

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE
April 23, 2025
1:35 p.m.

1:35:55 PM

CALL TO ORDER

Co-Chair Hoffman called the Senate Finance Committee meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Senator Lyman Hoffman, Co-Chair
Senator Donny Olson, Co-Chair
Senator Bert Stedman, Co-Chair
Senator Mike Cronk
Senator James Kaufman
Senator Jesse Kiehl
Senator Kelly Merrick

MEMBERS ABSENT

None

ALSO PRESENT

Representative Zach Fields, Sponsor; Liz Harpold, Staff, Senator Donny Olson; Lisa Parady, Executive Director, Alaska Council of School Administrators.

SUMMARY

CSHB 57(EDC) am

COMMUNICATION DEVICES IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

CSHB 57(EDC) was HEARD and HELD in committee for further consideration.

Co-Chair Hoffman discussed the agenda.

#hb57

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 57(EDC) am

"An Act relating to wireless telecommunications devices in public schools; and providing for an effective date."

1:36:33 PM

REPRESENTATIVE ZACH FIELDS, SPONSOR, relayed that HB 57 was a simple bill that would regulate the use of cell phones [in schools]. He noted that as the bill worked its way through the committee process it had sometimes used the word "prohibit" with regard to the use of cell phones during the school day. He thought the issue was the central policy question of the bill.

Co-Chair Stedman MOVED to ADOPT proposed committee substitute for CSHB 57, Work Draft 34-LS0064\T (Bergerud, 4/23/25).

Co-Chair Hoffman OBJECTED for discussion.

1:37:39 PM

LIZ HARPOLD, STAFF, SENATOR DONNY OLSON, read from an Explanation of Changes document (copy on file):

Title: Adds references to student transportation and the base student allocation.

Section 1: New section. Repeals and reenacts AS 14.090.010(a) to increase the per student pupil transportation amount by 10 percent. Removes Tanana City School District from list as it merged with the Yukon-Koyukuk School District.

Section 2: New section. Amends AS 14.17.470 to increase the BSA by \$700.

Sections 3 - 4: Previous sections 1 - 2, renumbered.

Co-Chair Hoffman WITHDREW his OBJECTION. There being NO further OBJECTION, it was so ordered.

1:38:52 PM

AT EASE

1:40:20 PM

RECONVENED

Co-Chair Hoffman OPENED public testimony.

[1:40:44 PM](#)

LISA PARADY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ALASKA COUNCIL OF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS, spoke in favor of the bill. She relayed that the Alaska Council of School Administrators (ACSA), on behalf of its members, greatly appreciated the committee's efforts to continue the discussion related to the critical nature of increasing the Base Student Allocation (BSA) inside the education funding formula. She commented that the pupil transportation funds were also urgently needed. She and the ACSA looked forward to further discussion and stood ready to assist.

[1:41:32 PM](#)

Co-Chair Hoffman CLOSED public testimony.

CSHB 57(EDC) was HEARD and HELD in committee for further consideration.

#

ADJOURNMENT

[1:42:01 PM](#)

The meeting was adjourned at 1:42 p.m.