Education Committee and the House Finance  
8 Subcommittee on Education and Early Development, who shall serve as cochairs of the task  
9 force;

10 (2) the task force consists of the following members:

11 (A) one member representing each of the regional Native corporations  
12 organized under 43 U.S.C. 1602(m) (Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act);

13 (B) one member representing the Alaska Federation of Natives;

14 (C) one member from each senate district including at least

15 (i) five educators who have resided in a community in the  
16 district for not less than three years;

17 (ii) one local elected official;

18 (iii) five parents of children who are enrolled in public schools;

19 (iv) an Alaska Native elder who resides in a rural community  
20 or village;

21 (v) five local business owners; and be it

22 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that

23 (1) a majority of the members of the task force constitutes a quorum; a  
24 vacancy on the task force shall be filled in the same manner as the original selection or  
25 appointment;

26 (2) the staff of the legislative members of the task force shall serve as staff for  
27 the task force;

28 (3) the task force shall meet at the call of the cochairs;

29 (4) the task force may request data and other information from the Department  
30 of Education and Early Development;

31 (5) members of the task force serve without compensation but are entitled to  
32 per diem and travel expenses authorized for boards and commissions under AS 39.20.180;

1 and

2 (6) the task force expires January 1, 2015.