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IN THE SENATE

BY SENATOR MCNEES

SENATE BILL NO. 68

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

SECOND LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

A BILL

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

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

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

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

1 transportation systems for students to and from the schools with-  
2 in their service areas on the following annual schedule:

3 For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1961: 100% of the unit  
4 cost;

5 For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1962: 90% of the unit  
6 cost;

7 For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1963: 80% of the unit  
8 cost;

9 For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1964: 70% of the unit  
10 cost;

11 For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1965: 60% of the unit  
12 cost;

13 For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1966: 50% of the unit  
14 cost;

15 For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1967: 40% of the unit  
16 cost;

17 For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1968: 30% of the unit  
18 cost;

19 For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1969: 20% of the unit  
20 cost;

21 For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1970: 10% of the unit  
22 cost;

23 For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1971: 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 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 exclusive-  
2 ly by the state or for paying the cost of transporting students  
3 who attend schools within school districts to the boundary of  
4 such district if such students live without such district. The  
5 cost for transporting such students within the boundary of such  
6 district shall be borne by the district in the proportion pro-  
7 vided in Sec. 2 of this Act.

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

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

16 (7) Provide such financial assistance as per-  
17 mitted by law to school districts for the transportation of  
18 pupils who reside a distance from established schools, and  
19 in order to accomplish that purpose, to:

20 (a) Require school districts to enter into  
21 contracts with the Board of Education of the State  
22 [TERRITORY] of Alaska for the administration, super-  
23 vision, operation or sub-contracting of the operation of  
24 transportation systems for students to and from the  
25 schools within their respective service area; provided,  
26 however, that said district shall receive such reim-  
27 bursement as provided by law from the State [TERRITORY]  
28 of Alaska for the operation of such transportation  
29 system on a unit cost basis which will be determined by

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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;