

HOUSE BILL NO. 19

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES KREISS-TOMKINS, Fields, Drummond, Zulkosky, Story, Tarr, Patkotak, Foster

Introduced: 2/18/21

Referred: Education, Finance

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to instruction in a language other than English; and establishing**
2 **limited language immersion teacher certificates."**

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

4 * **Section 1.** AS 14.20 is amended by adding a new section to read:

5 **Sec. 14.20.023. Limited language immersion teacher certificates.** (a)
6 Notwithstanding AS 14.20.020(b), the department may issue a limited language
7 immersion teacher certificate, valid only in the area of expertise for which it is issued,
8 to a person qualified under (b) of this section to teach any subject if the language of
9 instruction is not English and the instruction is provided only to students who are
10 enrolled in a language immersion program.

11 (b) A person may apply for a limited language immersion teacher certificate
12 under this section if the person is the subject of a request made under (c) of this
13 section and demonstrates, as required by regulations adopted by the board,
14 instructional skills and subject matter expertise sufficient to assure the public that the

1 person is competent as a teacher. The board may require a person issued a limited
2 language immersion teacher certificate under this section to undertake academic
3 training as may be required by the board by regulation and make satisfactory progress
4 in the academic training.

5 (c) The department may issue a limited language immersion teacher certificate
6 under this section if the school board of the district or regional educational attendance
7 area in which an applicant for a limited language immersion teacher certificate will be
8 teaching submits a request to the department for the limited language immersion
9 teacher certificate to be issued to the applicant. A request for a limited language
10 immersion teacher certificate under this section must specify the school district or
11 regional educational attendance area, subject, and instructional language for which the
12 certificate is valid.

13 (d) The board may adopt regulations necessary to implement this section. The
14 regulations may not require an applicant for a limited language immersion teacher
15 certificate under this section to achieve a minimum score on an examination unless the
16 examination is given in the instructional language for which the certificate is valid.

17 (e) A limited language immersion teacher certificate issued under this section
18 is initially valid for one year. The department may, in accordance with (f) of this
19 section and regulations adopted by the board, extend or renew a limited language
20 immersion teacher certificate issued to a person under this section if the school board
21 of the district or regional educational attendance area in which the person is or will be
22 teaching requests that the certificate be extended or renewed and certifies that the
23 person has demonstrated skills in classroom instruction and student assessment.

24 (f) If a person meets the requirements for an extension or renewal of a limited
25 language immersion teacher certificate under (e) of this section, the department may
26 extend or renew a limited language immersion teacher certificate for instruction in

27 (1) a language that is not an Alaska Native language for a cumulative
28 period not to exceed four years;

29 (2) an Alaska Native language for a cumulative period that may exceed
30 four years.