

Offered: 4/3/84  
Referred: Finance

Original sponsors: Ferguson and Sackett

1 IN THE SENATE

BY THE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND  
SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

2

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 426 (HESS)

3

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5

A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to University of Alaska scholarships

7

for rural students."

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

9

\* Section 1. AS 14.43.050 is repealed and reenacted to read:

10

Sec. 14.43.050. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE. The legislature finds

11

that there are few teachers in rural schools in the state who are of

12

rural Alaskan origin themselves. As a result, students in rural

13

schools frequently lack effective professional role models who can

14

serve as examples of professional achievement and educational attain-

15

ment. The relative lack of teachers with rural backgrounds also

16

hinders recognition of rural and ethnic cultures, languages, and

17

traditions in the schools. In bilingual settings, teachers who have

18

been raised with an understanding of a non-English language that is

19

spoken by Alaskan students in their charge may achieve the greatest

20

success in teaching English. It is the purpose of the legislature to

21

provide assistance to rural students who are qualified to attend the

22

University of Alaska, but who would otherwise be prevented for finan-

23

cial reasons from pursuing their higher education goals.

24

\* Sec. 2. AS 14.43.055 is repealed and reenacted to read:

25

Sec. 14.43.055. SCHOLARSHIPS. The Board of Regents of the

26

University of Alaska shall offer new scholarships for each academic

27

year to rural students desiring to attend the University of Alaska.

28

Each school board of a rural borough or city school district or a

29

regional educational attendance area may nominate one student from the

1 district or regional educational attendance area for a scholarship  
2 under this section. Before a student may be awarded a scholarship,  
3 the Board of Regents shall determine that the student is qualified to  
4 be admitted to the university. The Board of Regents shall award  
5 scholarships based on nominations received from school boards and  
6 shall consider the nominations on a geographically equitable basis.  
7 Preference in awarding scholarships shall be given to students who  
8 intend to pursue teaching careers. The University of Alaska shall  
9 provide financial assistance to a student awarded a scholarship under  
10 this section for the full cost of tuition, fees, room and board,  
11 incidental expenses of \$100 a month, and round-trip air fare between  
12 the university campus and the student's home two times during the  
13 academic year.

14 \* Sec. 3. AS 14.43.060 is amended to read:

15 Sec. 14.43.060. CONTINUATION OF SCHOLARSHIPS. The scholarship  
16 award [OF FREE ROOM AND BOARD] shall be made from any funds available  
17 to the University of Alaska. Each student [NATIVE] who receives a  
18 scholarship under AS 14.43.050 - 14.43.075 is entitled to retain the  
19 scholarship and to receive scholarship benefits [FREE ROOM AND BOARD]  
20 during attendance at the University of Alaska as long as the student  
21 maintains a grade average equivalent to a "C" or better and is en-  
22 rolled as a full-time student. However, a student [NO NATIVE] is not  
23 entitled to the scholarship [FOR MORE THAN FOUR YEARS, OR] for more  
24 than the number of years necessary to receive a bachelor's degree.

25 \* Sec. 4. AS 14.43.075 is repealed and reenacted to read:

26 Sec. 14.43.075. DEFINITION. In AS 14.43.050 - 14.43.075 "rural  
27 borough or city school district" means a school district in the state  
28 that serves an area in which the population of the largest community  
29 does not exceed 4,500.