

Introduced: 3/5/73
Referred: Finance

BY THE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND
SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

1 IN THE HOUSE

2 HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 67

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Relating to a study of the funding
6 of public early childhood, elementary
7 and secondary education.

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

9 WHEREAS financial support of public early childhood, elementary, and
10 secondary education programs comprises a main portion of current state
11 expenditures; and

12 WHEREAS the legislature has not made a comprehensive review of all such
13 state financial support for more than a decade; and

14 WHEREAS there has not been a thorough legislative review of the founda-
15 tion program for at least three years; and

16 WHEREAS there are several bills under study which deal with individual
17 aspects of state financial support to public early childhood, elementary,
18 and secondary education; and

19 WHEREAS Alaska may be faced with the necessity of changing the level of
20 state financial support to such programs; and

21 WHEREAS the threat of lower levels of state support comes at a time
22 when school financing could be vastly increased by the inclusion of early
23 childhood and special education into the system; and

24 WHEREAS, with the advent of statehood, it was contemplated that ultimate-
25 ly elementary and secondary schools operated by the Bureau of Indian Affairs,
26 U. S. Department of the Interior, would be transferred to the State of Alaska
27 with the state becoming responsible for the operation of these schools; and

28 WHEREAS since 1969 there has been little progress toward this transfer,
29 and no educational and financial feasibility study of transfer of BIA schools

1 to state operation has been made by the affected parties -- the State Depart-
2 ment of Education, the State-Operated School System, or the U. S. Bureau of
3 Indian Affairs; and

4 WHEREAS changes in priorities in funding programs at the national level
5 of government may require earlier consideration of the state's responsibility
6 for elementary and secondary education now conducted by the BIA;

7 BE IT RESOLVED by the legislature that the Legislative Council is re-
8 quested to undertake a comprehensive study of the state funding of education,
9 including examination of the current foundation program operation, the
10 problems of capital outlay and debt service, the potential reduction of state
11 school expenditures, the educational services in the unorganized borough,
12 and all other pertinent matters of financial import; and be it

13 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Council is requested to
14 incorporate an educational and financial feasibility study of the transfer
15 of BIA schools to state operation into the comprehensive study of state
16 funding of education, including but not limited to the following areas of
17 concern: (1) establishment of a timetable for the eventual transfer of all
18 BIA schools in Alaska to state operation and control; (2) a determination
19 if BIA physical facilities, instructional personnel and educational programs
20 meet state standards and if they meet the needs of the communities they
21 presently serve; (3) provision for a means whereby the BIA schools' physical
22 plants, instructional personnel and educational programs can meet state
23 standards before transfer to the State of Alaska; and (4) provision for a
24 formula whereby the federal government would continue to fund the operation
25 of the former BIA schools for one year after the transfer is effected; and
26 be it

27 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council's report and recommendations on state
28 funding of schools be presented to the Eighth Legislature - Second Session.
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