

**ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
HOUSE EDUCATION STANDING COMMITTEE**

February 23, 2022

3:33 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Representative Harriet Drummond, Co-Chair
Representative Andi Story, Co-Chair
Representative Tiffany Zulkosky
Representative Grier Hopkins
Representative Mike Prax
Representative Mike Cronk
Representative Ronald Gillham

MEMBERS ABSENT

All members present

COMMITTEE CALENDAR

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 10(FIN) AM

"An Act establishing a grant program to provide to essential workers and laid-off workers the tuition and fees to attend certain postsecondary institutions."

- MOVED HCS CSSB 10(EDC) OUT OF COMMITTEE

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 20(FIN)

"An Act relating to teaching certificates for teachers holding out-of-state certificates."

- MOVED HCS CSSB 20(EDC) OUT OF COMMITTEE

HOUSE BILL NO. 108

"An Act relating to concurrent vocational education, training, and on-the-job trade experience programs for students enrolled in public secondary schools; relating to child labor; and providing for an effective date."

- HEARD & HELD

HOUSE BILL NO. 272

"An Act relating to education; increasing the base student allocation; and providing for an effective date."

- SCHEDULED BUT NOT HEARD

HOUSE BILL NO. 273

"An Act relating to education; increasing the base student allocation; and providing for an effective date."

- SCHEDULED BUT NOT HEARD

PREVIOUS COMMITTEE ACTION

BILL: SB 10

SHORT TITLE: FREE/REDUCED TUITION FOR ESSENTIAL WORKER

SPONSOR(S): SENATOR(S) BEGICH

01/22/21	(S)	PREFILE RELEASED 1/8/21
01/22/21	(S)	READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
01/22/21	(S)	L&C, EDC, FIN
02/08/21	(S)	L&C AT 1:30 PM BELTZ 105 (TSBldg)
02/08/21	(S)	Moved SB 10 Out of Committee
02/08/21	(S)	MINUTE(L&C)
02/10/21	(S)	L&C RPT 4DP 1NR
02/10/21	(S)	NR: COSTELLO
02/10/21	(S)	DP: GRAY-JACKSON, STEVENS, HOLLAND, REVAK
03/17/21	(S)	EDC AT 9:00 AM BUTROVICH 205
03/17/21	(S)	Heard & Held
03/17/21	(S)	MINUTE(EDC)
03/22/21	(S)	EDC AT 9:00 AM BUTROVICH 205
03/22/21	(S)	Moved CSSB 10(EDC) Out of Committee
03/22/21	(S)	MINUTE(EDC)
03/24/21	(S)	EDC RPT CS 1DP 2AM SAME TITLE
03/24/21	(S)	AM: HOLLAND, HUGHES
03/24/21	(S)	DP: BEGICH
04/08/21	(S)	FIN AT 9:00 AM SENATE FINANCE 532
04/08/21	(S)	-- Invited & Public Testimony --
04/16/21	(S)	FIN AT 9:00 AM SENATE FINANCE 532
04/16/21	(S)	Heard & Held
04/16/21	(S)	MINUTE(FIN)
04/20/21	(S)	FIN AT 9:00 AM SENATE FINANCE 532
04/20/21	(S)	<Bill Hearing Rescheduled to 04/21/2021>
04/21/21	(S)	FIN AT 9:00 AM SENATE FINANCE 532
04/21/21	(S)	Heard & Held
04/21/21	(S)	MINUTE(FIN)
04/27/21	(S)	FIN AT 9:00 AM SENATE FINANCE 532
04/27/21	(S)	Moved CSSB 10(FIN) Out of Committee
04/27/21	(S)	MINUTE(FIN)
04/28/21	(S)	FIN RPT CS 4DP 2DNP SAME TITLE

04/28/21 (S) DP: BISHOP, HOFFMAN, WIELECHOWSKI,
OLSON
04/28/21 (S) DNP: WILSON, VON IMHOF
05/17/21 (S) TRANSMITTED TO (H)
05/17/21 (S) VERSION: CSSB 10(FIN) AM
05/18/21 (H) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
05/18/21 (H) EDC, FIN
02/09/22 (H) EDC AT 9:00 AM DAVIS 106
02/09/22 (H) Heard & Held
02/09/22 (H) MINUTE(EDC)
02/14/22 (H) EDC AT 8:00 AM DAVIS 106
02/14/22 (H) Heard & Held
02/14/22 (H) MINUTE(EDC)
02/23/22 (H) EDC AT 3:30 PM DAVIS 106

BILL: SB 20

SHORT TITLE: OUT OF STATE TEACHER RECIPROCITY

SPONSOR(s): SENATOR(s) STEVENS

01/22/21 (S) PREFILE RELEASED 1/8/21
01/22/21 (S) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
01/22/21 (S) EDC, FIN
03/15/21 (S) EDC AT 9:00 AM BUTROVICH 205
03/15/21 (S) Heard & Held
03/15/21 (S) MINUTE(EDC)
03/19/21 (S) EDC RPT CS 4DP NEW TITLE
03/19/21 (S) DP: HOLLAND, STEVENS, MICCICHE, BEGICH
03/19/21 (S) EDC AT 9:00 AM BUTROVICH 205
03/19/21 (S) Moved CSSB 20(EDC) Out of Committee
03/19/21 (S) MINUTE(EDC)
03/22/21 (S) EDC AT 9:00 AM BUTROVICH 205
03/22/21 (S) <Bill Hearing Canceled>
03/29/21 (S) FIN AT 9:00 AM SENATE FINANCE 532
03/29/21 (S) Heard & Held
03/29/21 (S) MINUTE(FIN)
04/06/21 (S) FIN AT 9:00 AM SENATE FINANCE 532
04/06/21 (S) Scheduled but Not Heard
04/19/21 (S) FIN AT 9:00 AM SENATE FINANCE 532
04/19/21 (S) Heard & Held
04/19/21 (S) MINUTE(FIN)
04/21/21 (S) FIN AT 9:00 AM SENATE FINANCE 532
04/21/21 (S) Moved CSSB 20(FIN) Out of Committee
04/21/21 (S) MINUTE(FIN)
04/23/21 (S) FIN RPT CS 5DP 1NR 1AM NEW TITLE
04/23/21 (S) DP: STEDMAN, BISHOP, HOFFMAN, OLSON,
VON IMHOF
04/23/21 (S) NR: WILSON

04/23/21 (S) AM: WIELECHOWSKI
05/03/21 (S) TRANSMITTED TO (H)
05/03/21 (S) VERSION: CSSB 20(FIN)
05/04/21 (H) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
05/04/21 (H) EDC, FIN
05/10/21 (H) EDC AT 8:00 AM DAVIS 106
05/10/21 (H) -- MEETING CANCELED --
02/16/22 (H) EDC AT 3:30 PM DAVIS 106
02/16/22 (H) Heard & Held
02/16/22 (H) MINUTE(EDC)
02/23/22 (H) EDC AT 3:30 PM DAVIS 106

BILL: HB 108

SHORT TITLE: CONCURRENT SECONDARY & TRADE SCHOOL
SPONSOR(S): REPRESENTATIVE(S) MCCARTY

02/22/21 (H) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
02/22/21 (H) EDC, L&C, FIN
04/09/21 (H) EDC AT 8:00 AM DAVIS 106
04/09/21 (H) Heard & Held
04/09/21 (H) MINUTE(EDC)
02/23/22 (H) EDC AT 3:30 PM DAVIS 106

WITNESS REGISTER

TIM LAMKIN, Staff
Senator Gary Stevens
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Addressed questions on proposed Amendment 1 to CSSB 20(FIN), on behalf of Senator Stevens, prime sponsor.

SONDRA MEREDITH, Teacher Certification Administrator
Department of Education and Early Development
Juneau, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Provided information during the hearing on proposed Amendment 1 to CSSB 20(FIN).

SENATOR GARY STEVENS
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: As prime sponsor of CSSB 20(FIN), offered a brief comment on Amendment 1.

REPRESENTATIVE KEN MCCARTY
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: As prime sponsor, presented HB 108.

TRISH ZUGG, Career and Technical Education Program Administrator
Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District
Palmer, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Provided invited testimony during the hearing on HB 108.

DON ETHERIDGE, Lobbyist
American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations
Juneau, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Provided invited testimony during the hearing on HB 108.

MISSY FRAZE, Director
Career and Technical Education
Anchorage School District
Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Provided invited testimony during the hearing on HB 108.

LARRY LEDOUX, PhD, Superintendent
Kodiak Island School District
Kodiak, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Provided invited testimony during the hearing on HB 108.

ANTHONY LADD, Business Manager and Treasurer
Alaska Ironworks Union 751
Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Provided invited testimony during the hearing on HB 108.

DEENA BISHOP, PhD, Superintendent
Anchorage School District
Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Provided invited testimony during the hearing on HB 108.

MAGGIE COTHRAN
High School Student
Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Provided invited testimony during the hearing on HB 108.

JAMIE BURGESS, Superintendent

Nome Public Schools
Nome, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Provided invited testimony during the hearing on HB 108.

JIM ANDERSON, Chief Financial Officer
Anchorage School District
Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Provided invited testimony during the hearing on HB 108.

DEBORAH RIDDLE, Division Operations Manager
Division of Innovation and Education Excellence
Department of Education and Early Development
Juneau, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Answered questions during the hearing on HB 108.

ACTION NARRATIVE

[3:33:38 PM](#)

CO-CHAIR HARRIET DRUMMOND called the House Education Standing Committee meeting to order at 3:33 p.m. Representatives Story, Gilham, Zulkosky, Cronk, and Drummond were present at the call to order. Representatives Hopkins arrived as the meeting was in progress.

SB 10-FREE/REDUCED TUITION FOR ESSENTIAL WORKER

[3:34:57 PM](#)

CO-CHAIR DRUMMOND announced that the first order of business would be CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 10(FIN) am, "An Act establishing a grant program to provide to essential workers and laid-off workers the tuition and fees to attend certain postsecondary institutions."

[3:35:22 PM](#)

CO-CHAIR STORY moved to report CSSB 10(FIN) am, as amended, out of committee with individual recommendations and the accompanying fiscal notes. There being no objection, HCS CSSB 10(EDC) was reported out of the House Education Standing Committee.

[3:35:59 PM](#)

The committee took an at-ease from 3:36 p.m. to 3:39 p.m.

SB 20-OUT OF STATE TEACHER RECIPROCITY

[3:39:29 PM](#)

CO-CHAIR DRUMMOND announced that the next order of business would be CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 20(FIN), "An Act relating to teaching certificates for teachers holding out-of-state certificates."

[3:40:05 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE HOPKINS moved to adopt Amendment 1 to CSSB 20(FIN) am, labeled 32-LS0202\G.1, Marx, 2/22/22, which read as follows:

Page 2, line 11, following "valid":
Insert "**regular**"

Page 2, line 30, following "valid":
Insert "**regular**"

CO-CHAIR DRUMMOND objected for the purpose of discussion.

[3:40:13 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE HOPKINS explained Amendment 1 ensures that teachers coming to Alaska with reciprocity agreements with other states would not hold certificates that are not fully fleshed out. The addition of the word "**regular**" ensures the certification is from an accredited university that has a verification process to ensure the teachers have the skills needed to educate effectively. He concluded that adding this one word alleviates any concerns about the strength of the certificate.

CO-CHAIR DRUMMOND removed her objection.

[3:41:22 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE PRAX remarked that he felt the word "regular" seems redundant and may not be accurate in comparison to other types of available certificates.

[3:41:42 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE HOPKINS listed several of the different types of [teaching] certificates available in Alaska. He explained the word "regular" in the proposed amendment correlates to the statutes in other states, ensuring the out-of-state certificate has not been obtained through an abbreviated effort. He stated, in example, there could be a for-profit institution that "churns them out" [certificates] in a six- to ten-week class.

[3:42:54 PM](#)

TIM LAMKIN, Staff, Senator Gary Stevens, Alaska State Legislature, responded on behalf of Senator Stevens, prime sponsor of CSSB 20(FIN) am. He explained that Amendment 1 is the result of other states offering non-traditional means, or alternative pathways, to obtain a teaching certificate. The amendment helps identify and reduce the likelihood of pathways that allow shortcuts in obtaining teaching certificates. He said this policy is already in practice with the Department of Education and Early Development (DEED). He deferred to the DEED representative to confirm.

[3:43:34 PM](#)

SONDRA MEREDITH, Teacher Certification Administrator, Department of Education and Early Development, responded to the question concerning the added word "regular" in the amendment. She said that the current practice of DEED is to look for certificates that represent the completion of fully approved programs within a state; the addition of the word "regular" does help clarify the intent of the language of the bill and supports the type of certificates DEED seeks.

[3:44:51 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE PRAX [objected to Amendment 1] and asked to hear from the bill sponsor.

[3:45:03 PM](#)

SENATOR GARY STEVENS, Alaska State Legislature, as prime sponsor of CSSB 20(FIN), stated he had nothing to add to the previous committee discussion on this topic. He reiterated the bill will help the state attract more teachers.

[3:45:21 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE PRAX withdrew his objection. There being no further objection, Amendment 1 was adopted.

[3:45:57 PM](#)

CO-CHAIR STORY moved to report CSSB 20(FIN), as amended, out of committee with individual recommendations and the accompanying fiscal notes. There being no objection, HCS CSSB 20(EDC) was reported out of the House Education Standing Committee.

[3:46:33 PM](#)

The committee took an at-ease from 3:47 p.m. to 3:50 p.m.

HB 108-CONCURRENT SECONDARY & TRADE SCHOOL

[3:50:33 PM](#)

CO-CHAIR DRUMMOND announced that the final order of business would be HB 108, "An Act relating to concurrent vocational education, training, and on-the-job trade experience programs for students enrolled in public secondary schools; relating to child labor; and providing for an effective date."

[3:51:12 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE KEN MCCARTY, Alaska State Legislature, as prime sponsor, presented HB 108 by reading the sponsor statement [included in the committee packet], which read as follows [original punctuation provided]:

House Bill 108 (HB108) would provide public secondary high school students, 14 years of age and older, the opportunity to participate in concurrent enrollment vocational education, training and on-the-job trade experience programs with industry-standard instruction and certification. For the past several years, high school students throughout the state have had the opportunity to advance their education and career goals, while still attending public high schools, and college through dual enrollment. However, students planning for vocational or trade careers have been made to wait until graduation to actively pursue training in their desired field. HB 108 brings vocational trade education and training opportunities with industry-standard certification and workforce availability. To ensure that students are receiving the best training, concurrent vocational education

instructors must possess a valid instructor certificate and an industry-standard master skill certification, or equivalent. Additionally, any trade program that contracts with a school district must provide a statement that their program instruction meets industry standards for apprenticeships, journeyman or equivalent certification based on agency accredited, national, regional, or programmatic instruction standards. The sponsors of this bill recognize that there are many ways of learning. Many hands-on learners who struggle in the traditional classroom, have found great success in vocational trade training programs. Program applicants will not be selected based on merit rather by random drawing, or lottery, to give each student a fair and equal opportunity. HB 108 will improve high school attendance, raise graduation rates due to students with educational purpose, and produce a stronger, viable workforce with industry-skilled work ethics, and experience.

REPRESENTATIVE MCCARTY followed that since presenting the bill last year, Alaska has seen a tremendous need for a workforce, specifically among the trade businesses. He pointed out that as a result of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), federal monies will be available soon to enhance infrastructure, and he believes testimonies presented during the hearing will support that the workforce is "aging out." He promoted that the bill provides opportunity for students to get experience and certification while in high school. This allows students to contribute to Alaska's workforce and begin to make "good money."

REPRESENTATIVE MCCARTY stated his belief that students taught [work skills] early in life will learn work ethics and become viable individuals in the workforce. He stated individuals are more likely be laid off or terminated if they have no work ethics. He opined the proposed bill could solve this issue as well.

[3:55:55 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE PRAX asked why the program applicants will not be selected based on merit, but by random drawing.

REPRESENTATIVE MCCARTY suggested that some of the vocational programs will draw more interest from students than others. He said that a random drawing or lottery system will create an

equal opportunity for all students, instead of selection based solely on merit.

[3:56:52 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE PRAX speculated whether equal opportunity is a requirement; if not, he suggested that candidates should be selected by merit.

REPRESENTATIVE MCCARTY responded that a lottery system would prohibit the choice of a candidate due to affiliation, preferential treatment, or merit in the classroom. He compared the Stanford-Binet Test - a standard for cognitive intelligence - with Howard Gardner's work on multiple intelligence. Applying Gardner's theory, he explained that a student could be "a genius in the trades but not show that in some other realms of the education process."

[3:58:06 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE HOPKINS stated that career and technical education (CTE) programs are critical for the state, referencing a program in the Northwest Arctic Borough (NWAB) that had been effective; when a student took two CTE courses in that program he/she had a 100 percent graduation rate. He directed attention to the line in the title of HB 108 that relates to child labor. He said he would like to know the detailed changes to child labor laws, and how those changes would help the bill to be passed.

REPRESENTATIVE MCCARTY stated the bill only addresses issues on the state level, as other issues are federal rules. He continued that the legislation proposes an extension of which family members a [child] can work under, and it extends the time limit a [child] can work by one hour.

REPRESENTATIVE HOPKINS stated he is familiar with CTE; however, he questioned Representative McCarty's example of whether school credit is given for a student refereeing a soccer game.

REPRESENTATIVE MCCARTY answered a "student referee" is an example of when a student is working but not allowed the time to complete the job. He stated the proposed bill would provide an extra hour a [child] can work [in the evening].

[4:00:39 PM](#)

CO-CHAIR DRUMMOND, in response to a question from Representative Hopkins, confirmed that Section 6 of HB 108 would change the time from 9 p.m. to 10 p.m., extending the allowed time by one hour.

[4:01:27 PM](#)

CO-CHAIR DRUMMOND announced the committee would hear invited testimony.

[4:01:42 PM](#)

TRISH ZUGG, Career and Technical Education Program Administrator, Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District, stated she served several terms as president of the Association for Career and Technical Education in Alaska; she now sits on a policy committee at the regional level for 18 western states. She stated she believes she has a global perspective on CTE and understands how the approach of large school districts might differ from that of smaller school districts. She stated the Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District (MSBSD) believes the key to providing an educated, skilled, and ready workforce in Alaska is to seamlessly connect systems of learning with the workforce. Connecting high quality CTE with workforce development fortifies the pathway for students to transition into the workforce. High quality CTE and effective workforce development should be evidence based; in example, she listed: rigorous sequence of study, recognized credentials, equity in access, technical expert instructors, and contextualized academics. She stated the richest and most effective evidence of high quality CTE is when learning extends outside the classroom with work-based opportunities for all students. On speaking about work-based learning (WBL), she stressed it is what students will learn "about work," whether from a workforce representative presenting in the classroom or an apprenticeship that provides a means for students to "learn and earn." She stated the WBL guide was recently rewritten at the state level in a collaborative effort between the Department of Labor and Workforce Development (DOLWD) and DEED. The guide addresses how to put transitioning students to work in paid and unpaid work environments, giving them ideas on career advancement, credentialing, a pathway to degrees, and means to afford higher education.

[4:05:25 PM](#)

MS ZUGG said work-based learning, or extending the classroom, is an opportunity to formalize the transition. She stated WBL is not exclusively for the trades, but can include nontraditional trades as healthcare, aviation, information technology, hospitality, and financial services. The MSBSD's goal is not to ready students for one specific transition but to prepare them for all levels they may pursue. Training and WBL, when intentionally designed through connected systems, positions students for clarity in their expectations and options in the workforce. She stated the workforce, itself, gains clarity, which is demonstrated by phone calls and outreach [MSBSD] receives [from employers] looking for students that are transiting out of education. She added this is about students building strong relationships with employers while learning employability skills. In conclusion, she asked for HB 108 to be considered, stating institutionalizing WBL and training opportunities that extend the classroom will help fill the workforce gap; she stated the bill will make this a shared responsibility of EDC and DOLWD.

[4:08:23 PM](#)

DON ETHERIDGE, Lobbyist, American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations, stated the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO) fully supports HB 108. He said AFL-CIO has been very active in starting CTE programs and securing funding. He stated many trade instructors teach in the programs and there are grant funds he plans to investigate. He stressed young students need to learn to be on time and have their tools ready to go to work. He stated that it takes time for students to learn these lessons, and he suggested if they start younger, they will be ready to look for apprenticeship programs sooner. He suggested connecting HB 108 to an "indentured apprenticeship" program would provide more training.

[4:11:12 PM](#)

MISSY FRAZE, Director, Career and Technical Education, Anchorage School District, stated the Anchorage School District (ASD) offers a wide variety of quality CTE programs that prepare students for technical and trade careers. Quality CTE programs require trained, certified instructors with industry background. Not all school districts have this luxury, and she stated she believes HB 108 will create new avenues to support the smaller districts in bringing high-quality instructors to their communities. She echoed Ms. Zugg's statement about the

importance of connecting the education system with the workforce. She agreed that there is a struggle in technical education to bridge barriers for youth to participate in WBL opportunities. She stated the updated WBL guide, through the collaborative effort, truly lays out how to provide students with learning opportunities. She stated she believes HB 108 will help create a connective bridge by embracing students as part of the continuum of learning from secondary school to career. She stated, as with NWAB, CTE graduation rate in ASD is high at 98 percent. She expressed confidence that when students can be passionate about CTE programs, they will stay engaged and graduate; when students learn skills in the classroom, as professionalism and being on time, they extend these skills into the workforce. She said she appreciates that HB 108 looks at successful transitions other than just college for students. She stated there is a workforce shortage in Alaska and infrastructure bills will only exacerbate these issues in the community.

[4:15:32 PM](#)

MS. FRAZE, in response to Representative Prax, directed him to the ASD website to find a list of career and technical programs available at different schools.

[4:16:33 PM](#)

MS. FRAZE, in response to Co-Chair Drummond, stated that the Kusilvak Career Academy in the Lower Yukon School District (LYSD) has a partnership with the Martin Luther King, Jr. Technical High School ("King Tech"), and LYSD students have access to King Tech programs.

[4:17:11 PM](#)

CO-CHAIR STORY sought to clarify the fiscal analysis. She asked whether DEED has a list of available agencies to provide industry-standard instructors. Also, she offered her understanding that ASD would negotiate with the agencies [for instructors]. She asked whether ASD has the resources at this time for the \$1,000 per student cost.

MS. FRAZE stated she is not the right person to answer the details of the fiscal question; nonetheless, she offered the example of how ASD partners with Alaska Works Partnership (AWP) for technical trainers to do summer classes, such as plumping, pipefitting, welding, and some girls-only classes. Qualified

AWP trainers on contract teach the classes with ASD providing funding from the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Improvement Act of 2006 ("Perkins IV").

[4:19:58 PM](#)

MS. FRAZE, in response to Co-Chair Drummond, stated ASD has a great partnership with Associated General Contractors (AGC). She said she doubts they still work in elementary schools, but ASD does do outreach with AGC, with their members coming into classrooms to speak or do a skills class. She stated ASD is fortunate to have resources in the community, acknowledging that is not always the case in every community. In support of the HB 108, she specifically pointed to the part of the bill that provides lists of available resources to school districts.

[4:22:22 PM](#)

LARRY LEDOUX, PhD, Superintendent, Kodiak Island School District, stated he supports all previous testimony on HB 108. He said that he has experience in his district with both large and small schools. Sharing his work experience, he said he started teaching in 1978 and continued his career by working as a district technical coordinator and a high school principal. To further real-life experiences for students, he stated that the Kodiak Island Borough School District (KIBSD) has developed industry-standard certification programs. For example, KIBSD's welding teacher obtained certification in order to certify students in welding. The welding program provides teaching remotely to the village schools, with Lower Kuskokwim School District (LKSD) students traveling to Kodiak for certification. Students will also come to Kodiak for two weeks to do intensive summer programs with industry-certified individuals. The summer programs include industry-standard programs as nursing, cosmetology, and welding. He stated KIBSD works hard to connect with rural schools where industry standards are not represented; but he added that many people in the villages have expertise, so KIBSD has started partnerships between the skilled individuals in the villages and teachers. He promoted that KIBSD wants to "hook" students so they will pursue training outside the school. He expressed support of HB 108, as it is a step forward developing a framework with DEED providing leadership to smaller districts.

[4:26:06 PM](#)

MR. LEDOUX responded to Representative Prax that the programs are provided tuition free. He predicted there will be no fiscal impact, as KIBSD "will find funds." The [trade] industry is always "knocking at the door saying we will give you the funds."

[4:27:14 PM](#)

ANTHONY LADD, Business Manager and Treasurer, Alaska Ironworks Union 751, recounted that he has been an ironworker for over 20 years and an instructor and director at the training center before his current position. He stated his support of HB 108. Referencing his own struggle as a student in the classroom, he stated once he became an ironworker, it was like "a duck to water." He offered his support to a lottery-type selection process, stating there are plenty of students that do not go to school or get good grades, not because they do not want to, but due to challenges in the current classroom structure and how they learn.

[4:29:11 PM](#)

DEENA BISHOP, PhD, Superintendent, Anchorage School District, stated that with the current skilled employee shortage and ageing workforce, it is critical to support equitable access to CTE. She stated that in Alaska and across the nation it has been proven that students in CTE programs have higher graduation rates and more economic mobility, often with no student debt. She stated the ASD has partnered with LYSD to build ties in Alaska. She advanced the idea of a "middle college" that helps high school students move toward their post high school goals. She continued that industries in the state are challenged to meet the demands of a highly skilled workforce. She mentioned the financial challenges school districts face to fund CTE programs with qualified instructors. She warned that once [IIJA] moves forward these challenges will grow, and "now is the time to do something." She stated HB 108 allows a policy that bridges the gap between available training resources and secondary school students. By providing lists of qualified training programs, districts and students can align their interests. In addition, she stated HB 108 allows expanded access to WBL programs, such as on-the-job training, which is a high mark of quality CTE. On-the-job training and WBL allows students to gain valuable training that cannot be replicated in the classroom. Also, earning high school credit in real world training is a success for students. In conclusion, she stated that ASD strongly supports HB 108.

[4:32:37 PM](#)

MAGGIE COTHRAN, High School Student, explained her support for the proposed legislation. She stated that time at [King Tech] exposed her to different environments that helped decide what she liked and did not like. She stated that other students, like her, do not know what to do after high school. Being hands-on enables a student to have a passionate experience he/she otherwise would not have had. She added that students become aware of jobs in the state they did not know existed.

[4:34:29 PM](#)

JAMIE BURGESS, Superintendent, Nome Public Schools, began by addressing how IJJA will bring new jobs to the state in industries such as construction, welding, heavy equipment operation, pipefitting, and more. Concerning the cost and availability of higher education in rural Alaska, she stressed educational leadership should ensure career and technical education opportunities are available to students. Due to the Port of Nome Modification Project, she emphasized that jobs are coming, mostly "blue collar." She stated she feels the new jobs should go to regional residents, but there already exists a huge need in the region for qualified plumbers, welders, automotive mechanics, electricians, and others. Current residents qualified in these fields are "incredibly overworked." She predicted there will be challenges in rural Alaska for vocational training program contracts that meet the required industry standards. She determined this will require creativity and collaboration among rural districts and between the rural and road districts. Postsecondary organizations in the state will need to be a part of this collaboration, too. In example, she stated the Northwest Arctic Career and Technical Education Center (NACTEC) is a partnership between Nome Public Schools (NPS) and the Bering Strait School District (BSSD). The technical program provides some short-term coursework for local students. She explained that NACTEC has its own metal and automotive workshop, creating the most spacious, well-designed technical school in rural Alaska. She stated that the Senate Finance Standing Committee recently toured the building and can attest to "how well our facilities were designed and equipped." She stated that due to the NACTEC facility, adding apprenticeship programs for NPS would be easy, as no travel would be needed. Other rural areas would experience challenges to provide the same opportunity. Yet, she added that creativity is what rural Alaska does well. She made the point that HB 108 is a step in the right direction, stating it is important to

allow students to have the same opportunity for a technical career as for a college career. She noted the pay scales for technical and college-based careers can be similar, often with less student debt for those pursuing technical careers.

[4:39:01 PM](#)

MS. BURGESS responded to Co-Chair Story that NACTEC uses Perkins IV money, along with a "significant amount" of other grant money, and she stated that there is more grant money possibly available. Also, general funds from the districts are utilized.

[4:40:43 PM](#)

JIM ANDERSON, Chief Financial Officer, Anchorage School District, stated his support of HB 108, as it will help more students across the state become career and life ready upon graduation. The bill strengthens the statewide focus to provide high school students an opportunity to receive industry-standard training and have viable skills. The larger school districts realize the further away a school district is from urban areas, the more difficult it is [to provide students with opportunities]. He stated this bill stresses the importance of partnerships with lists of businesses and programs that provide opportunities in state-certified apprentice programs. He stated that ASD has partnerships with several dozen businesses in the Anchorage area and programs in nearly two dozen distinct career fields. Students participating in programs receive course credit for their time, plus they develop skills that allow them to join the workforce immediately after graduation. He stated the partnerships are frequently available at no cost to the district. He sees this as a great opportunity for employers to "build employees."

MR. ANDERSON sought to clarify a previous question from Co-Chair Story that concerned fiscal analysis. He stated that he believes a \$1,000 investment in students that have a high probability of graduating should be a priority. As a source of funding, ASD looks at Perkins IV, general funds, and other grants to make sure these opportunities are available to students. He stated that in 2019, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, 126 students participated in intern programs and another 190 students participated in job-shadowing programs. He cited a pre-pandemic success rate that 5 out of 8 students entered a certified, apprenticeship program upon graduation. He stated that HB 108 focuses on the future of the state's most

important asset by supporting the schoolboard's goal of ensuring students are career ready.

[4:44:18 PM](#)

CO-CHAIR DRUMMOND opened public testimony on HB 108. After ascertaining that there was no one who wished to testify, she closed public testimony.

[4:45:23 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE ZULKOSKY posed a question to DEED. Concerning the ongoing and existing programs, she asked what additional resources HB 108 affords to DEED to employ the programs.

[4:46:39 PM](#)

DEBORAH RIDDLE, Division Operations Manager, Division of Innovation and Education Excellence, Department of Education and Early Development, responded that the [forthcoming] amendment would move some of the duties from DEED to the school districts. She added, per the amendment, if the fiscal note is adjusted, no additional staff would be needed to negotiate contracts [with agencies that provide instructors].

[4:47:33 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE MCCARTY, in response to Representative Zulkosky, stated that HB 108 strengthens existing programs by having trade-certified masters train the state's students. The instructors become masters in the skill by either having special training or by obtaining [a Type M Certificate].

[4:48:51 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE ZULKOSKY, in review of instructor certification in small communities, asked how the proposed legislation would impact a situation where there are no individuals with industry-standard certification.

REPRESENTATIVE MCCARTY stated the bill does not impose upon districts to offer specific types of trade training. He went on to say that smaller districts would be able to help each other.

[4:50:20 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE MCCARTY responded to Representative Zulkosky that, if HB 108 passes, instructors who are currently teaching [technical] classes would have to meet three criteria: the Type M Certificate, master skill ability, and curriculum that is recognized by industry standard.

[4:51:21 PM](#)

CO-CHAIR STORY inquired about the components of the fiscal notes.

REPRESENTATIVE MCCARTY referenced the forthcoming "friendly" amendment. This amendment would take the responsibility off DEED, making school districts responsible for contracts. If this amendment were to pass it would take the fiscal note away, making it a zero fiscal note.

[4:52:34 PM](#)

CO-CHAIR STORY directed attention to the second fiscal note with Office of Management & Budget (OMB) component number 2796. She said she would like to know if the fiscal note is taken away, whether DEED would be responsible to negotiate contracts with agencies. She questioned the personal services for \$118,000. She also inquired about the source of the school districts' funding for their individual learning plans.

REPRESENTATIVE MCCARTY deferred to Ms. Riddle.

[4:54:17 PM](#)

MS. RIDDLE answered that the salary is \$118,800. Chargebacks added into the salary would then equal \$129,400, which is the total costs to DEED for one person. She stated there is a one-time equipment fee of \$5,000. Responding to Co-Chair Story's question concerning the \$267,000 for services. She stated the bill provided \$1,000 per student to participate. In example, DEED would negotiate a contact with a business. The business would receive \$1,000 for each student participating. The anticipation is the program would gradually grow, with a high estimate of 250 students for the first year. With program growth, payments to industry partners would grow.

[4:56:35 PM](#)

CO-CHAIR STORY questioned whether the districts would receive the money to make agreements if DEED does not [hire personnel] to make the agency contracts.

CO-CHAIR DRUMMOND, in response to Co-Chair Story's question, said the forthcoming amendment will likely answer the remaining questions and take care of the situation.

[4:57:26 PM](#)

CO-CHAIR DRUMMOND announced that HB 108 was held over.

[4:58:27 PM](#)

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the committee, the House Education Standing Committee meeting was adjourned at 4:58 p.m.