

1 IN THE SENATE

BY HENSLEY

2

SENATE BILL NO. 436

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 certification of teachers; and
7 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 school districts in
10 the state are seeking to ensure the continuity and vitality of cultures and
11 languages native to the state by employing persons who, from their life
12 experiences, are well qualified to act as instructors of these subjects
13 even though they are not holders of baccalaureate degrees. The legislature
14 further finds that

15 (1) graduates of degree programs are not available to conduct
16 these courses in Native languages and cultures;

17 (2) the instructors who are employed are performing duties and
18 carrying out responsibilities comparable to those of certificated teachers,
19 but are unable to obtain the benefits of that status because of existing
20 teacher certification requirements; and

21 (3) there is a need for issuance of a new type of certificate to
22 enable these instructors in Native languages and cultures to become certifi-
23 cated.

24 * Sec. 2. AS 14.20.020(b) is amended to read:

25 (b) A person is not eligible for a teacher certificate unless
26 that person has received at least a baccalaureate degree from an
27 institution of higher education accredited by a recognized regional
28 accrediting association or approved by the commissioner. However,
29 this subsection does not apply [IS NOT APPLICABLE] to a person

1 (1) [PERSONS] employed in the state public school system on
2 September 1, 1962;

3 (2) [PERSONS] issued an emergency certificate during a
4 situation that [WHICH], in the judgment of the commissioner, requires
5 the temporary issuance of a certificate to a person not otherwise
6 qualified; or

7 (3) who

8 (A) is employed or will be employed by a school dis-
9 trict to teach Alaska Native language or culture;

10 (B) has learned about the subject to be taught by
11 living in the culture or using the language in daily life; and

12 (C) is qualified to teach the subject to elementary or
13 secondary students as required by regulations adopted by the
14 department.

15 * Sec. 3. AS 14.20.020 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

16 (f) A person issued a certificate under (b)(3) of this section
17 is entitled to the employment benefits to which a holder of a regular
18 teacher certificate is entitled.

19 * Sec. 4. This Act takes effect July 1, 1988.