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Referred: Health, Education and  
Social Services and Finance

6-0788E

1 IN THE SENATE

BY BINKLEY AND DUNCAN

2

SENATE BILL NO. 223

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 a state education policy; relat-  
7 ing to powers and duties of school districts, the  
8 Department of Education, and the State Board of  
9 Education with respect to education planning and  
10 planning grants; requiring regional school boards to  
11 establish and consult with advisory boards; authoriz-  
12 ing certification of Alaska Native language or cul-  
13 ture teachers; and providing for an effective date."

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

15 \* Section 1. AS 14.03 is amended by adding a new section to read:

16 Sec. 14.03.015. STATE EDUCATION POLICY. It is the policy of  
17 this state that education should encourage all students to succeed in  
18 learning, assist students to shape worthwhile and satisfying lives,  
19 exemplify societal values, and provide students with tools to influ-  
20 ence the character and quality of the world.

21 \* Sec. 2. AS 14.03 is amended by adding new sections to read:

22 Sec. 14.03.120. EDUCATION PLANNING. (a) A district shall  
23 annually file with the department, and make available to the public, a  
24 report that

25 (1) establishes goals and priorities for improving educa-  
26 tion in the district;

27 (2) includes a plan, not longer than three pages in length,  
28 for achieving district goals and priorities; and

29 (3) includes a means of measuring the achievement of goals

1 and priorities.

2 (b) The department shall summarize the reports submitted under  
3 (a) of this section and provide a copy to each member of the legisla-  
4 ture.

5 (c) Students, parents, teachers, and other members of the commu-  
6 nity shall be encouraged by the district to participate in the prepa-  
7 ration of the report submitted under (a) of this section.

8 (d) Each district shall, by October 31 of each year, provide to  
9 the governing body and the department, and make available to the  
10 public, a report on the performance of each public school in the  
11 district. The report must include

12 (1) results of basic skills achievement tests and college  
13 entrance examinations, with appropriate comparisons; results under  
14 this paragraph must be disclosed in a manner that does not reveal the  
15 individual identities of students;

16 (2) student, parent, and community member comments on the  
17 school's performance;

18 (3) attendance, retention, and graduation rates; and

19 (4) information on school awards or honors.

20 (e) In this section, "district" has the meaning given in AS 14.-  
21 17.250.

22 Sec. 14.03.125. EDUCATION PLANNING GRANT FUND. (a) The educa-  
23 tion planning grant fund is created as an account in the general fund.  
24 The fund shall be used by the board to make grants to a district  
25 located in the state for education planning. The fund consists of  
26 money appropriated by the legislature.

27 (b) A governing body located in the state may apply for an  
28 education planning grant by submitting an application to the board.  
29 An application must include

- 1 (1) a description of the education planning process;  
2 (2) how the planning process is intended to improve student  
3 performance;  
4 (3) the method used to evaluate improvements in student  
5 performance;  
6 (4) the efforts made to obtain community support for the  
7 grant application; and  
8 (5) a proposed budget detailing the expenditure of all  
9 grant funds.

10 (c) In a fiscal year, the board may not award more than \$50,000  
11 in grant funds to a district and shall award grants to a diversity of  
12 districts and regions. A grant may not be awarded to the same dis-  
13 trict for more than three consecutive fiscal years.

14 (d) In this section, "district" has the meaning given in AS 14.-  
15 17.250.

16 \* Sec. 3. AS 14.07.020(a)(2) is amended to read:

17 (2) study the conditions and needs of the public schools of  
18 the state, [AND] adopt or recommend plans, and adopt regulations for  
19 the improvement of the public schools;

20 \* Sec. 4. AS 14.07 is amended by adding a new section to read:

21 Sec. 14.07.165. DUTIES. The board shall adopt and require each  
22 governing body to adopt written goals that are consistent with AS 14.-  
23 03.015 and shall administer education planning grants awarded under  
24 AS 14.03.125.

25 \* Sec. 5. AS 14.08.115 is amended to read:

26 Sec. 14.08.115. ADVISORY SCHOOL BOARDS IN REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL  
27 ATTENDANCE AREAS. A regional school board shall [MAY] establish  
28 advisory school boards, and by regulation shall prescribe their manner  
29 of selection and organization, and their powers and duties. A

1 regional school board shall consult with the appropriate advisory  
2 board regarding organization and operation of schools and appointment  
3 of personnel.

4 \* Sec. 6. AS 14.20.020(b) is amended to read:

5 (b) Except as provided in (f) of this section, a [A] person is  
6 not eligible for a teacher certificate unless that person has received  
7 at least a baccalaureate degree from an institution of higher educa-  
8 tion accredited by a recognized regional accrediting association or  
9 approved by the commissioner. However, this subsection does not apply  
10 [IS NOT APPLICABLE] to a person

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

13 (2) [PERSONS] issued an emergency certificate during a  
14 situation that [WHICH], in the judgment of the commissioner, requires  
15 the temporary issuance of a certificate to a person not otherwise  
16 qualified.

17 \* Sec. 7. AS 14.20.020 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

18 (f) A person who is eligible under this subsection shall be  
19 issued a special certificate. The department shall establish by  
20 regulation the duration of the special certificate and the require-  
21 ments for renewal. The holder of a special certificate is a certifi-  
22 cated employee for purposes of this title and is entitled to receive  
23 the employment benefits to which a holder of a regular teacher certif-  
24 icate is entitled. A person who is not eligible for a certificate  
25 under (b) or (c) of this section is eligible for a special certificate  
26 under this subsection if the person

27 (1) is employed or will be employed by a school district to  
28 teach only Alaska Native language or culture;

29 (2) has learned about the subject to be taught by living in

- 1       the culture or using the language in daily life; and  
2                   (3) is qualified to teach the subject to elementary or  
3       secondary students under regulations adopted by the department.  
4       \* Sec. 8. This Act takes effect July 1, 1989.