

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY HERRMANN AND DAVIDSON

2

HOUSE BILL NO. 495

3

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5

A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to a fisheries education curriculum;
7 and providing for an effective date."

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

9 * Section 1. FINDINGS. The legislature finds that

10 (1) the commercial fishing and processing industry contributes
11 millions of dollars to the state's economy and employs thousands of people
12 in the state each year;

13 (2) major segments of the state's commercial fishing and pro-
14 cessing industry are controlled by interests outside the state and outside
15 the United States, and a large proportion of jobs in the industry are held
16 by nonresidents;

17 (3) elementary pupils and secondary students in the state
18 generally receive no instruction about the importance to the state of the
19 commercial fishing and processing industry, and about opportunities for
20 jobs and careers in the industry; and

21 (4) the establishment of a fisheries education curriculum in
22 elementary and secondary schools would be of great benefit to young
23 Alaskans, to the industry, and to the state's economy.

24 * Sec. 2. AS 14.30 is amended by adding new sections to read:

25 ARTICLE 5A. FISHERIES EDUCATION.

26 Sec. 14.30.420. FISHERIES EDUCATION. (a) A school board may
27 establish a fisheries education curriculum in elementary and secondary
28 schools in the district or regional education attendance area. The
29 curriculum should include instruction related to the importance to the

1 state of the commercial fishing and processing industry, opportunities
2 for jobs and careers in the industry, and the development of skills
3 relevant to employment in the industry.

4 (b) The department shall encourage boards to develop programs
5 under (a) of this section. The department may develop model programs
6 and materials for distribution to school boards.

7 Sec. 14.30.425. FISHERIES EDUCATION FUND. (a) There is estab-
8 lished in the department the fisheries education fund as an account in
9 the general fund. The fund consists of money appropriated to it.
10 Money in the fund may be used to make grants to districts and regional
11 education attendance areas to develop and implement a fisheries educa-
12 tion curriculum.

13 (b) The department shall adopt regulations for the determination
14 of entitlement to fisheries education grants, application and approval
15 of grants, and administration of grants. In making grants under this
16 section, the department shall give priority to the development of new
17 programs and to programs that are designed to assist in the economic
18 development of the attendance area served by the applicant.

19 * Sec. 3. This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).