

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY REPRESENTATIVE GILBERT

2 HOUSE BILL NO. 4

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE TERRITORY OF ALASKA

4 TWENTY-SECOND SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act to require teacher training courses  
7 at the University of Alaska and Community  
8 Colleges; providing for certification of  
9 qualified applicants completing a two-year  
10 training course; defining applicability of  
11 such certificates; requiring preference  
12 for hiring Alaska residents; amending  
13 Section 37-5-5 ACLA 1949; and setting an  
14 effective date."

15 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE TERRITORY OF ALASKA:

16 Section 1. Two-year teacher training. There shall be estab-  
17 lished in the University of Alaska, and Community colleges of  
18 Alaska now or hereafter established in accordance with Chapter 57,  
19 Session Laws of Alaska, 1953 (hereinafter called Community  
20 College), a course or courses of study above the high school level  
21 not to exceed 60 semester hours, which course or courses will  
22 adequately fit the persons thus trained for teaching positions  
23 in the elementary schools, and such course or courses shall  
24 include at least 12 semester hours of credit in education. The  
25 course shall be prescribed by the Board of Regents of the Uni-  
26 versity of Alaska and shall conform to the requirements afore-  
27 said and to the requirements governing the issuance of pro-  
28 visional teaching certificates as hereinafter set forth.

29 Section 2. Provisional certificate: issuance. Any graduate

1 of a two-year teacher training course of the University of  
2 Alaska or Community College shall be recommended by the Board of  
3 Regents to the Commissioner of Education for the issuance of a  
4 provisional certificate as hereafter provided. The Commissioner  
5 of Education upon receipt of said recommendation, accompanied  
6 by a properly executed form as prescribed by him, shall immediate-  
7 ly issue a provisional certificate to the applicant.

8       Section 3. Examination. The Board of Regents may require  
9 applicants for provisional certificates to take an examination  
10 prepared or approved by said Board covering the subject matter  
11 of the courses of study offered in elementary schools in Alaska,  
12 or in the subjects required in the courses prescribed by the  
13 Board of Regents of the University of Alaska, or any or all of  
14 such subjects. The applicants who pass such examination shall  
15 be issued provisional certificates. Such examinations when re-  
16 quired shall be given as soon as practicable after an application  
17 has been filed, and the Board of Regents shall designate a  
18 qualified person or persons to examine one or more applicants;  
19 provided, that the examination or examinations shall be given at  
20 such times and places throughout Alaska as will be most con-  
21 venient for the applicants.

22       Section 4. Eligibility; Renewal. The provisional certi-  
23 ficate shall entitle the holder thereof to teach in the kinder-  
24 garten to the eighth grade inclusive of the public school  
25 system. All such certificates shall be renewed biennially,  
26 provided that the holder thereof successfully completes the  
27 equivalent of at least six semester hours of credit in an ap-  
28 proved course of instruction leading to a Bachelor's Degree  
29 during the summer months at the University of Alaska, or in an

1 approved college or university within Alaska.

2 Section 5. Approved college. When any college, university,  
3 normal school, or junior college in Alaska shall have a course  
4 of study equal in extent and similar in subjects to the course  
5 prescribed by the Board of Regents of the University of Alaska,  
6 and shall have full and ample equipment and a faculty of in-  
7 structors fully competent to give and actually giving satisfactory  
8 instruction in the branches contained in such course and equiva-  
9 lent to that given in the University of Alaska or in Community  
10 Colleges, each graduate from such course may be recommended by  
11 the governing body of said institution of higher education and  
12 the faculty thereof to the Board of Regents of the University  
13 of Alaska for the issuance of the type of certificate to which  
14 his preparation entitles him, including but not limited to  
15 provisional certificates. Such colleges as are referred to in  
16 this section shall from year to year maintain entrance require-  
17 ments, degree requirements, and professional study requirements,  
18 equivalent to those of the University of Alaska and Community  
19 Colleges. Each year the President of the University of Alaska  
20 shall determine by personal inspection that the requirements  
21 have been met. If the President determines that any school does  
22 not meet such requirements, he shall set forth in writing the  
23 specific reasons therefor, and if such deficiencies are cor-  
24 rected he shall approve such college. Decisions on approval  
25 made by the President shall be reviewable by the Board of  
26 Regents and such board shall have power to reverse or revise any  
27 finding made by the President. Provisional certificates shall  
28 be issued to applicants from approved colleges subject to the  
29 restrictions and in the same manner as in this Act provided.

1           Section 6. Preference in hiring. Teachers who are residents  
2 of Alaska shall be given first preference in employment in the  
3 public schools of Alaska, and persons holding provisional certi-  
4 ficatas who are residents of Alaska shall be given preference  
5 in employment in positions for which they are qualified over  
6 persons who have not taught in Alaska previously. It shall be  
7 the duty of the Commissioner of Education to enforce the pro-  
8 visions of this section, and he shall have the power to withhold  
9 Territorial financial assistance for salaries of persons em-  
10 ployed in violation of this section. Provided, that Independent  
11 School Districts and City School Districts may set higher educa-  
12 tional standards in their elementary schools than these required  
13 for provisional certificates.

14           Section 7. Construction of Act; Power of Board of Education.  
15 The Board of Education may adopt rules and regulations for the  
16 effective performance of the provisions of this Act; Provided,  
17 that the standards and procedures for the issuance of pro-  
18 visional certificates shall not be modified by regulation to  
19 prevent the accomplishment of the purposes of this Act, and  
20 nothing in Section 37-2-7 (e), Alaska Compiled Laws Annotated  
21 1949, shall be construed to give said board power to change any  
22 of the requirements for certification as in this Act provided.

23           Section 8. That Section 37-5-5, Alaska Compiled Laws  
24 Annotated 1949, be, and the same is hereby, amended so as to  
25 read as follows:

26           37-5-5. Classification. Teacher's certificates shall  
27 be classified as follows:

- 28           1. Elementary School Certificates.
- 29           2. High School Certificates.

3. Life Certificates.

4. Temporary Certificates.

5. Provisional Certificates.

Section 9. That this Act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and approval, or upon its becoming law without such approval, and the Board of Regents shall establish a course of instruction which will qualify persons for the requirements of a provisional certificate as soon as practicable and the instruction therefor shall commence not later than the first term of the 1955-1956 academic year; Provided, that persons who have, upon the effective date of this Act or thereafter, completed a course or courses of instruction at the University of Alaska, a Community College, or an approved college, equivalent to the course prescribed for the University of Alaska in accordance with this Act shall be eligible for provisional certificates immediately or after examination as in this Act provided, notwithstanding the fact that some or all of such training preceded the effective date of this Act, and it is so enacted.