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Referred: Health, Education and
Social Services and
Finance

5-2104A

1 IN THE SENATE

BY THE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND
SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

2

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 34

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5

Establishing a Senate Special Committee

6

on School Performance.

7 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE:

8 WHEREAS expenditures for public education in Alaska are higher on a
9 per capita basis than in any other state in the nation; and

10 WHEREAS, despite this level of expenditures, standardized achievement
11 tests show 60 to 80 percent of the students in many of our school districts
12 to be performing below the national average in reading, language arts,
13 mathematics, and other basic skill areas; and

14 WHEREAS these low levels of achievement are largely found in districts
15 having low-income families, bilingual pupils, and environments culturally
16 different from that of most Alaskans; and

17 WHEREAS despite the varied efforts of individual school districts and
18 the Department of Education, the performance levels in these basic skill
19 areas in most of these districts have shown little change in recent years;
20 and

21 WHEREAS the Senate believes the student test results are indicators
22 not only of student performance but school performance as well; and

23 WHEREAS effective school performance is generally believed to be
24 dependent upon the joined efforts of students, parents, teachers, and
25 administrators; and

26 WHEREAS the Senate is deeply concerned over what appears to be the
27 inadequate preparation of hundreds of Alaska's youth for employment, train-
28 ing, or further education;

29 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate that a Special Committee on School

1 Performance is established consisting of five members of the Senate ap-
2 pointed by the President of the Senate who shall designate a member to
3 chair the committee; and be it

4 FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall identify steps being taken
5 by school districts with low student performance in basic skill areas to
6 improve that performance and recommend actions that may be taken by the
7 legislature to improve student performance in those districts, and that the
8 committee shall report its findings and recommendations to the legislature
9 on the first day of the First Regular Session of the Sixteenth Alaska State
10 Legislature; and be it

11 FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee is authorized to meet during the
12 Second Regular Session of the Fifteenth Alaska State Legislature and during
13 the interim, and is terminated on the first day of the First Regular Ses-
14 sion of the Sixteenth Alaska State Legislature.