

Original sponsor(s): Joint Committee on School Performance

1 IN THE HOUSE BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

2 CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 470 (Finance)

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act establishing an early childhood and parenting  
7 education coordinating committee within the Depart-  
8 ment of Community and Regional Affairs."

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

10 \* Section 1. FINDINGS. The legislature finds that an adequate and  
11 coordinated system for early childhood and parenting education is essential  
12 to the welfare of the children of the state and to the state as a whole.  
13 The legislature also finds that there is a need for coordination and commu-  
14 nication between agencies charged with early childhood and parenting educa-  
15 tion programs and that those agencies need to work together to establish  
16 long-term policies and a coordinated direction.

17 \* Sec. 2. (a) The early childhood and parenting education coordinating  
18 committee is established in the Department of Community and Regional  
19 Affairs. The committee is composed of a representative of the State Board  
20 of Education, the commissioner of health and social services, the commis-  
21 sioner of community and regional affairs, the commissioner of labor, the  
22 commissioner of education, one member of a local parent/teacher associa-  
23 tion, one local head start or early childhood program parent community  
24 member, and two practitioners in the fields of early childhood and parent-  
25 ing education, selected by the governor, who are not employees of the  
26 state. The commissioner of education shall serve as the chair of the  
27 committee.

28 (b) Members of the committee serve without compensation but are  
29 entitled to per diem and travel expenses authorized for boards and com-

1 missions under AS 39.20.180.

2 (c) The committee shall meet as often as necessary to carry out  
3 duties required by law.

4 (d) The committee shall

5 (1) develop a plan for a statewide program of early childhood  
6 education, including the education of children with developmental disabil-  
7 ities, and parenting education;

8 (2) address the following three issues concerning the develop-  
9 ment of long-term, effective policies regarding early childhood education:

10 (A) the historical rift between the educational and custo-  
11 dial models of early childhood education;

12 (B) the historical conflicts between elementary school and  
13 early childhood education over purposes, methods, and control;

14 (C) the tradeoffs necessary between the costs and quality  
15 of early childhood education programs;

16 (3) answer the following eight questions relating to the forma-  
17 tion of a statewide program of early childhood education:

18 (A) which children shall be served;

19 (B) how long should early childhood education programs  
20 operate;

21 (C) what level of funding should be provided and how should  
22 state and local revenue and parent fees be used;

23 (D) what types of funding mechanisms should be used;

24 (E) which state agency or agencies should be responsible  
25 for administering early childhood education programs;

26 (F) what types of program controls should be instituted;

27 (G) what types of teacher preparation and certification  
28 should be required;

29 (H) what type of curriculum is necessary to meet the needs

1 of an early childhood education program, especially as they relate to  
2 the linguistic, developmental, and cultural needs of children.

3 (e) The committee shall prepare a report of its findings and submit  
4 the report to the governor and the legislature by May 31, 1991.

5 \* Sec. 3. This Act is repealed June 1, 1991.