

Offered: 4/24/85
Referred: Finance

Original sponsors: Faiks, Ferguson,
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BY THE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND
SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

1 IN THE SENATE

2 CS FOR SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 13 (HESS)

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 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 appropriate public education and training for the exceptional children
16 in this state who have not reached the age of three" through the enactment
17 of AS 47.20.005, which directs the Department of Health and Social Services
18 to establish to the maximum extent possible "a learning program which
19 emphasizes individual needs, is home based, and involves parents in the
20 education and training of their children"; and

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

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

28 WHEREAS special education programs are currently funded as part of the
29 Department of Education's public school foundation program and infant

1 learning programs are funded on a grants basis through the Department of
2 Health and Social Services; and

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

6 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the Department of
7 Education is requested to work with the Department of Health and Social
8 Services to determine how infant learning services currently provided by
9 the Department of Health and Social Services can be cooperatively imple-
10 mented with the Department of Education and whether or how funding can be
11 incorporated into the public school foundation program; and be it

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

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

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