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Referred: State Affairs, Health
Education & Social Services,
Judiciary, and Finance

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY MARTIN

2 HOUSE BILL NO. 31

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act establishing the Alaska education trust fund
7 and authorizing advance tuition payment contracts;
8 and providing for an effective date."

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

10 * Section 1. AS 14.42 is amended by adding new sections to read:

11 ARTICLE 3. ALASKA EDUCATION TRUST FUND.

12 Sec. 14.42.400. ALASKA EDUCATION TRUST FUND ESTABLISHED. (a)

13 The Alaska education trust fund is established as an endowment trust
14 fund separate from the general fund. The fund may be divided into
15 separate accounts for accounting purposes.

16 (b) The fund consists of

17 (1) permanent fund dividend and cash contributions made
18 under AS 14.42.420 under the terms of an advance tuition payment
19 contract;

20 (2) legislative appropriations to the fund;

21 (3) gifts, bequests, and contributions of cash or other
22 assets from a person; and

23 (4) income and earnings of the fund.

24 (c) Assets of the fund shall be expended in the following order
25 of priority:

26 (1) to make payments to the University of Alaska on behalf
27 of qualified beneficiaries;

28 (2) to make refunds upon termination of an advance tuition
29 payment contract;

1 (3) to pay the costs of administration of the fund.

2 Sec. 14.42.410. POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE COMMISSIONER OF REVE-
3 NUE. The commissioner of revenue is the treasurer of the fund and has
4 the following powers and duties under this section:

5 (1) to act as official custodian of the cash and invest-
6 ments belonging to the fund by securing adequate and safe custodial
7 facilities;

8 (2) to receive all items of cash and investments belonging
9 to the fund;

10 (3) to collect the principal and income from investments
11 owned or acquired by the state treasury and deposit the amounts in
12 separate principal and income accounts for the fund;

13 (4) to invest and reinvest the assets of the fund as pro-
14 vided in this section and as provided for the investment of retirement
15 funds under AS 14.25.180(b), (c), and (e) - (h);

16 (5) to exercise the powers of an owner with respect to the
17 assets of the fund;

18 (6) to do all acts, whether or not expressly authorized,
19 that the commissioner of revenue considers necessary or proper in
20 administering the assets of the fund;

21 (7) to maintain accounting records of the fund in accor-
22 dance with investment accounting principles and with distinction
23 between the principal and income accounts of the fund;

24 (8) to engage an independent firm of certified public
25 accountants to annually audit the financial condition of the fund's
26 investments and investment transactions;

27 (9) to enter into and enforce contracts or agreements
28 considered necessary for the investment purposes of the fund;

29 (10) to report to the commission the condition and

investment performance of the fund.

Sec. 14.42.420. CONTRIBUTION TO THE ALASKA EDUCATION TRUST FUND.

(a) Contributions to the fund under the terms of an advance payment contract may be made by direct cash payments or by contributions from the permanent fund dividend. The Department of Revenue shall prepare the permanent fund dividend application to allow an applicant to contribute all or part of a dividend to the fund under the terms of an advance tuition payment contract.

(b) The Department of Revenue shall pay contributions directly to the fund.

Sec. 14.42.430. POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION. (a) The commission may contract with a purchaser for the advance payment of tuition by the purchaser for a qualified beneficiary to attend a branch of the university to which the qualified beneficiary is admitted, without further tuition cost to the qualified beneficiary.

(b) The commission shall

(1) make appropriate arrangements with the university as necessary to fulfill the commission's obligations under an advance tuition payment contract, including arrangements for the payment of current tuition rates to the university from the fund;

(2) establish standard payment plans to be used under advance tuition payment contracts;

(3) establish the circumstances under which an advance tuition payment contract may be terminated and the amount of the refund the person entitled to terminate the contract may receive.

Sec. 14.42.440. ADVANCE TUITION PAYMENT CONTRACTS. (a) An advance tuition payment contract shall include

(1) the amount of payments required from the purchaser on behalf of the qualified beneficiary;

- 1 (2) the terms and conditions for making the payments;
- 2 (3) provisions for late payment charges and for default;
- 3 (4) the name and age of the qualified beneficiary under the
- 4 contract and a statement that the purchaser, with the approval of the
- 5 commission, may substitute another person for the qualified benefi-
- 6 ciary originally named in the contract;
- 7 (5) the number of credit hours to be provided to the quali-
- 8 fied beneficiary under the contract;
- 9 (6) the name of the persons entitled to terminate the
- 10 contract, the terms and conditions under which the contract may be
- 11 terminated, and the amount of the refund to which the person terminat-
- 12 ing the contract is entitled;
- 13 (7) the assumption of a contractual obligation by the
- 14 commission to provide for credit hours of higher education at the
- 15 university;
- 16 (8) the number of credit hours the qualified beneficiary
- 17 may receive if the qualified beneficiary is not entitled to in-state
- 18 tuition at the time of enrollment at the university;
- 19 (9) the period of time during which the qualified benefi-
- 20 ciary may receive the benefits of the contract; and
- 21 (10) other terms and conditions the commission determines to
- 22 be appropriate.

23 (b) An advance tuition payment contract may be terminated

- 24 (1) if the qualified beneficiary dies;
- 25 (2) if the qualified beneficiary is not admitted to a
- 26 branch of the university after making a proper application;
- 27 (3) if the qualified beneficiary certifies to the commis-
- 28 sion that the qualified beneficiary has been accepted by a degree
- 29 granting institution of postsecondary education other than the

1 University of Alaska;

2 (4) if the qualified beneficiary certifies to the commis-
3 sion, after the qualified beneficiary has received a high school
4 diploma or reached the age of majority, that the qualified beneficiary
5 has decided not to attend the university; or

6 (5) under other circumstances determined by the commission
7 and set out in the advance tuition payment contract.

8 Sec. 14.42.490. DEFINITIONS. In AS 14.42.400 - 14.42.490

9 (1) "advance tuition payment contract" means a contract
10 entered into by the commission and a purchaser to provide for the
11 higher education of a qualified beneficiary;

12 (2) "commission" means the Alaska Commission on Postsecond-
13 ary Education;

14 (3) "fund" means the Alaska education trust fund (AS 14.-
15 42.400);

16 (4) "purchaser" means a person who makes or is obligated to
17 make advance tuition payments under an advance tuition payment con-
18 tract;

19 (5) "qualified beneficiary" means a resident of the state
20 who has rights under an advance tuition payment contract;

21 (6) "university" means the University of Alaska, including
22 a community college affiliated with the university.

23 * Sec. 2. This Act takes effect July 1, 1989.

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