

**HOUSE BILL NO. 203**

**IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA**

**SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION**

**BY REPRESENTATIVES BROWN, MacLean, B.Davis, Koponen, Ellis, Bruckman, Ulmer**

**Introduced: 3/8/91**

**Referred: Health, Education & Social Services, Finance**

**A BILL**

**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1 "An Act establishing the Alaska education technology fund, and relating to publicly funded  
2 libraries; and providing for an effective date."

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 \* **Section 1. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.** (a) The legislature finds that

5 (1) 75 percent of the labor force in the state is unprepared to deal with rapidly changing  
6 technology;

7 (2) the education system can help in creating a trained labor force;

8 (3) schools lack adequate hardware, software, and training for students and teachers in  
9 computer technology;

10 (4) in order to implement effective education programs, teacher training and active  
11 participation is essential.

12 (b) It is the purpose of this Act to establish the Alaska education technology fund, to provide  
13 teachers with training in how to apply education technology in meeting instructional objectives, and to  
14 provide the necessary equipment and materials to effectively utilize education technology within the

1 adopted curricula throughout the rural and urban schools of this state.

2 \* Sec. 2. AS 14.30 is amended by adding new sections to read:

3 ARTICLE 10. ALASKA EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY FUND.

4 Sec. 14.30.750. ALASKA EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY FUND ESTABLISHED. (a)

5 The Alaska education technology fund is established in the department. The purpose of the fund  
6 is to enhance the quality and equity of education at public elementary and secondary schools by  
7 providing grants to purchase, install, and maintain instructional equipment and materials related  
8 to technology for classroom use, to provide training in the use of the instructional equipment and  
9 materials, and to help students achieve student performance standards. The fund consists of  
10 legislative appropriations to the fund and public or private donations made for the purpose of the  
11 fund.

12 (b) A grant application may be submitted to the department by a public school or by a  
13 school district on behalf of a public school. The department shall award grants from the fund  
14 to a school district or to a public school grantee selected by the committee.

15 Sec. 14.30.760. POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE COMMISSIONER OF REVENUE.

16 The commissioner of revenue is the treasurer of the fund and has the following powers and duties  
17 under this section:

18 (1) to act as official custodian of the cash and investments belonging to the fund  
19 by securing adequate and safe custodial facilities;

20 (2) to collect the principal and income from investments owned or acquired by  
21 the state treasury and deposit the amounts in separate principal and income accounts for the fund;

22 (3) to invest and reinvest the assets of the fund as provided in this section and  
23 as provided for the investment of retirement funds under AS 14.25.180;

24 (4) to exercise the powers of an owner with respect to the assets of the fund;

25 (5) to do all acts, whether or not expressly authorized, that the commissioner of  
26 revenue considers necessary or proper in administering the assets of the fund;

27 (6) to maintain accounting records of the fund in accordance with investment  
28 accounting principles and with distinction between the principal and income accounts of the fund;

29 (7) to engage an independent firm of certified public accountants to annually audit  
30 the financial condition of the fund's investments and investment transactions;

31 (8) to enter into and enforce contracts or agreements considered necessary for the

1 investment purposes of the fund;

2 (9) to report to the department the condition and investment performance of the  
3 fund.

4 Sec. 14.30.770. EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY GRANT COMMITTEE. (a) The  
5 Education Technology Grant Committee is composed of seven members appointed by the  
6 governor. The governor shall appoint

7 (1) four members who are educators with demonstrated education technology  
8 experience;

9 (A) one from a district with 15,000 or more students;

10 (B) one from a district with at least 6,000 but less than 15,000 students;

11 (C) one from a district with at least 1,000 but less than 6,000 students; and

12 (D) one from a district with less than 1,000 students;

13 (2) one member with demonstrated education technology experience who is  
14 employed by the University of Alaska;

15 (3) one member with demonstrated education technology experience who is  
16 employed by the department; and

17 (4) one public member.

18 (b) The committee shall review grant applications and award grants to school districts  
19 or public schools from the fund. In reviewing grant applications, the committee shall incorporate  
20 the school's or district's plan for utilizing new equipment and materials, and shall consider the  
21 school's or district's provisions for initial and ongoing training for teachers in curriculum  
22 application and implementation, the completeness and consistency of the application, and the  
23 relationship between the application and the board's standards for student performance. In  
24 awarding grants, the committee shall use a per student - per teacher guideline to ensure an  
25 equitable distribution of grant funds. The committee shall recommend to the department the best  
26 method for providing statewide teacher training on the application and implementation of  
27 education technology as a part of the classroom curriculum.

28 (c) Members of the committee serve without compensation but are entitled to receive per  
29 diem and travel expenses authorized for boards and commissions under AS 39.20.180.

30 Sec. 14.30.780. DEFINITIONS. In AS 14.30.750 - 14.30.780,

31 (1) "committee" means the Education Technology Grant Committee;

- 1 (2) "district" has the meaning given in AS 14.17.250;  
2 (3) "fund" means the Alaska education technology fund.

3 \* Sec. 3. AS 14.56.030 is amended to read:

4 Sec. 14.56.030. STATE LIBRARY DUTIES. The department shall undertake state  
5 library functions that will benefit the state and its citizens, including:

- 6 (1) coordinating library services of the state with other educational services and  
7 agencies to increase effectiveness and eliminate duplication;  
8 (2) providing reference library service to state and other public officials;  
9 (3) providing library services and administering state and other grants-in-aid to  
10 public libraries, including publicly funded libraries, to supplement and improve their services,  
11 the grants to be paid from funds appropriated for that purpose [,] or from other funds available  
12 for that purpose;  
13 (4) providing library service directly to areas in which there is not sufficient  
14 population or local revenue to support independent library units;  
15 (5) distributing financial aid to public libraries for extension of library service to  
16 surrounding areas and to improve inadequate local library service under regulations adopted by  
17 the department;  
18 (6) offering consultant service on library matters to state and municipal libraries,  
19 community libraries, school libraries, and libraries in unincorporated communities;  
20 (7) serving as a depository for state and federal publications concerning Alaska;  
21 (8) applying for, receiving, and spending, in accordance with AS 37.07 (the  
22 Executive Budget Act), federal, state, or private funds available for library purposes;  
23 (9) recording and distributing the election pamphlet provided for by AS 15.58 to  
24 libraries throughout the state for use by blind voters;  
25 (10) establishing and charging fees for reproduction, printing, and handling costs  
26 [,] for mailing and distributing state publications and research data [,] and for other services  
27 authorized by this chapter;  
28 (11) operating and maintaining the Alaska State Archives under AS 40.21.

29 \* Sec. 4. AS 14.30.750, 14.30.760, 14.30.770, and 14.30.780 are repealed December 31, 1994.

30 \* Sec. 5. This Act takes effect July 1, 1991.