

**ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE**  
**SENATE EDUCATION STANDING COMMITTEE**

April 20, 2022

9:11 a.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Senator Roger Holland, Chair  
Senator Gary Stevens, Vice Chair  
Senator Shelley Hughes  
Senator Peter Micciche

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Senator Tom Begich

**COMMITTEE CALENDAR**

SENATE BILL NO. 196,

"An Act relating to transparency and compelled speech in public education."

Moved CSSB 196(EDC) Out of Committee

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 132(FIN)

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

Moved SCS CSHB 132(EDC) Out of Committee

**PREVIOUS COMMITTEE ACTION**

BILL: SB 196

SHORT TITLE: PUBLIC ED: SPEECH, DISCLOSE INST MATERIAL

SPONSOR(s): SENATOR(s) REINBOLD

02/15/22	(S)	READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
02/15/22	(S)	EDC, JUD
03/25/22	(S)	EDC AT 9:00 AM BUTROVICH 205
03/25/22	(S)	Heard & Held
03/25/22	(S)	MINUTE(EDC)
04/04/22	(S)	EDC AT 9:00 AM BUTROVICH 205
04/04/22	(S)	Heard & Held
04/04/22	(S)	MINUTE(EDC)
04/13/22	(S)	EDC AT 9:00 AM BUTROVICH 205
04/13/22	(S)	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled

04/20/22 (S) EDC AT 9:00 AM BUTROVICH 205  
04/20/22 (S) Moved CSSB 196(EDC) Out of Committee  
04/20/22 (S) MINUTE(EDC)

BILL: HB 132

SHORT TITLE: SCHOOL APPRENTICESHIP PROGS; TAX CREDITS

SPONSOR(s): LABOR & COMMERCE

03/10/21 (H) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS  
03/10/21 (H) L&C, EDC, FIN  
03/15/21 (H) L&C AT 6:30 PM BARNES 124  
03/15/21 (H) Heard & Held  
03/15/21 (H) MINUTE(L&C)  
03/22/21 (H) L&C AT 3:15 PM DAVIS 106  
03/22/21 (H) Moved CSHB 132(L&C) Out of Committee  
03/22/21 (H) MINUTE(L&C)  
03/22/21 (H) L&C AT 6:30 PM DAVIS 106  
03/22/21 (H) -- Public Testimony --  
03/25/21 (H) L&C RPT CS(L&C) NEW TITLE 5DP 1AM  
03/25/21 (H) DP: SNYDER, SCHRAGE, MCCARTY,  
SPOHNHOLZ, FIELDS  
03/25/21 (H) AM: NELSON  
04/09/21 (H) EDC AT 8:00 AM DAVIS 106  
04/09/21 (H) Heard & Held  
04/09/21 (H) MINUTE(EDC)  
04/19/21 (H) EDC AT 8:00 AM DAVIS 106  
04/19/21 (H) Heard & Held  
04/19/21 (H) MINUTE(EDC)  
04/23/21 (H) EDC AT 8:00 AM DAVIS 106  
04/23/21 (H) Moved CSHB 132(EDC) Out of Committee  
04/23/21 (H) MINUTE(EDC)  
04/28/21 (H) EDC RPT CS(EDC) NEW TITLE 3DP 3NR  
04/28/21 (H) DP: ZULKOSKY, DRUMMOND, STORY  
04/28/21 (H) NR: CRONK, GILLHAM, HOPKINS  
05/06/21 (H) FIN AT 9:00 AM ADAMS 519  
05/06/21 (H) Heard & Held  
05/06/21 (H) MINUTE(FIN)  
05/07/21 (H) FIN AT 1:30 PM ADAMS 519  
05/07/21 (H) Heard & Held  
05/07/21 (H) MINUTE(FIN)  
05/14/21 (H) FIN AT 1:30 PM ADAMS 519  
05/14/21 (H) Moved CSHB 132(FIN) Out of Committee  
05/14/21 (H) MINUTE(FIN)  
05/18/21 (H) FIN RPT CS(FIN) NEW TITLE 7DP 1DNP 2NR  
05/18/21 (H) DP: ORTIZ, EDGMON, LEBON, THOMPSON,  
WOOL, MERRICK, FOSTER  
05/18/21 (H) DNP: CARPENTER

05/18/21 (H) NR: JOHNSON, JOSEPHSON  
05/19/21 (H) LIMIT ALL DEBATE TO 2 MIN EACH Y23 N16  
E1  
05/19/21 (H) TRANSMITTED TO (S)  
05/19/21 (H) VERSION: CSHB 132(FIN)  
01/18/22 (S) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS  
01/18/22 (S) EDC, L&C, FIN  
03/11/22 (S) EDC AT 9:00 AM BUTROVICH 205  
03/11/22 (S) Heard & Held  
03/11/22 (S) MINUTE(EDC)  
04/11/22 (S) EDC AT 9:00 AM BUTROVICH 205  
04/11/22 (S) Heard & Held  
04/11/22 (S) MINUTE(EDC)  
04/13/22 (S) EDC AT 9:00 AM BUTROVICH 205  
04/13/22 (S) -- Public Testimony --  
04/20/22 (S) EDC AT 9:00 AM BUTROVICH 205  
04/20/22 (S) Moved SCS CSHB 132(EDC) Out of  
Committee  
04/20/22 (S) MINUTE(EDC)

**WITNESS REGISTER**

SENATOR LORA REINBOLD  
Alaska State Legislature  
Juneau, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Sponsor of SB 196.

ANDY BULLICH, representing self  
Juneau, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Testified in support of HB 132.

ED KING, Staff  
Senator Roger Holland  
Alaska State Legislature  
Juneau, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Answered questions on HB 132.

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

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Answered questions and testified in support  
HB 132.

SONDRA MEREDITH, Teacher Certification Administrator  
Innovation and Education Excellence  
Department of Education and Early Development

Juneau, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Answered questions on HB 132.

REPRESENTATIVE ZACH FIELDS

Alaska State Legislator

Juneau, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Sponsor of HB 132.

**ACTION NARRATIVE**

[9:11:59 AM](#)

**CHAIR ROGER HOLLAND** called the Senate Education Standing Committee meeting to order at 9:11 a.m. Present at the call to order were Senators Hughes, Stevens, Micciche, and Chair Holland.

**SB 196-PUBLIC ED: SPEECH, DISCLOSE INST MATERIAL**

[9:12:50 AM](#)

**CHAIR HOLLAND** announced the consideration of SENATE BILL NO. 196, "An Act relating to transparency and compelled speech in public education."

[SB 196 was previously heard on 3/25/2022, and 4/4/2022.]

[9:13:22 AM](#)

**SENATOR HUGHES** moved to adopt Amendment 1, work order 32-LS0768\0.1.

32-LS0768\0.1

Marx

4/9/22

**AMENDMENT 1**

OFFERED IN THE SENATE

BY SENATOR HUGHES

Page 3, line 22:

Delete "material is used"

Insert "most recent use of the material"

[9:13:24 AM](#)

**CHAIR HOLLAND** objected for purposes of discussion.

[9:13:30 AM](#)

SENATOR HUGHES explained that Amendment 1 would clarify the sponsor's intention on page 3, line 22, that schools shall retain information about training, instructional, and curricular materials for at least two years after the most recent use of the material.

[9:13:50 AM](#)

CHAIR HOLLAND recalled the discussion that led to Amendment 1.

[9:14:10 AM](#)

At ease

[9:14:30 AM](#)

CHAIR HOLLAND reconvened the meeting.

[9:14:43 AM](#)

SENATOR STEVENS questioned whether requiring the language "most recent material" would restrict it solely to the most recent material. He related his understanding that the intent was to capture all of the curricular materials.

SENATOR HUGHES responded that Amendment 1 relates to the most recent use of the curriculum, not the most recent version. The question was whether the two-year period posting requirement would begin with the last use of the material.

[9:15:35 AM](#)

CHAIR HOLLAND removed his objection.

[9:15:45 AM](#)

SENATOR MICCICHE objected for further discussion. He suggested that the grammar in that sentence did not seem to work.

[9:16:01 AM](#)

SENATOR HUGHES responded that Legislative Legal Services drafted Amendment 1. She summarized the discussion in committee related to the material used by schools. The question was, once a school began using the material, whether it would need to retain the material from that point or if the school must keep it posted from the point the school stopped using the material.

[9:16:30 AM](#)

CHAIR HOLLAND read the language incorporating Amendment 1.

The school shall retain information about training, instructional, and curricular material for at least two years after the most recent use of the material.

CHAIR HOLLAND said he thought the language read well.

[9:17:23 AM](#)

SENATOR MICCICHE maintained his objection.

[9:17:39 AM](#)

SENATOR HUGHES suggested replacing "after" with "since." She offered her view that without the amendment, it could create confusion about when the two-year clock would begin.

SENATOR MICCICHE interpreted Amendment 1 to mean that a school would use the material in a course, but "the most recent" would not accomplish what the sponsor intended. He said the [subsection] was clear. He suggested that if the goal were to set a clock, it would be two years after the beginning of the course or the end of the course date. He offered his belief that subsection (c) already states it. He asked for clarification on whether this would capture the point in time where the two years began.

SENATOR HUGHES answered yes.

[9:19:08 AM](#)

SENATOR MICCICHE moved to adopt Conceptual Amendment to Amendment 1, on page 3, line 22:

Delete "material is used"  
Insert "completion of the course"

CHAIR HOLLAND asked how the language would read.

[9:19:49 AM](#)

SENATOR MICCICHE stated that incorporating Conceptual Amendment 1 to Amendment 1, the language on page 3, lines 20-22 would read, "The school shall retain information about training, instructional, and curricular material for at least two years after the completion of the course."

[9:20:14 AM](#)

CHAIR HOLLAND solicited a motion.

[9:20:19 AM](#)

SENATOR MICCICHE pointed out that he had moved to adopt Conceptual Amendment 1 to Amendment 1.

[9:20:22 AM](#)

CHAIR HOLLAND objected for purposes of discussion.

[9:20:24 AM](#)

SENATOR HUGHES stated support for Conceptual Amendment 1 to Amendment 1.

[9:20:33 AM](#)

CHAIR HOLLAND withdrew his objection; he found no further objection, and Conceptual Amendment 1 to Amendment 1 was adopted.

[9:20:45 AM](#)

CHAIR HOLLAND removed his objection to Amendment 1; he found no further objection, and Amendment 1, as amended, was adopted.

[9:21:18 AM](#)

SENATOR HUGHES moved to adopt Amendment 2, work order 32-LS0768\0.2.

32-LS0768\0.2  
Marx  
4/9/22

## AMENDMENT 2

OFFERED IN THE SENATE

BY SENATOR HUGHES

Page 3, line 27:

Delete "may not"

Page 3, line 28, through page 4, line 1:

Delete all material and insert:

"(1) may allow a teacher, administrator, or other employee to include in a course or award course grading, credit, or extra credit for political activism, lobbying or efforts to persuade members of the executive or legislative branch at the local, state, or federal level to take specific action, or any practicum or similar activity involving social or public policy advocacy, if the teacher, administrator,

or other employee does not direct or otherwise compel a student or a teacher, administrator, or other employee to affirm, adopt, or adhere to a specific belief or concept;"

Page 4, line 2, following "(2)":

Insert "may not"

Page 4, line 20, following "(3)":

Insert "may not"

Page 4, lines 23 - 24:

Delete "in activism or advocacy as described in (1) of this subsection"

Insert "to affirm, adopt, or adhere to a specific belief or concept"

Page 5, line 6, following "(4)":

Insert "may not"

[9:21:21 AM](#)

CHAIR HOLLAND objected for purposes of discussion.

[9:21:23 AM](#)

SENATOR HUGHES explained that Amendment 2 would allow student participation but teachers could not tell students what topic or position they should take. She related that the committee held discussions on the importance of civic education and for students to interact with the legislature and Congress. For instance, she had received numerous letters from grade school and high school students weighing in on certain issues.

CHAIR HOLLAND related his understanding that Amendment 2 was to ensure that students could send political postcards to legislators. It would allow that participation so long as the teacher did not take specific action to compel students to do something.

[9:22:51 AM](#)

SENATOR HUGHES responded that students would be free to pick their position on a topic. She related an instance in the Anchorage School District where credit was being offered for students to take a certain position. She said that students should make up their minds about issues.

CHAIR HOLLAND offered his support for Amendment 2.

[9:23:14 AM](#)

CHAIR HOLLAND removed his objection; he found no further objection, and Amendment 2 was adopted.

[9:24:01 AM](#)

SENATOR LORA REINBOLD, Alaska State Legislature, Juneau, Alaska, sponsor of SB 196, stated that the intent of Amendment 2 was good because it indicates what the teacher "may" be allowed to do. She noted that the language on page 4, lines 20 and 20-23 indicates what the teacher may not do.

CHAIR HOLLAND recalled earlier discussions on the topic. He suggested that this language would allow outreach but restrict teachers from compelling students to take a specific position on an issue.

SENATOR REINBOLD clarified that the language was never intended to restrict outreach or education, but to restrict divisive concepts.

[9:25:42 AM](#)

SENATOR MICCICHE related his understanding that the committee would like students to be involved but not directed to take a certain opinion. Amendment 2 would allow student involvement, including receiving credit for doing so, without compelling students to take a certain position. He asked whether she was in favor of that concept.

SENATOR REINBOLD responded that she would support Amendment 2 if that were the intent.

[9:26:26 AM](#)

SENATOR STEVENS asked for examples of teachers forcing students to take certain positions.

SENATOR REINBOLD said one example was that some teachers were encouraging the students to take a position regarding the Walker administration's budget. She stated that she would like students to have the freedom to make their own decisions using critical thinking rather than being directed.

[9:27:28 AM](#)

SENATOR STEVENS asked for other examples.

SENATOR REINBOLD responded that some of the disparaging remarks made about race included that people of a certain race were automatically considered oppressors. She stated that she was

trying to prevent negative things from happening in the future. She suggested Amendment 2 was in response to some of the books being allowed as part of the curriculum. For instance, she wanted to ensure that Caucasians were not automatically considered oppressors simply because they were white and that blacks were not victims based solely on their race. She expressed her interest in schools not teaching divisive things or teachers imposing their opinions on students. She related that when she was a substitute teacher, one teacher was anti-war, but about 100 students had parents who were deployed, so their teacher's anti-war views were alarming to them. She stated students felt empowered by speaking out against that teacher's views.

9:30:43 AM

SENATOR STEVENS agreed that it was wise not to tell students the position they must take. He said he appreciated her sharing her experiences in the classroom because the more detail and examples she could give would more clearly define the issue.

9:31:05 AM

SENATOR MICCICHE highlighted that Senator Reinbold was sometimes opinionated. If she had been a substitute teacher during COVID-19, he wondered whether she would have had to present both sides of the issue. This bill would not allow her to ask the students to be active in COVID-19 anti-vaccination or anti-masking policies. She would not have been able to direct students to become active in the anti-vaccination issues or give them credit for that. He noted that she could inform students of the issues and allow them to make their own decisions. He asked how she would feel about being unable to send "a little army of eighth graders out." He noted that teachers must stay neutral about the issues.

9:32:43 AM

SENATOR REINBOLD suggested that his question was off-topic. She explained that SB 196 would give specific guidance. She paraphrased the language on page 4 that indicates that teachers may not direct or otherwise compel a student to affirm, adopt, or adhere to the belief or concepts that

(A) the United States or the state is fundamentally or irredeemably racist or sexist;

(B) an individual, by virtue of sex, race, ethnicity, religion, color, or national origin, is, consciously

or unconsciously, inherently racist, sexist, or oppressive;

(C) an individual, by virtue of sex, race, ethnicity, religion, color, or national origin, is blameworthy for actions committed in the past by other members of the same sex, race, ethnicity, religion, color, or national origin;(D) an individual's moral character is necessarily determined, in whole or in part, by the individual's sex, race, ethnicity, religion, color, or national origin;

(E) a sex, race, ethnicity, religion, color, or national origin is 17 inherently superior or inferior; or

SENATOR REINBOLD opined that the provisions put bookends on what can be taught.

[9:33:55 AM](#)

CHAIR HOLLAND stated he would like to return to the topic of Amendment 2.

SENATOR MICCICHE said his comments were about Amendment 2.

CHAIR HOLLAND asked Senator Reinbold if she supported Amendment 2.

SENATOR REINBOLD answered yes.

SENATOR MICCICHE stated Amendment 2 was specifically about prohibiting compelled speech. He maintained that he wanted to clarify that it goes both ways. He noted that Amendment 2 allows for course credit for students' proactive work, which he supports, but it does not allow teachers to steer students in one direction or another.

CHAIR HOLLAND stated he was unsure that Senator Reinbold's opinion on either side of any issue would affect the amendment.

[9:35:02 AM](#)

SENATOR HUGHES noted that the sponsor had cited a different part of the bill. She clarified that Amendment 2 relates to compelled speech and was not limited to Critical Race Theory (CRT) but would apply to any topic, including taxes, the permanent fund dividend, or abortion. She indicated that students would be free to take their position on COVID-19 issues.

CHAIR HOLLAND related that teachers could tell their students they could write a postcard with their thoughts about COVID-19.

[9:35:51 AM](#)

CHAIR HOLLAND removed his objection; he found no further objection, and Amendment 2 was adopted.

[9:36:10 AM](#)

SENATOR HUGHES recalled some members had raised concern that SB 196 might inhibit teachers from teaching history, including the Civil War or about Martin Luther King, Jr. She indicated that she had discussed this with Legislative Legal Services (Leg Legal) and the wording "affirm" that was adopted here. Leg Legal did not believe language needed to be added to show that nothing in this section would prohibit teaching American history. She asked the record to clarify that Legislative Legal Services believes that teachers could teach American or Alaska history. She also noted that some suggestions were made that CRT was only taught at the university level. She directed attention to a poster in documents posted on BASIS related to the eligibility for a class at the University of Alaska directed to Anchorage School District and middle college educators. The title of the course was the Anti-racist Writing Workshop; How to Decolonize the Creative Classroom. She noted that this included a \$3,000 stipend and a \$200 book stipend for participants. The course was held at the UAA campus on December 4 and 18, 2021.

SENATOR HUGHES recalled reading about the National Education Association's National Conference discussing this topic. She offered her view that this had infiltrated into classrooms despite school board policies. She related that this appeared to be a trend of thinking that some educators were exposed to, so she offered her belief that SB 196 was an important policy. She offered her support for SB 196.

[9:38:55 AM](#)

SENATOR MICCICHE stated that this bill has a Senate Judiciary Committee referral. He said he hoped the committee would remove the specific suggestions of damages listed in Section 4 because he would have difficulty supporting the bill with that language. He acknowledged the importance of giving people standing in Superior Court. However, he stated that he did not support identifying how those damages should be delivered in the bill, which makes a case for an attorney. He characterized it as his personal gripe because the courts and attorneys can make those decisions.

SENATOR HUGHES agreed that Section 4 needed some fixes, but she had decided that the Senate Judiciary Committee should consider those provisions.

[9:39:56 AM](#)

SENATOR STEVENS asked for clarification of the intent of SB 196. He stated that he had served as a professor of history for 25 years, often teaching Western Civilization and US History. He indicated that he had taught and textbooks have proclaimed the Holocaust, in which 6 million Jewish people were killed during WWII by Nazi Germany. He related that the primary reason he had seen, which textbooks agree, was that the Civil War was an issue of slavery, both pro-slavery and anti-slavery. Some people do not agree and argue that it was a war over states' rights. Some people say the Holocaust never occurred and that it was all a lie. He asked how this bill would affect him as a history teacher. He asked whether this bill would inhibit him from teaching what the historians agree upon, specifically related to those issues.

[9:41:14 AM](#)

SENATOR REINBOLD responded that he would be allowed to teach anything regarding the Civil War and the Holocaust. She said the bill encourages it. This bill would not allow teachers to teach concepts that because a person is white, they are an oppressor because those concepts are creeping into the classrooms. She stated that the goal of SB 196 is dignity and transparency in education. She noted that online teaching materials promote transparency and help parents teach their children. She thanked the committee for hearing the bill.

[9:42:54 AM](#)

SENATOR STEVENS moved to report SB 196, work order 32-LS0768\0, as amended, from committee with individual recommendations and attached fiscal note(s).

[9:43:14 AM](#)

CHAIR HOLLAND found no objection, and CSSB 196(EDC) was reported from the Senate Education Standing Committee.

[9:43:30 AM](#)

At ease

**HB 132-SCHOOL APPRENTICESHIP PROGS; TAX CREDITS**

[9:47:33 AM](#)

CHAIR HOLLAND reconvened the meeting and announced the consideration of CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 132(FIN) "An Act relating to technical education and registered apprenticeships."

[The Senate committee substitute (SCS) for HB 132, work order 32-LS0476\R, was adopted during the 4/11/2022 hearing.]

[9:47:51 AM](#)

CHAIR HOLLAND opened public testimony on HB 132.

[9:48:26 AM](#)

ANDY BULLICH, representing self, Juneau, Alaska, stated that he had taught construction and metal shop at Juneau-Douglas High School for 20 years and owns his own roofing business. He advocated for involving high school students in apprenticeships in high school to the fullest extent possible. He offered his belief that it inspires them. He noted the demand for skilled laborers. The pre-apprenticeship programs provide a natural conduit for the student and employer. He related that the employers and students can each figure out if the relationship works without investing significant time. He indicated that it shows kids what a life in skilled trades provides.

MR. BULLICH suggested that 16-18 year old students could operate power tools and climb ladders. He highlighted that finding a way to minimize the liability that employers would have at job sites would help these programs to succeed. He said he works with high school students to build a house. They climb ladders and use power tools successfully, so there should be a way to extend those practices into the apprenticeship programs.

MR. BULLICH thanked the committee for supporting these programs. He said Alaska is doing well nationally and he feels supported by the state and the school district.

[9:51:09 AM](#)

SENATOR STEVENS asked how to minimize the liability for employers.

[9:51:21 AM](#)

MR. BULLICH stated that education helps provide skills. He noted that in 20 years of teaching he had not experienced any bad accidents. He attributed minimizing the likelihood of injuries to good sound education. He emphasized the importance of keeping shop teachers involved with the employer and the student during this process to maintain a relationship.

SENATOR STEVENS acknowledged the importance of minimizing injuries but providing students with real life experiences.

[9:52:22 AM](#)

MR. BULLICH stated that the bill allows the student to be on the job site and not do anything, which isn't beneficial to the student or to the employer. The students have to have some responsibility under supervision. He recalled student teaching in Minnesota, using a model where the kids would spend half a day at a welding shop or job site using tools and welding equipment. He characterized that model as highly successful.

[9:52:55 AM](#)

SENATOR STEVENS asked for suggested improvements to the bill.

MR. BULLICH responded that he especially liked the language on page 4 that "using funds available for that purpose," but to add language that would address the ladders and power tools. He offered his view that it was important to decrease the liability for the employer. He explained that currently, when he and the students are at the job site building a house by Dzantik'i Heeni Middle School, the school's insurance policy covers the student. He wondered if it would be possible for the school district to pick up some of the liability insurance. He suggested that the funds referred to in subparagraph (18) could offset some of the liability insurance for the school district.

[9:54:11 AM](#)

SENATOR HUGHES wondered if parents were signing a waiver acknowledging that the students face some risks by using power equipment. She surmised that the school was providing safety training.

Mr. BULLICH answered that the students undergo rigorous safety training and parents do sign waivers. He emphasized that the culture that would be built into the program was critical. He indicated that he felt good about what the high school was doing that was done by many of his colleagues. He related that he participates in the federal Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (Perkins IV) Grant Advisory Committee meetings. He stated that many teachers throughout the state receive federal Perkins IV funding, so they have established relationships with contractors. He highlighted that identifying good teachers, contractors, and students was important. He said he did not see any downside to the legislation, and that it would be fantastic if this could happen.

[9:55:32 AM](#)

SENATOR HUGHES offered her view that there would not be restrictions on providing funding to school districts to cover liability insurance. She suggested that would be a good question for Legislative Legal Services. She wondered if it was necessary to amend the bill or if it was sufficient that the committee's intent to use some of the funds for that purpose. She imagined that school districts would support safety training.

[9:56:16 AM](#)

MR. BULLICH commented that the 16-18 year old students were the sweet spot. He noted that once they turn 18, many rules don't apply, but it was important to have summer job opportunities for 16-18 year olds.

[9:56:48 AM](#)

ED KING, Staff, Senator Roger Holland, Alaska State Legislature, Juneau, Alaska, directed attention to the language on page 5, line 21 of Version R, "(3) the tuition paid by the school district for each student for program participation, ..." He said this was money that could alleviate the cost of insurance and other associated costs because there are mechanisms for that funding to flow to those agencies. He referred to page 5, line 18, "(1) a description of the program, including the program curriculum;" that could definitely include safety and other training. He suggested that it would be challenging to insert that language because the language in the bill was more expansive than those types of programs. He offered his view that it was preferable to leave that latitude for the districts.

[9:58:40 AM](#)

JIM ANDERSON, Chief Financial Officer, Anchorage School District, Anchorage, Alaska, spoke in support HB 132. He stated that Anchorage had been building partnerships with businesses and programs throughout the city for many years. He reported that the district had identified two dozen distinct career fields, including art design, biomedical, telecommunications, carpentry, and others. Students receive course credit for their time, effort, and acquisition of skills. ASD does not focus purely on apprentice programs but rather on providing as many career pathways as possible for students.

MR. ANDERSON responded to the previous testifier who asked whether school districts could provide insurance. He pointed out that insurance for Anchorage used to be easy. However, because of assaults and violence occurring in schools in the Lower 48 in the last few years, it took until April 25 to acquire insurance

rates for the current fiscal year. He offered his belief that it would be problematic for school districts to restart negotiations on insurance to include outside organizations not under the control of the district. He restated support for SB 132 and expressed hope that the forthcoming amendments would focus on students, not adults and special interest groups.

[10:00:58 AM](#)

CHAIR HOLLAND closed public testimony on HB 132.

[10:01:33 AM](#)

SENATOR HUGHES moved to adopt Amendment 1, work order 32-LS0476\R.1.

32-LS0476\R.1  
Klein  
4/13/22

#### AMENDMENT 1

OFFERED IN THE SENATE BY SENATOR HUGHES  
TO: SCS HB 132(EDC), Draft Version "R"

Page 8, line 5:

Delete "[A] parent, sibling, grandparent, aunt, or uncle"

Insert "relative [A PARENT]"

Page 8, lines 6 - 7:

Delete "parent, sibling, grandparent, aunt, or uncle"

Insert "relative [PARENT]"

Page 8, lines 7 - 8:

Delete "parent, sibling, grandparent, aunt, or uncle"

Insert "relative [PARENT]"

Page 8, line 8, following "child.":

Insert "In this subsection, "relative" means a child's mother, mother-in-law, father, father-in-law, sister, sister-in-law, brother, brother-in-law, grandparent, aunt, or uncle."

[10:01:35 AM](#)

CHAIR HOLLAND objected for purposes of discussion.

[10:01:37 AM](#)

SENATOR HUGHES explained that Amendment 1 was brought to her attention by the Co-Chair of the House Education Committee. It adds clarity as to who is included in the term "relative".

[10:02:28 AM](#)

CHAIR HOLLAND removed his objection, he found no further objection, and Amendment 1 was adopted.

[10:02:47 AM](#)

SENATOR HUGHES moved to adopt Amendment 2, work order 32-LS0476\R.5.

32-LS0476\R.5  
Marx/Klein  
4/19/22

## AMENDMENT 2

OFFERED IN THE SENATE

TO: SCS HB 132(EDC), Draft Version "R"

Page 1, line 1, following "**apprenticeships;**":

Insert "**relating to school terms;**"

Page 1, following line 7:

Insert a new bill section to read:

"\* **Sec. 2.** AS 14.03.030 is amended to read:

**Sec. 14.03.030. School term.** A school term begins and ends on the dates fixed by the governing body of a school district. A school term shall include not less than 180 days in session unless [, WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE COMMISSIONER,]

(1) a day used for in-service training of teachers is substituted for a day in session, up to a maximum of 10 days;

(2) an "emergency closure day" is substituted for a day in session because of conditions posing a threat to the health or safety of students;  
or

(3) the school board adopts a different school term that includes at least 740 hours of instruction and study periods for pupils in kindergarten, first grade, second grade, and third grade and at least 900 hours of instruction and study periods for pupils in grades four through 12 [IF THE COMMISSIONER FINDS THAT THE SCHOOL BOARD HAS SUBMITTED AN ACCEPTABLE PLAN UNDER WHICH STUDENTS WILL RECEIVE THE APPROXIMATE EDUCATIONAL EQUIVALENT OF A 180-DAY TERM]."

Renumber the following bill sections accordingly.

[10:02:49 AM](#)

CHAIR HOLLAND objected for discussion purposes.

[10:02:50 AM](#)

SENATOR HUGHES stated her intent to withdraw Amendment 2 after it is discussed on record. She said that panels of superintendents have indicated the need to change the 180 day school term to hours because some high schools want to go to a four-day week, which works out well with sports. She stated that it might mean that classrooms might be half-full because students were out for class trips. She related her understanding that depending on the school location, it might require a long ferry ride so having a four-day school week makes sense and should be addressed. She related her understanding that the Teachers Retirement system (TRS) would need technical fixes. She suggested that it should be decided locally rather than by the department. She urged the Department of Administration to consider how this could be accomplished. She acknowledged that it might be complicated but it would be helpful to students and would give high schools that flexibility.

[10:05:37 AM](#)

SENATOR HUGHES withdrew Amendment 2.

[10:06:21 AM](#)

SENATOR HUGHES moved to adopt Amendment 3, work order 32-LS0476\R.3.

32-LS0476\R.3  
Klein  
4/19/22

### **AMENDMENT 3**

OFFERED IN THE SENATE

TO: SCS HB 132(EDC), Draft Version "R"

Page 6, line 24:

Delete all material.

Re-number the following paragraphs accordingly.

[10:06:24 AM](#)

CHAIR HOLLAND objected for purposes of discussion.

[10:06:27 AM](#)

SENATOR HUGHES explained Amendment 3. She noted that a student who was 14 years old could still be in eighth grader. She related that DEED indicated that some eighth grade students take high school classes for credit. Amendment 3 would delete, "has completed eighth grade" to allow an eighth grade student who was 14 years of age and taking a high school course to participate.

[10:07:13 AM](#)

CHAIR HOLLAND removed his objection; he found no further objection, and Amendment 3 was adopted.

[10:07:32 AM](#)

SENATOR HUGHES moved to adopt Amendment 4, work order 32-LS0476\R.4.

32-LS0476\R.4

Klein

4/19/22

#### **AMENDMENT 4**

OFFERED IN THE SENATE

TO: SCS HB 132(EDC), Draft Version "R"

Page 1, line 1, following "**apprenticeships;**":

Insert "**relating to awarding course credit for activities outside of school hours;**"

Page 5, line 11, following "program.":

Insert "A school district shall allow a public secondary school student who is at least 14 years of age to receive course credit in career and technical education, physical education, music, or art if the student participates in an activity, including a cultural activity, outside of school hours that the school district determines meets the educational or physical activity requirements of the course. A school district may adopt standards for awarding course credit for an activity under this section."

[10:07:36 AM](#)

CHAIR HOLLAND objected for purposes of discussion.

[10:07:37 AM](#)

SENATOR HUGHES explained that Amendment 4 was inadvertently left out of SB 111. She said this provision seemed to fit in this bill. It would allow private classes like music to receive high school credit. For instance, if a high school student is a serious pianist and taking piano lessons for many hours a week, the student could obtain course credit. It could make it possible for the student to take another course, such as a science class. She acknowledged that it would need to be under the direction of the school district because the district would need to adopt standards to ensure the lessons met the classroom criteria.

[10:08:56 AM](#)

SENATOR MICCICHE asked whether schools were already allowed to do so.

SENATOR HUGHES acknowledged that districts could be doing this, but it was not in statute.

[10:09:31 AM](#)

MR. KING confirmed that school districts already have the authority to issue credits this way, as well as through the career and technical education components in the bill. It's similar to the way that school districts are able to give dual credit for middle colleges. Amendment 4 would place in statute that these programs are available. He deferred further comment to Sondra Meredith.

[10:10:24 AM](#)

SONDRA MEREDITH, Teacher Certification Administrator, Innovation and Education Excellence, Department of Education and Early

Development, Juneau, Alaska, agreed that the department could already issue course credit for outside activities.

[10:10:50 AM](#)

SENATOR HUGHES asked whether that was in regulation or some other authority.

MS. MEREDITH offered her belief that the authority came from regulation; districts have local control to award credits for such activities.

SENATOR MICCICHE commented that his only concern was that it was late in the session and this would require a title change, which has a higher vote threshold. He opined that the amendment was unnecessary.

MR. KING conveyed that the changes that appear in the SCS already require a title change.

[10:11:54 AM](#)

CHAIR HOLLAND withdrew his objection to Amendment 4; finding no further objection, Amendment 4 was adopted.

CHAIR HOLLAND asked Representative Fields if he had any closing comments on the House Labor and Commerce Committee bill.

[10:12:29 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE ZACH FIELDS, Alaska State Legislator, Juneau, Alaska, co-chair of the House Labor and Commerce Committee that sponsored HB 132, stated that the bill has broad support from a variety of people, companies, and organizations. He expressed appreciation for the work the committee had done on the bill to ensure a good product.

[10:13:05 AM](#)

SENATOR STEVENS asked whether any of the amendments were cause for concern.

REPRESENTATIVE FIELDS answered no.

CHAIR HOLLAND advised that the changes the committee made to the bill zeroed the fiscal note. He solicited the will of the committee.

[10:13:30 AM](#)

SENATOR STEVENS moved to report the Senate committee substitute (SCS) for CSHB 132, work order 32-LS0476\R, as amended, from

committee with individual recommendations and attached fiscal note(s).

CHAIR HOLLAND found no objection, and SCS CSHB 132(EDC) was reported from the Senate Education Standing Committee.

10:14:01 AM

At ease

10:18:39 AM

CHAIR HOLLAND reconvened the meeting.

10:18:57 AM

There being no further business to come before the committee, Chair Holland adjourned the Senate Education Standing Committee meeting at 10:18 a.m.