

HOUSE CS FOR CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 140(FIN)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Offered: 1/16/24

Referred: Rules

Sponsor(s): SENATORS HOFFMAN, Bishop, Claman, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Kiehl, Dunbar, Olson, Stevens

REPRESENTATIVES Josephson, Hannan, Schrage, Stutes

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to education; relating to funding for Internet services for school**
2 **districts; requiring the Department of Education and Early Development to provide**
3 **information relating to public schools on an Internet website; relating to information on**
4 **the post-secondary education, career path, and residency of graduates from high schools**
5 **in the state; relating to transportation of students; relating to state funding for districts**
6 **operating residential schools; increasing the base student allocation; and providing for**
7 **an effective date."**

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

9 *** Section 1.** AS 14.03.120 is amended by adding new subsections to read:

10 (k) The department shall establish and maintain a user-friendly Internet
11 website that allows a member of the public to view and download information
12 described in this subsection and to make recommendations relating to improving
13 public education in the state. The information on the Internet website must be

1 presented in a fashion that is easily understood. To the extent practicable, and without
 2 disclosing information that is confidential under state or federal law, the department
 3 shall make the following information available on the Internet website:

- 4 (1) reports required under this section and AS 14.03.078;
- 5 (2) copies of audits made under AS 14.14.050; and
- 6 (3) a description of how each district is addressing the needs of
 7 students who receive special education services.

8 (l) A district may provide on the district's Internet website a link to the
 9 Internet website described in (k) of this section.

10 (m) The department shall collaborate with the Department of Labor and
 11 Workforce Development under AS 44.31.020 to gather data on the progress of each
 12 high school graduating class in a district by collecting career, postsecondary
 13 education, and residency data on each student in the graduating class. The departments
 14 shall gather the data every five years for 20 years after the high school graduation date
 15 of the class.

16 * **Sec. 2.** AS 14.03.127(a) is amended to read:

17 (a) Each fiscal year, a district in which one or more schools qualify for a
 18 discounted rate for Internet services under the federal universal services program is
 19 eligible to receive an amount for each school that is equal to the amount needed to
 20 bring the applicant's share to 100 [25] megabits of download a second of the Internet
 21 services.

22 * **Sec. 3.** AS 14.07.020(a), as amended by sec. 15, ch. 40, SLA 2022, is amended to read:

23 (a) The department shall
 24 (1) exercise general supervision over the public schools of the state
 25 except the University of Alaska;
 26 (2) study the conditions and needs of the public schools of the state,
 27 adopt or recommend plans, administer and evaluate grants to improve school
 28 performance awarded under AS 14.03.125, and adopt regulations for the improvement
 29 of the public schools; the department may consult with the University of Alaska to
 30 develop secondary education requirements to improve student achievement in college
 31 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 Family and
7 Community Services, a program for the continuing education of children who are held
8 in juvenile detention facilities or juvenile treatment facilities, as those terms are
9 defined in AS 47.12.990, in the state during the period of detention or treatment;

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

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

21 (8) exercise general supervision over early education programs that
22 receive direct state or federal funding, including early education programs provided by
23 a school district for students four and five years of age, approve an early education
24 program provided by a school district that complies with the standards adopted by the
25 board under AS 14.07.165(a)(5), and revoke approval of an early education program if
26 the program does not comply with the standards adopted by the board under
27 AS 14.07.165(a)(5);

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

1 (10) accredit private schools that request accreditation and that meet
2 accreditation standards prescribed by regulation by the department; nothing in this
3 paragraph authorizes the department to require religious or other private schools to be
4 licensed;

5 (11) review plans for construction of new public elementary and
6 secondary schools and for additions to and major rehabilitation of existing public
7 elementary and secondary schools and, in accordance with regulations adopted by the
8 department, determine and approve the extent of eligibility for state aid of a school
9 construction or major maintenance project; for the purposes of this paragraph, "plans"
10 include educational specifications, schematic designs, projected energy consumption
11 and costs, and final contract documents;

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

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

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

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

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

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

28 (B) an end date for departmental intervention, as described in
29 AS 14.07.030(a)(14)(A) and (B) and (15), after the district demonstrates three
30 consecutive years of improvement consisting of not less than two percent
31 increases in student proficiency on standards-based assessments in language

1 arts and mathematics, as provided in AS 14.03.123(f)(1)(A); and

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

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

7 (18) establish a reading program to provide direct support for and
8 intervention in the reading intervention programs of participating schools as described
9 in AS 14.30.765 and 14.30.770;

10 (19) annually convene, either in person or electronically, a panel to
11 review and comment on the effectiveness of the programs created by the department
12 and the regulations adopted by the board to implement AS 14.03.410, 14.03.420,
13 AS 14.30.760 - 14.30.770, and 14.30.800; the panel

14 (A) shall provide recommendations and guidance to the board,
15 the department, and the legislature on how to integrate early education and
16 reading programs created under this title with tribal compacting or programs
17 focused on cultural education within the department;

18 (B) shall discuss support for reading in Alaska Native
19 languages and other non-English languages;

20 (C) must collectively represent the regions of the state and
21 include teachers of grades kindergarten through three, school administrators,
22 parents of students in grades kindergarten through three, stakeholders from
23 indigenous language immersion programs, representatives from early
24 education stakeholder groups, and researchers of best practices for improving
25 literacy performance, including best practices for instruction of indigenous
26 students and students whose first language is not English;

27 **(20) collaborate with the Department of Labor and Workforce**
28 **Development to gather data on the progress of each high school graduating class**
29 **as required under AS 14.03.120(m).**

30 * **Sec. 4.** AS 14.07.020(a), as amended by sec. 16, ch. 40, SLA 2022, is amended to read:

31 (a) The department shall

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

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

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

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

14 (5) establish, in coordination with the Department of Family and
15 Community Services, a program for the continuing education of children who are held
16 in juvenile detention facilities or juvenile treatment facilities, as those terms are
17 defined in AS 47.12.990, in the state during the period of detention or treatment;

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

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

29 (8) exercise general supervision over early education programs that
30 receive direct state or federal funding, including early education programs provided by
31 a school district for students four and five years of age;

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

5 (10) accredit private schools that request accreditation and that meet
6 accreditation standards prescribed by regulation by the department; nothing in this
7 paragraph authorizes the department to require religious or other private schools to be
8 licensed;

9 (11) review plans for construction of new public elementary and
10 secondary schools and for additions to and major rehabilitation of existing public
11 elementary and secondary schools and, in accordance with regulations adopted by the
12 department, determine and approve the extent of eligibility for state aid of a school
13 construction or major maintenance project; for the purposes of this paragraph, "plans"
14 include educational specifications, schematic designs, projected energy consumption
15 and costs, and final contract documents;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

11 **(18) collaborate with the Department of Labor and Workforce**
 12 **Development to gather data on the progress of each high school graduating class**
 13 **as required under AS 14.03.120(m).**

14 * **Sec. 5.** AS 14.09.010(a) is repealed and reenacted to read:

15 (a) A school district that provides student transportation services for the
 16 transportation of students who reside a distance from established schools is eligible to
 17 receive funding for operating or subcontracting the operation of the transportation
 18 system for students to and from the schools within the student's transportation service
 19 area. Subject to appropriation, the amount of funding provided by the state for
 20 operating the student transportation system is the amount of a school district's ADM,
 21 less the ADM for the district's correspondence programs during the current fiscal year,
 22 multiplied by the per student amount for the school district as follows, for the school
 23 years beginning July 1, 2023:

DISTRICT	PER STUDENT AMOUNT
Alaska Gateway	\$2,536
Aleutians East	378
Anchorage	531
Annette Island	222
Bering Strait	60
Bristol Bay	3,257
Chatham	342

1	Copper River	1,934
2	Cordova	409
3	Craig	515
4	Delta/Greely	2,019
5	Denali	2,203
6	Dillingham	1,484
7	Fairbanks	995
8	Galena	310
9	Haines	763
10	Hoonah	364
11	Iditarod	258
12	Juneau	735
13	Kake	331
14	Kashunamiut	6
15	Kenai Peninsula	1,115
16	Ketchikan	886
17	Klawock	712
18	Kodiak Island	974
19	Kuspuk	797
20	Lake and Peninsula	468
21	Lower Kuskokwim	338
22	Lower Yukon	1
23	Matanuska-Susitna	1,109
24	Nenana	716
25	Nome	757
26	North Slope	1,365
27	Northwest Arctic	30
28	Pelican	88
29	Petersburg	457
30	Saint Mary's	235
31	Sitka	522

1	Skagway	44
2	Southeast Island	1,408
3	Southwest Region	728
4	Tanana	581
5	Unalaska	790
6	Valdez	897
7	Wrangell	854
8	Yakutat	907
9	Yukon Flats	322
10	Yukon/Koyukuk	365
11	Yupiit	2.

12 * **Sec. 6.** AS 14.16.200(b) is amended to read:

13 (b) Costs that may be claimed by a district for reimbursement under (a) of this
14 section are

15 (1) one round trip on the least expensive means of transportation
16 between the student's community of residence and the school during the school year if
17 the district expends money for the trip; and

18 (2) a per-pupil monthly stipend to cover room and board expenses as
19 determined by the department on a regional basis and not to exceed the following
20 amounts:

21 (A) for the Southeast Region (Region I), **\$1,845** [\$1,230];

22 (B) for the Southcentral Region (Region II), **\$1,800** [\$1,200];

23 (C) for the Interior Region (Region III), **\$2,178** [\$1,452];

24 (D) for the Southwest Region (Region IV), **\$2,264** [\$1,509];

25 (E) for the Northern Remote Region (Region V), **\$2,664**

26 [\$1,776].

27 * **Sec. 7.** AS 14.17.470, as amended by sec. 26, ch. 40, SLA 2022, is amended to read:

28 **Sec. 14.17.470. Base student allocation.** The base student allocation is **\$6,640**
29 [\$5,960].

30 * **Sec. 8.** AS 44.31.020 is amended to read:

31 **Sec. 44.31.020. Duties of department.** The Department of Labor and

1 Workforce Development shall

2 (1) enforce the laws and adopt regulations under them concerning
3 employer-employee relationships, including the safety, hours of work, wages, and
4 conditions of workers, including children;

5 (2) accumulate, analyze, and report labor statistics;

6 (3) operate systems of workers' compensation and unemployment
7 insurance;

8 (4) gather data reflecting the cost of living in various locations of the
9 state upon request of the director of personnel under AS 39.27.030;

10 (5) operate the federally funded employment and training programs
11 under 29 U.S.C. 2801 - 2945 (Workforce Investment Act of 1998);

12 (6) administer the state's program of adult basic education and adopt
13 regulations to administer the program; and

14 (7) administer the programs of the Alaska Vocational Technical Center
15 and adopt regulations to administer the programs, including regulations that set rates
16 for student tuition and room and board and fees for the programs and services
17 provided by the department regarding the Alaska Vocational Technical Center;

18 **(8) gather data on the progress of each high school graduating**
19 **class in a district by collecting career, postsecondary education, and residency**
20 **data on each student in the graduating class; the department shall gather the**
21 **data required under this paragraph every five years for 20 years after the high**
22 **school graduation date of each high school graduating class; the department shall**
23 **publish a biennial report on the data gathered under this paragraph; in this**
24 **paragraph, "district" has the meaning given in AS 14.17.990.**

25 * **Sec. 9.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
26 read:

27 RETROACTIVITY. Section 5 of this Act is retroactive to July 1, 2023.

28 * **Sec. 10.** Section 2 of this Act takes effect January 1, 2024.

29 * **Sec. 11.** Section 4 of this Act takes effect on the effective date of sec. 16, ch. 40, SLA
30 2022.

31 * **Sec. 12.** Section 5 of this Act takes effect July 1, 2023.

1 * **Sec. 13.** Sections 6, 7, and 9 of this Act take effect on the effective date of sec. 26, ch. 40,
2 SLA 2022.

3 * **Sec. 14.** AS 14.03.120(k) and (l), enacted by sec. 1 of this Act, take effect July 1, 2024.

4 * **Sec. 15.** AS 14.03.120(m), enacted by sec. 1 of this Act, and secs. 3 and 8 of this Act take
5 effect July 1, 2025.