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IN THE SENATE

BY SENATOR MCNABB

SENATE BILL NO. 288

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

SECOND LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

A BILL

For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to the observance by high school seniors of democracy in action; authorizing an appropriation; and providing for an effective date."

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

PURPOSE

The Alaska Legislature believes a well-informed electorate enhances the strength of democracy;

It further believes the welfare of the state, the nation and the entire world depends upon the survival and the propagation of the republican form of government;

Firm in these opinions and realizing that those who now share the privilege of guiding the destiny of this state shall tomorrow pass to the youth of today the burden of preserving and perpetuating our way of life; and

In an effort to better prepare its successors for the assumption of their duties than were they prepared

Sec. 1. The legislature will each year while in session serve as host to one member of the senior class of each high school in the state for a stay of one week in the capital for the purpose of observing and learning the legislative process.

Sec. 2. Each high school of the state shall annually and before the end of the calendar year select one member of its senior class as a legislative guest, each of whom shall be chosen

1 as follows:

2 a. Each high school shall sponsor a debate to which
3 each senior student shall be eligible.

4 b. The subject of such debate shall be "Resolved that
5 democracy in Alaska shall be strengthened by the attendance at the
6 legislature of a member of this class."

7 c. Each student shall, without interference, select the
8 affirmative or negative position regardless of number of selections.

9 d. The debate shall be judged by

10 (1) the membership of the high school

11 (2) the entire high school faculty

12 (3) the entire membership of the school board or

13 the parent-teacher association in the absence of a school
14 board;

15 each of whom as a group shall have one independent vote.

16 In the event that no student receives two or more votes, the
17 three named nominees shall debate before the same judges the
18 question: "Resolved, I should be chosen the representative of
19 this school to the state capital."

20 If no student receives a majority vote, selection shall be
21 made from the three eligible by lot or chance.

22 Sec. 3. When the representative of the senior class has been
23 selected pursuant to provisions of Sec. 2 of this Act, the
24 principal of the school shall certify the selection to the Legisla-
25 tive Council. The Legislative Council is responsible for making
26 all necessary administrative and fiscal arrangements for the trans-
27 portation and housing of the selected students in coordination with
28 the principals. Funds for the transportation, housing and meals
29 of the students shall be included in the general appropriation

1 for legislative expenses as budgeted for by the Legislative Council.

2 Sec. 4. Prior to his departure from the state capital, each
3 legislative guest shall prepare and submit to the Director of the
4 Legislative Council a paper of not less than 1,000 words entitled
5 "The Legislature Should . . ." Each paper shall be examined and
6 judged as to content by the Governor, the President of the Senate,
7 the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Minority Leader
8 of the Senate and the Minority Leader of the House, and the author
9 of the paper determined best by majority vote shall receive a
10 one-year scholarship to the University of Alaska.

11 Sec. 5. This Act takes effect on the day after its passage
12 and approval or on the day it becomes law without such approval.

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