

Offered: 2/16/71
Referred: Health, Welfare
and Education

1 IN THE SENATE

BY JOSEPHSON

2 SENATE BILL NO. 118

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to the Alaska Board of Child Develop-
7 ment."

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

9 * Section 1. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS. The legislature finds that:

10 (1) there exists a demand within the state for preprimary edu-
11 cational opportunities for children and that lay and expert opinions hold
12 that the availability of preprimary learning experience in small groups
13 can be a significant and positive factor in the development of adult
14 personality, talent and character;

15 (2) too little is known about the optimum type and content of
16 such experience and in fact realizes that there may be no optimum, but
17 rather a need for a variety of programs tailored to fit the needs of
18 children from diverse backgrounds;

19 (3) because Alaska is geographically remote from major United
20 States population centers where much existing research is in process in the
21 field of early childhood development, it is vital that Alaska provide
22 various, diverse models for preprimary education and that there needs to
23 be established a clearinghouse for the exchange of information and ideas,
24 and periodic state conferences on early childhood development, and that
25 progress be made towards periodic evaluation of model projects in this
26 field; and

27 (4) availability of preprimary day care centers and learning
28 centers will permit more parents to participate in the economic life of
29 the community, will thus make available new talent in our economic life,

1 and will relieve some households from a cycle of economic dependency upon
2 government.

3 * Sec. 2. AS 47 is amended by adding a new chapter to read:

4 CHAPTER 45. ALASKA BOARD OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT.

5 Sec. 47.45.010. ALASKA BOARD OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT. There is
6 created in the Department of Health and Welfare the Alaska Board of
7 Child Development.

8 Sec. 47.45.020. COMPOSITION OF BOARD. The board consists of
9 11 members appointed by the governor and serving at his pleasure. In
10 making his appointments the governor shall appoint at least

- 11 (1) one representative of organized labor;
- 12 (2) one professional psychologist, pediatrician, psychia-
13 trist, or social worker;
- 14 (3) one certificated elementary educator;
- 15 (4) one employed mother;
- 16 (5) two members of minority groups;
- 17 (6) one member who is within the "target" or "recipient"
18 community served by a Community Action or Model Cities agency; and
- 19 (7) one person actively engaged in the operation or manage-
20 ment of a nonprofit preprimary day care or educational center.

21 Sec. 47.45.030. POWERS AND DUTIES OF BOARD. The board shall

- 22 (1) identify available funding sources for day care and
23 educational centers;
- 24 (2) administer grants the legislature may from time to time
25 appropriate for educational or day care programs, at the prekinderg-
26 garten level, as well as act as the state agency for channcling federal
27 funds that may become available;
- 28 (3) provide an informational clearinghouse for parents
29 and communities wishing to start providing local day care or preprimary

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educational service on a nonprofit or cooperative basis;

(4) provide technical assistance to local communities, citizen groups, nonprofit corporations, Community Action agencies, and other similar groups with respect to early childhood training;

(5) at least biennially, conduct a statewide Governor's Conference on Early Childhood Development; and

(6) submit to the legislature an annual report, including recommendations for possible legislation pertaining to prekindergarten children.

Sec. 47.45.040. COMPENSATION AND EXPENSES. Members of the board receive no salary, but are entitled to per diem and travel expenses authorized by law for other boards and commissions.

Sec. 47.45.050. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR TO ASSIST BOARD. The Department of Health and Welfare shall furnish the clerical and technical assistance and personnel the board may require.