CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 203 (HES)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE HOUSE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Offered: 4/24/91
Referred: Finance

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES BROWN, MacLean, B.Davis, Koponen, Ellis, Bruckman, Ulmer

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 and other instructional personnel with training in how to apply education technology in meeting
14 instructional objectives, and to provide the necessary equipment and materials to effectively utilize

1 education technology within the 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 to help students achieve student performance standards, and to provide network access
10 for public schools through the University of Alaska computer network. The fund consists of
11 legislative appropriations to the fund and public or private donations made for the purpose of the
12 fund.

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

16 Sec. 14.30.760. POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE COMMISSIONER OF REVENUE.
17 The commissioner of revenue is the treasurer of the fund and has the following powers and duties
18 under this section:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 (8) to enter into and enforce contracts or agreements considered necessary for the
2 investment purposes of the fund;
3 (9) to report to the department the condition and investment performance of the
4 fund.
5 Sec. 14.30.770. EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY GRANT COMMITTEE. (a) The
6 Education Technology Grant Committee is composed of seven members appointed by the
7 governor. The governor shall appoint
8 (1) four members who are educators with demonstrated education technology
9 experience;
10 (A) one from a district with 15,000 or more students;
11 (B) one from a district with at least 6,000 but less than 15,000 students;
12 (C) one from a district with at least 1,000 but less than 6,000 students; and
13 (D) one from a district with less than 1,000 students;
14 (2) one member with demonstrated education technology experience who is
15 employed by the University of Alaska;
16 (3) one member with demonstrated education technology experience who is
17 employed by the department; and
18 (4) one public member.
19 (b) The committee shall review grant applications and award grants to school districts
20 or public schools from the fund. In reviewing grant applications, the committee shall incorporate
21 the school's or district's plan for utilizing new equipment and materials, and shall consider the
22 school's or district's provisions for initial and ongoing training for teachers and other
23 instructional personnel in curriculum application and implementation, the completeness and
24 consistency of the application, and the relationship between the application and the board's
25 standards for student performance. In awarding grants, the committee shall develop appropriate
26 guidelines to ensure an equitable distribution of grant funds. The committee shall recommend
27 to the department the best method for providing statewide teacher training and training to other
28 instructional personnel on the application and implementation of education technology as a part
29 of the classroom curriculum.
30 (c) Members of the committee serve without compensation but are entitled to receive per
31 diem and travel expenses authorized for boards and commissions under AS 39.20.180.

1 Sec. 14.30.780. DEFINITIONS. In AS 14.30.750 - 14.30.780,
2 (1) "committee" means the Education Technology Grant Committee;
3 (2) "district" has the meaning given in AS 14.17.250;
4 (3) "fund" means the Alaska education technology fund.
5 * Sec. 3. AS 14.56.030 is amended to read:
6 Sec. 14.56.030. STATE LIBRARY DUTIES. The department shall undertake state
7 library functions that will benefit the state and its citizens, including:
8 (1) coordinating library services of the state with other educational services and
9 agencies to increase effectiveness and eliminate duplication;
10 (2) providing reference library service to state and other public officials;
11 (3) providing library services and administering state and other grants-in-aid to
12 public libraries**, including publicly funded libraries,** to supplement and improve their services,
13 the grants to be paid from funds appropriated for that purpose [,] or from other funds available
14 for that purpose;
15 (4) providing library service directly to areas in which there is not sufficient
16 population or local revenue to support independent library units;
17 (5) distributing financial aid to public libraries for extension of library service to
18 surrounding areas and to improve inadequate local library service under regulations adopted by
19 the department;
20 (6) offering consultant service on library matters to state and municipal libraries,
21 community libraries, school libraries, and libraries in unincorporated communities;
22 (7) serving as a depository for state and federal publications concerning Alaska;
23 (8) applying for, receiving, and spending, in accordance with AS 37.07 (the
24 Executive Budget Act), federal, state, or private funds available for library purposes;
25 (9) recording and distributing the election pamphlet provided for by AS 15.58 to
26 libraries throughout the state for use by blind voters;
27 (10) establishing and charging fees for reproduction, printing, and handling costs
28 [,] for mailing and distributing state publications and research data [,] and for other services
29 authorized by this chapter;
30 (11) operating and maintaining the Alaska State Archives under AS 40.21.
31 * Sec. 4. Before accepting grant applications under AS 14.30.075(b), enacted in sec. 2 of this Act

1 the Department of Education shall conduct a statewide education technology and grant writing seminar,
2 available to all public schools and school districts.
3 * Sec. 5. AS 14.30.750, 14.30.760, 14.30.770, and 14.30.780 are repealed December 31, 1996.
4 * Sec. 6. This Act takes effect July 1, 1991.