

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 132(FIN)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Offered: 5/18/21

Referred: Today's Calendar

Sponsor(s): HOUSE LABOR AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to technical education and registered apprenticeships."**

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

3 * **Section 1.** The uncoded law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section
4 to read:

5 SHORT TITLE. This Act may be known as the Alaska Apprenticeship Expansion Act.

6 * **Sec. 2.** AS 14.07.020(a) is amended to read:

7 (a) The department shall

8 (1) exercise general supervision over the public schools of the state
9 except the University of Alaska;

10 (2) study the conditions and needs of the public schools of the state,
11 adopt or recommend plans, administer and evaluate grants to improve school
12 performance awarded under AS 14.03.125, and adopt regulations for the improvement
13 of the public schools; the department may consult with the University of Alaska to
14 develop secondary education requirements to improve student achievement in college
15 preparatory courses;

1 (3) provide advisory and consultative services to all public school
2 governing bodies and personnel;

3 (4) prescribe by regulation a minimum course of study for the public
4 schools; the regulations must provide that, if a course in American Sign Language is
5 given, the course shall be given credit as a course in a foreign language;

6 (5) establish, in coordination with the Department of Health and Social
7 Services, a program for the continuing education of children who are held in detention
8 facilities in the state during the period of detention;

9 (6) accredit those public schools that meet accreditation standards
10 prescribed by regulation by the department; these regulations shall be adopted by the
11 department and presented to the legislature during the first 10 days of any regular
12 session, and become effective 45 days after presentation or at the end of the session,
13 whichever is earlier, unless disapproved by a resolution concurred in by a majority of
14 the members of each house;

15 (7) prescribe by regulation, after consultation with the state fire
16 marshal and the state sanitarian, standards that will ensure healthful and safe
17 conditions in the public and private schools of the state, including a requirement of
18 physical examinations and immunizations in pre-elementary schools; the standards for
19 private schools may not be more stringent than those for public schools;

20 (8) exercise general supervision over pre-elementary schools that
21 receive direct state or federal funding;

22 (9) exercise general supervision over elementary and secondary
23 correspondence study programs offered by municipal school districts or regional
24 educational attendance areas; the department may also offer and make available to any
25 Alaskan through a centralized office a correspondence study program;

26 (10) accredit private schools that request accreditation and that meet
27 accreditation standards prescribed by regulation by the department; nothing in this
28 paragraph authorizes the department to require religious or other private schools to be
29 licensed;

30 (11) review plans for construction of new public elementary and
31 secondary schools and for additions to and major rehabilitation of existing public

1 elementary and secondary schools and, in accordance with regulations adopted by the
 2 department, determine and approve the extent of eligibility for state aid of a school
 3 construction or major maintenance project; for the purposes of this paragraph, "plans"
 4 include educational specifications, schematic designs, projected energy consumption
 5 and costs, and final contract documents;

6 (12) provide educational opportunities in the areas of vocational
 7 education and training, and basic education to individuals over 16 years of age who
 8 are no longer attending school; the department may consult with businesses and labor
 9 unions to develop a program to prepare students for apprenticeships or internships that
 10 will lead to employment opportunities;

11 (13) administer the grants awarded under AS 14.11;

12 (14) establish, in coordination with the Department of Public Safety, a
 13 school bus driver training course;

14 (15) require the reporting of information relating to school disciplinary
 15 and safety programs under AS 14.33.120 and of incidents of disruptive or violent
 16 behavior;

17 (16) establish by regulation criteria, based on low student performance,
 18 under which the department may intervene in a school district to improve instructional
 19 practices, as described in AS 14.07.030(a)(14) or (15); the regulations must include

20 (A) a notice provision that alerts the district to the deficiencies
 21 and the instructional practice changes proposed by the department;

22 (B) an end date for departmental intervention, as described in
 23 AS 14.07.030(a)(14)(A) and (B) and (15), after the district demonstrates three
 24 consecutive years of improvement consisting of not less than two percent
 25 increases in student proficiency on standards-based assessments in language
 26 arts and mathematics, as provided in AS 14.03.123(f)(1)(A); and

27 (C) a process for districts to petition the department for
 28 continuing or discontinuing the department's intervention;

29 (17) notify the legislative committees having jurisdiction over
 30 education before intervening in a school district under AS 14.07.030(a)(14) or
 31 redirecting public school funding under AS 14.07.030(a)(15);

1 **(18) collaborate with the Department of Labor and Workforce**
 2 **Development to provide financial and technical support, using funds available for**
 3 **that purpose, to school districts creating or expanding school to apprenticeship**
 4 **programs or concurrent secondary education and apprenticeship programs that**
 5 **will facilitate student access to registered apprenticeships;**

6 **(19) provide technical support to school districts seeking to**
 7 **provide science, math, and engineering credit for career and technical education**
 8 **courses.**

9 * **Sec. 3.** AS 14.40.190 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

10 (c) In addition to the reports required under (a) and (b) of this section, during
 11 the first regular session of each legislature, the Board of Regents or its designee shall
 12 provide to the legislative committees having jurisdiction over education a biennial
 13 presentation describing the efforts made by the University of Alaska to collaborate
 14 with the Department of Labor and Workforce Development to provide credit programs
 15 for concurrent secondary education and registered apprenticeships.

16 * **Sec. 4.** AS 43.20 is amended by adding a new section to read:

17 **Sec. 43.20.055. Registered apprentice tax credit.** (a) A taxpayer that hires a
 18 registered apprentice and employs and trains the registered apprentice in the state is
 19 entitled to a credit under this section against the tax due under this chapter. The
 20 taxpayer is entitled to the credit for each registered apprentice whose employment
 21 qualifies under this section.

22 (b) To qualify as a registered apprentice for the purposes of the credit under
 23 this section, a person must participate in a registered apprenticeship program
 24 recognized by the Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

25 (c) The amount of credit that may be applied by a taxpayer for each qualifying
 26 registered apprentice under this section is \$1,250.

27 (d) The tax credit under this section may be applied against the tax due under
 28 this chapter for the first tax year ending on or after the date the taxpayer hires the
 29 registered apprentice. A tax credit under this section is refundable.

30 (e) A taxpayer shall keep a record of the name of the registered apprentice
 31 whose employment and training is the basis for a credit under this section, and the

1 registered apprentice's hours employed and period of employment. The department
2 may by regulation specify the documentation that must be maintained to support a
3 claim that an employee qualifies as a registered apprentice for purposes of this section.