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Referred: Health, Education & Social Services

BY FAIKS, FERGUSON, ZIEGLER,  
RODEY, STURGULEWSKI AND HALFORD

1 IN THE SENATE

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SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 13

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

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FOURTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5

Relating to infant learning programs.

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

7 WHEREAS the Education of the Handicapped Act (P.L. 94-142) requires  
8 each state to provide education services to handicapped children; and

9 WHEREAS the Legislature has expressed its commitment to carry out the  
10 provisions of P.L. 94-142 through the enactment of AS 14.30.180, which  
11 indicates the State's intent to provide "an appropriate public education  
12 for exceptional children in the state who are at least three years of age  
13 but less than 22 years of age"; and

14 WHEREAS the Legislature has further expressed its commitment to pro-  
15 vide public education and training to exceptional children under the age of  
16 three through the enactment of AS 47.20.005, which directs the Department  
17 of Health and Social Services to establish to the maximum extent possible  
18 "a learning program which emphasizes individual needs, is home based, and  
19 involves parents in the education and training of their children"; and

20 WHEREAS the legislature finds that the Department of Health and Social  
21 Services is doing an excellent job in meeting the provisions of AS 47.20.-  
22 005, in spite of the limited level of funding available to support these  
23 services when compared to the number of identified children in need; and

24 WHEREAS it is the intent of the Legislature that all exceptional  
25 children regardless of age and residence in the state receive benefit from  
26 infant learning and special education programs; and

27 WHEREAS special education programs are currently funded as part of the  
28 Department of Education's public school foundation program and infant  
29 learning programs are not; and

1       WHEREAS an integral part of the Legislature's commitment to Alaska's  
2 very young exceptional children is sufficient funding to support infant  
3 learning as well as special education programs;

4       BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the Department of  
5 Education is requested to work with the Department of Health and Social  
6 Services to determine how responsibility for infant learning services cur-  
7 rently provided by the Department of Health and Social Services can be  
8 cooperatively implemented with the Department of Education and how funding  
9 can be incorporated into the public school foundation program; and be it

10       FURTHER RESOLVED that implementation of program responsibilities  
11 should include continuation by the Department of Education of the emphasis  
12 currently placed by the Department of Health and Social Services on  
13 individual needs in a home-based setting and the involvement of parents in  
14 the education and training of their children; and be it

15       FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is requested to  
16 report to the Legislature how funding for infant learning programs can be  
17 incorporated into the public school foundation program as categorical  
18 funding for infant learning programs; and be it

19       FURTHER RESOLVED that both departments work with the Interagency  
20 Planning Group for Early Childhood Special Education in the development of  
21 the departments' report to the Legislature; and be it

22       FURTHER RESOLVED that the report be submitted to the Legislature by  
23 the 10th day of the Second Session of the Fourteenth Legislature.