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Referred: Health, Education and
Social Services and Finance

6-0788H

1 IN THE SENATE BY BINKLEY AND DUNCAN
2 SPONSOR SUBSTITUTE FOR 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 the purpose of education is to help ensure that all
18 learners will succeed now and in their next level of education or
19 work, shape worthwhile and satisfying lives for themselves, exemplify
20 the best values of society, and be effective in influencing the char-
21 acter and quality of the world about them.

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

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

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

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

1 (3) includes a means of measuring the achievement of goals
2 and priorities.

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

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

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

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

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

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

20 (4) information on school awards or honors.

21 (e) In this section, "district" has the meaning given in AS 14.-
22 17.250.

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

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

1 An application must include

2 (1) a description of the education planning process;

3 (2) how the planning process is intended to improve student
4 performance;

5 (3) the method used to evaluate improvements in student
6 performance;

7 (4) the efforts made to obtain community support for the
8 grant application; and

9 (5) a proposed budget detailing the expenditure of all
10 grant funds.

11 (c) In a fiscal year, the board may not award more than \$15,000
12 in grant funds to a district and shall award grants to a diversity of
13 districts and regions. A grant may not be awarded to the same dis-
14 trict for more than two consecutive fiscal years. The board may
15 withhold a grant from a district that the board determines has not
16 actively involved students, parents, teachers, and other members of
17 the community in education planning in the district.

18 (d) In this section, "district" has the meaning given in AS 14.-
19 17.250.

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

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

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

25 Sec. 14.07.165. DUTIES. The board shall adopt and require each
26 governing body to adopt written goals that are consistent with AS 14.-
27 03.015 and shall administer education planning grants awarded under
28 AS 14.03.125.

29 * Sec. 5. AS 14.08.115 is amended to read:

1 Sec. 14.08.115. ADVISORY SCHOOL BOARDS IN REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL
2 ATTENDANCE AREAS. A regional school board shall [MAY] establish
3 advisory school boards, and by regulation shall prescribe their manner
4 of selection and organization, and their powers and duties. A region-
5 al school board shall consult with the appropriate advisory board
6 regarding organization and operation of schools and appointment of
7 personnel.

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

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

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

17 (2) [PERSONS] issued an emergency certificate during a
18 situation that [WHICH], in the judgment of the commissioner, requires
19 the temporary issuance of a certificate to a person not otherwise
20 qualified.

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

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

1 under this subsection if the person

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

4 (2) has learned about the subject to be taught by living in
5 the culture or using the language in daily life; and

6 (3) is qualified to teach the subject to elementary or
7 secondary students under regulations adopted by the department.

8 * Sec. 8. This Act takes effect July 1, 1989.