

1 IN THE SENATE

BY SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

2 SENATE BILL NO. 32

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 FIRST LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act to provide a schedule of withdrawal
7 of the State from contribution to local
8 school student transportation; and amending
9 Subsection (7) of Sec. 37-2-8, ACLA 1949,
10 as amended by Ch. 51, SLA 1957."

11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

12 Section 1. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE: DEFINITION. Recognizing
13 that local responsibility leads to a more valuable and efficient
14 system of education; that the local level is the more appropriate
15 source of funds for local schools and particularly school bus
16 transportation costs; and that the State's responsibility in
17 the field of local education is confined to the definition
18 of state-wide questions of policy and the promulgation and
19 regulation of uniform standards for the health, safety and
20 welfare of the school children of the State; it is hereby
21 declared to be the intent and purpose of this Act to provide an
22 orderly and systematic schedule of withdrawal of the State from
23 financial contribution to the transportation of pupils within
24 school districts. As used in this Act "school districts" shall
25 mean an independent school district, or a city or incorporated
26 school district or the successor or successors thereof.

27 Sec. 2. SCHEDULE OF CONTRIBUTIONS. The State of Alaska
28 shall reimburse, on a unit cost basis determined by the Board
29 of Education or its successor, school districts for the operation

1 of transportation systems for students to and from the schools
2 within their service areas on the following annual schedule:

3 For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1960: 100% of the unit
4 cost;

5 For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1961: 90% of the unit
6 cost;

7 For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1962: 80% of the unit
8 cost;

9 For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1963: 70% of the unit
10 cost;

11 For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1964: 60% of the unit
12 cost;

13 For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1965: 50% of the unit
14 cost;

15 For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1966: 40% of the unit
16 cost;

17 For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1967: 30% of the unit
18 cost;

19 For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1968: 20% of the unit
20 cost;

21 For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1969: 10% of the unit
22 cost;

23 For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1970: 0% of the unit
24 cost.

25 Thereafter, all total costs for the transportation of pupils
26 within a school district shall be at the school district level.

27 Sec. 3. SCHOOLS AND STUDENTS OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL DISTRICTS.
28 Nothing in this Act shall be construed as in any way abrogating
29 the responsibility of the State to pay the costs of student

1 transportation, for students attending schools operated exclu-
2 sively by the State, or for paying the cost of transporting
3 students who attend schools, within school districts, to the
4 boundary of such district if such students live without such
5 district. The cost for transporting such students within the
6 boundary of such district shall be borne by the district in
7 the proportion provided in Sec. 2 of this Act.

8 Sec. 4. STANDARDS FOR STUDENT TRANSPORTATION. The Board
9 of Education or its successor shall have the authority to
10 establish by rules and regulations standards for the construction,
11 maintenance and operation of the buses, boats or other forms
12 of transportation used by the school districts in transporting
13 students within their service areas.

14 Sec. 5. Subsection (7) of Sec. 37-2-8, ACLA 1949, as
15 amended by Ch. 51, SLA 1957, is hereby amended to read as
16 follows:

17 Provide such financial assistance as permitted by law
18 to school districts for the transportation of pupils who
19 reside a distance from established schools, and in order
20 to accomplish that purpose, to:

21 (a) Require school districts to enter into contracts
22 with the Board of Education of the State ~~TERRITORY~~
23 of Alaska for the administration, supervision,
24 operation or sub-contracting of the operation of
25 transportation systems for students to and from the
26 schools within their respective service area; provided,
27 however, that said district shall receive such
28 reimbursement as provided by law from the State
29 ~~TERRITORY~~ of Alaska for the operation of such

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29

transportation system on a unit cost basis which will be determined by the TERRITORIAL Board.

(b) Require all school districts, transportation contractors and other recipients of State TERRITORIAL transportation funds to submit an annual report to the Board of Education, which report shall include a financial statement and such other operational data as is directed by the Board of Education.

(c) Permit school districts to establish supplementary systems of student transportation for those students who are ineligible to utilize transportation facilities for which contribution is made PAID FOR by the State TERRITORY of Alaska; to permit said districts to charge fares or fees for such supplementary transportation systems and also to utilize local tax funds to pay, in part or in whole, the cost of such supplementary systems;