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1 IN THE HOUSE

BY THE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND
SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

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CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 180

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5

A BILL

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For an Act entitled: "An Act creating the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary
7 Education; and providing for an effective date."

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

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* Section 1. AS 14.40 is amended by adding new sections to read:

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ARTICLE 11. ALASKA COMMISSION ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION.

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Sec. 14.40.901. PURPOSE, INTENT. (a) The legislature finds and

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declares that it has become essential for Alaska to provide for a more

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efficient use of financial resources, both federal and state, in pro-

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viding postsecondary educational services to its citizens. Thus, the

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state should create a more closely articulated system of planning for

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postsecondary education, with special reference to occupational educa-

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tion and the unique contribution made by the community colleges. The

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objective of this chapter is the coordinated, comprehensive planning

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for postsecondary education in Alaska, encompassing public, private

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and proprietary postsecondary educational institutions and agencies in

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the state, in order to lessen the disparate planning efforts of the

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several state agencies and others now planning one or more elements

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of postsecondary education. At the same time, the Education Amendments

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of 1972 (PL 92-318) affords the state the opportunity to draw together

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programs widely scattered outside the statewide university system but

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which are related to postsecondary, and especially higher, education

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that would be more effectively administered by a more visible single

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agency and thus more clearly and directly accountable to the legislature

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and to the people of Alaska.

1 (b) The legislature affirms that the constitutional responsibility
2 and the legal authority for the operation and management of the state-
3 wide university system remains solely with the Board of Regents of the
4 University of Alaska and the authority for the operation and management
5 of other postsecondary educational programs remains equally firmly
6 lodged with the governing boards of the other private nonprofit and
7 proprietary institutions in the state.

8 Sec. 14.40.903. CREATION, COMPOSITION, APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS.

9 (a) There is in the Office of the Governor the Alaska Commission on
10 Postsecondary Education consisting of:

11 (1) two members of the Board of Regents of the University of
12 Alaska designated by the members of that body;

13 (2) one person representing private higher education in the
14 state selected jointly by the Boards of Trustees of Alaska Methodist
15 University and Sheldon Jackson College from among their membership;

16 (3) one person representing the Department of Education
17 selected by the state board of education;

18 (4) five persons broadly and equitably representative of the
19 general public appointed by the governor;

20 (5) one member of the state Advisory Council on Vocational
21 Education designated by the members of that body;

22 (6) one person from among the members of the local community
23 college advisory councils appointed, initially, by the governor until
24 the state Advisory Council on Community Colleges is established and
25 organized under sec. 909(b) of this chapter; then, one member of the
26 state Advisory Council on Community Colleges designated by the members
27 of that body.

28 (b) For the purpose of (a)(4) of this section "broadly and equit-
29 ably representative of the general public" means that the public

1 membership of the commission shall include adequate representation
2 both on the basis of sex and on the basis of the significant racial,
3 ethnic, geographic and economic groups in the state. However, no
4 governing body member, trustee, official or employee of either a
5 public, private or proprietary institution of postsecondary or
6 higher education in the state may be appointed to membership on the
7 commission as representative of the general public.

8 (c) The governor's appointees are subject to confirmation by
9 the legislature and shall serve four-year staggered terms. Members
10 appointed by bodies or agencies other than the governor serve at the
11 pleasure of the appointing authority. Vacancies shall be filled in
12 the same manner as original appointment.

13 Sec. 14.40.905. OFFICERS. The chairman and vice-chairman shall
14 be elected from among the members of the commission for a one-year
15 term and no member of the commission may serve as chairman for more
16 than two consecutive one-year terms.

17 Sec. 14.40.907. MEETINGS, RULES, VOTES REQUIRED. The commission
18 shall prescribe its own rules of procedure. The commission shall meet
19 once quarterly at a time and place determined by the chairman, and
20 at other times and places as the chairman, or a majority of the
21 members of the commission, consider necessary. A quorum is a majority
22 of the members of the commission. The votes of the commission
23 members shall be recorded and effective action requires the affirm-
24 ative vote of a majority of the commission members present. No
25 commission member may, with respect to a matter before the commission,
26 vote for or on behalf of, or in any way exercise the vote of, another
27 member of the commission.

28 Sec. 14.40.909. FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMISSION. (a) The commission
29 has the following functions, advisory to the governing boards of

1 institutions of public and private higher education in Alaska, to the
2 governor, the legislature and to other appropriate state and federal
3 officials:

4 (1) coordinate the development of comprehensive plans
5 for the orderly, systematic growth of public and private postsecondary
6 education, including community colleges and occupational education,
7 in the state and submit recommendations on the need for, and location
8 of, new facilities and programs;

9 (2) advise as to the functions and purposes of the colleges
10 and universities, both public and private, in the state and counsel
11 as to the programs appropriate to each;

12 (3) review the annual budgets and capital outlay requests
13 of the University of Alaska and of each of the private colleges and
14 universities in the state, and present comments on the general level
15 of support sought;

16 (4) review and advise as to the working of all consortia
17 and other cooperative agreements between the institutions of higher
18 education in the state that are parties to them;

19 (5) submit to the governor and to the legislature within
20 10 days after the beginning of each regular session of the legislature
21 a report which recommends necessary or desirable changes, if any,
22 in the functions and programs of the several segments of the
23 total complex of both public and private postsecondary education
24 in Alaska.

25 (b) The commission shall

26 (1) develop a comprehensive statewide plan for coordinated
27 postsecondary education in the state and serve as the state com-
28 mission on postsecondary education required under sec. 1202 of
29 Title XIII of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended by the

1 Education Amendments of 1972 (PL 92-318, sec. 196; 86 Stat. 324);

2 (2) establish a state advisory council on community
3 colleges and develop a comprehensive statewide plan for the expan-
4 sion and improvement of the community colleges under sec. 1001 of
5 Title X of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended by the
6 Education Amendments of 1972 (PL 92-318, sec. 186; 86 Stat. 312,
7 313);

8 (3) serve as the state agency required under secs. 105 of
9 Title I (Community Service and Continuing Education), 603 of Title
10 VI (Financial Assistance for Undergraduate Education) and 704 of
11 Title VII (Construction of Academic Facilities) of the Higher Educa-
12 tion Act of 1965 (PL 89-329; 79 Stat. 1220, 1262; 20 U. S. C.
13 1005, 1123) as authorized by sec. 1202(c) of Title XII of the
14 Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended by the Education Amendments
15 of 1972 (PL 92-318, sec. 196; 86 Stat. 324);

16 (4) administer the provisions of AS 14.40.751 - 14.40.806
17 (student loan and tuition grant program), and serve as the student
18 financial aid committee;

19 (5) administer the provisions of AS 14.47.010 - 14.47.060
20 (regulation of educational institutions: diplomas).

21 (c) The commission may establish task forces, committees or
22 subcommittees, not necessarily consisting of commission members,
23 to advise and assist the commission in carrying out its functions
24 assigned by state or federal statute. The commission may contract
25 with, or use, existing institutions of higher education or other
26 organizations to make studies, conduct surveys, submit recommendations
27 or otherwise contribute to the work of the commission. The commission
28 may appoint a committee to be responsible for the area of student
29 financial aid.

1 Sec. 14.40.911. COLLECTION OF DATA. The commission may require
2 the institutions of public and private higher education, and other
3 institutions of postsecondary education, in the state to submit data
4 on costs, selection and retention of students, enrollments, plant
5 capacities and use and other matters pertinent to effective planning
6 and coordination, and shall furnish information concerning these
7 matters to the governor, to the legislature and to other state and
8 federal agencies as requested by them.

9 Sec. 14.40.913. APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND STAFF. The
10 commission may appoint an executive officer. The executive officer is
11 a member of the exempt service under AS 39.25.110, serves at the
12 pleasure of the commission, and he receives compensation fixed by the
13 commission. The executive officer appoints persons to the staff
14 positions authorized by the commission and staff compensation is fixed
15 by the commission. The executive officer is the executive secretary
16 of the student financial aid committee. Each employee of the commission
17 shall elect membership either in the state teachers' retirement system
18 (AS 14.25), if qualified, or in the public employees' retirement system
19 (AS 39.35).

20 Sec. 14.40.915. COMPENSATION AND PER DIEM. Members of the
21 commission serve without compensation but are entitled to per
22 diem and travel expenses as may be authorized by law for boards and
23 commissions.

24 * Sec. 2. AS 14.40.753(a) is repealed and re-enacted to read:

25 (a) There is created the student financial aid committee composed
26 of the members of the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education. The
27 commission may delegate its functions under secs. 751 - 806 of this
28 chapter to a committee of its members, with augmented membership as the
29 commission considers appropriate. The executive officer of the com-

1 mission is the executive secretary of the committee. The Alaska Com-
2 mission on Postsecondary Education shall administer the program estab-
3 lished by secs. 751 - 806 of this chapter.

4 * Sec. 3. AS 14.40.763(i) is amended to read:

5 (1) If a loan is in default, the commission [DEPARTMENT OF
6 EDUCATION] may notify the student that repayment of the remaining
7 balance is accelerated and due by sending the student a notice by
8 registered or certified mail.

9 * Sec. 4. AS 14.40.806 is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

10 (6) "commission" means the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary
11 Education.

12 * Sec. 5. AS 14.47.010 is amended to read:

13 Sec. 14.47.010. REQUIREMENTS FOR CONFERRING OF DIPLOMAS. No per-
14 son may confer a diploma unless the person meets the requirements estab-
15 lished by the commission [DEPARTMENT].

16 * Sec. 6. AS 14.47.020 is amended to read:

17 Sec. 14.47.020. ESTABLISHMENT OF REQUIREMENTS. In establishing
18 requirements for the conferring of diplomas the commission [DEPARTMENT]
19 shall promulgate [ENACT] regulations taking into consideration

- 20 (1) course offerings;
21 (2) facilities;
22 (3) financial stability;
23 (4) personnel;
24 (5) operating practices; and
25 (6) admission practices.

26 * Sec. 7. AS 14.47.030 is amended to read:

27 Sec. 14.47.030. HEARING AND ORDER ON VIOLATIONS. (a) On the
28 complaint of any person or on its own motion the commission [DEPARTMENT]
29 may conduct an investigation to determine if the requirements of secs.

1 10 - 20 of this chapter are being met. If there are grounds for
2 believing that a person is not meeting the requirements the commission
3 [DEPARTMENT] may institute proceedings under AS 44.62.330 - 44.62.630.
4 On a finding of a violation of sec. 20 of this chapter, the commission
5 [DEPARTMENT] shall order the respondent to cease conferring diplomas
6 until the requirements are met.

7 (b) If a respondent is the subject of an order under (a) of this
8 section, the respondent may confer no diploma without the approval of the
9 commission [DEPARTMENT] showing that the respondent has complied with
10 the regulations promulgated [ENACTED] under sec. 20 of this chapter.

11 * Sec. 8. AS 14.47.050 is amended to read:

12 Sec. 14.47.050. PENALTY. A person who violates an order of the
13 commission [DEPARTMENT] issued under sec. 30(b) of this chapter is guilty
14 of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction is punishable by imprisonment in a
15 jail for not more than 30 days, or by a fine of not more than \$1,000, or
16 by both. Each diploma conferred in violation of sec. 30(b) of this
17 chapter is a separate violation.

18 * Sec. 9. AS 14.47.060 is amended to read:

19 Sec. 14.47.060. DEFINITIONS. In secs. 10 - 50 of this chapter,
20 (1) "diploma" means a degree, certificate, transcript,
21 document, or other writing in any language representing that a person
22 has completed a course of study beyond high school or is honored for
23 achievement, and includes but is not limited to a diploma purporting to
24 be a degree of bachelor, master, doctor, or fellow in any field of
25 knowledge or endeavor. Graduation from high school or its equivalent
26 need not be nor purport to be a prerequisite for undertaking or com-
27 pleting the course of study; [.]

28 (2) "commission" means the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary
29 Education.

1 * Sec. 10. AS 39.25.110 is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:
2 (14) the executive officer of the Alaska Commission on
3 Postsecondary Education.

4 * Sec. 11. One public member appointed under AS 14.40.903(a)(4) shall be
5 appointed for a one-year term, one for a two-year term, one for a three-year
6 term and two for four-year terms.

7 * Sec. 12. Except for AS 14.40.909(b)(3), this Act takes effect on the
8 day after its passage and approval or on the day it becomes law without
9 approval. AS 14.40.909(b)(3) takes effect July 1, 1973.

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