

**SENATE CS FOR CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 203 (HES)**

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

**SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION**

**BY THE SENATE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**Offered: 4/30/92**

**Referred: Finance**

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

**A BILL**

**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1 "An Act establishing the Alaska education technology program; and providing for an  
2 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 and publicly funded libraries can help in creating a trained labor  
8 force;

9 (3) education technology has the potential to improve the academic performance of  
10 students, to prepare students for work in a technological society, and to assist with education reform;

11 (4) schools and publicly funded libraries lack adequate hardware, software, and training  
12 for students, patrons, and educators in education technology;

13 (5) in order to implement effective education technology programs, teacher training and  
14 active participation is essential;

1 (6) an equitable distribution of education technology is necessary to ensure that all public  
2 school students in the state receive comparable educational opportunities.

3 (b) It is the purpose of this Act to establish the Alaska education technology program, to provide  
4 teachers, library staff, and other instructional personnel with training in how to apply education  
5 technology in meeting instructional objectives, and to provide the necessary equipment and materials to  
6 effectively utilize education technology within the adopted curricula throughout the rural and urban  
7 schools and in publicly funded libraries of this state.

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

9 ARTICLE 10. ALASKA EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY.

10 Sec. 14.30.750. ALASKA EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM. (a) The Alaska  
11 education technology program is established in the department. The program must include

12 (1) technical assistance to a district, a public school, or a publicly funded library  
13 for the purpose of planning for and purchasing education technology;

14 (2) training for employees of a district, public school, or publicly funded library  
15 in the use of education technology in the classroom or library; and

16 (3) a plan for coordinating and expanding existing networks for educational uses,  
17 including the University of Alaska computer network, star schools, livenet, public television, rural  
18 Alaska television, and library sharing systems.

19 (b) In administering the program required under this section, the department may pool  
20 grant money or other money available from each district or publicly funded library in order to  
21 make a bulk purchase of education technology or to provide necessary training.

22 Sec. 14.30.760. ALASKA EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY FUND ESTABLISHED. (a)  
23 The Alaska education technology fund is established in the department. The purpose of the fund  
24 is to (1) enhance the quality and equity of education at public elementary and secondary schools  
25 by providing money to purchase, install, and maintain education technology in classrooms; (2)  
26 provide training in the use of education technology to help students achieve student performance  
27 standards; (3) provide access to networks for public schools through the University of Alaska  
28 computer network or other means; and (4) provide education technology, including computer and  
29 resource sharing systems, to publicly funded libraries. Money in the fund may be used to  
30 provide grants or may be expended by the department for projects that further the purposes  
31 described in this subsection. The fund consists of legislative appropriations to the fund and

1 public or private donations made for the purpose of the fund.

2 (b) A project or grant application may be submitted to the department by a public school,  
3 by a school district on behalf of a public school, or by a publicly funded library. The department  
4 shall fund projects approved by the committee or award grants from the fund to a school district,  
5 a public school, or a publicly funded library selected by the committee. Money in the fund that  
6 consists of proceeds from the sale of general obligation bonds may not be awarded to a school  
7 district, a public school, or a publicly funded library as a grant.

8 (c) A project or grant application submitted by a public school or by a school district  
9 under (b) of this section must include

10 (1) educational goals and objectives;

11 (2) a comprehensive plan for using the education technology selected to achieve  
12 the educational goals and objectives;

13 (3) a description of the relationship between the application and the board's  
14 standards for student performance;

15 (4) required initial and ongoing training for teachers to effectively use the  
16 education technology in the classroom;

17 (5) a description of the education technology proposed to be purchased;

18 (6) a proposed budget;

19 (7) a description of local efforts or resources that will be contributed;

20 (8) provisions for site preparation, equipment security, and required technical and  
21 maintenance support; and

22 (9) criteria and methods that will be used to periodically evaluate and document  
23 progress in achieving the educational goals and objectives.

24 (d) A project or grant application submitted by a publicly funded library under (b) of this  
25 section must include

26 (1) library goals and objectives, including how the education technology will  
27 improve services of the library or access to resource sharing;

28 (2) a comprehensive plan for using the education technology selected to achieve  
29 library goals and objectives;

30 (3) required initial and ongoing training for library personnel to effectively use  
31 the education technology;

- 1 (4) a description of the education technology proposed to be purchased;  
2 (5) a proposed budget;  
3 (6) a description of local efforts or resources that will be contributed;  
4 (7) provisions for site preparation, equipment security, and required technical and  
5 maintenance support; and  
6 (8) whether the library participates in a resource sharing system.

7 (e) The board shall adopt regulations that allow a school district, a public school, or a  
8 publicly funded library to obtain education technology under a permit or lease with the  
9 department, for a project approved under AS 14.30.780(b).

10 (f) The department shall administer grants awarded under this section and shall include  
11 a report on the projects receiving funds as part of the department's annual report.

12 Sec. 14.30.770. POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE COMMISSIONER OF REVENUE.  
13 The commissioner of revenue is the treasurer of the fund and has the following powers and duties  
14 under this section:

- 15 (1) to act as official custodian of the cash and investments belonging to the fund  
16 by securing adequate and safe custodial facilities;  
17 (2) to collect the principal and income from investments owned or acquired by  
18 the state treasury and deposit the amounts in separate principal and income accounts for the fund;  
19 (3) to invest and reinvest the assets of the fund as provided in this section and  
20 as provided for the investment of retirement funds under AS 14.25.180;  
21 (4) to exercise the powers of an owner with respect to the assets of the fund;  
22 (5) to do all acts, whether or not expressly authorized, that the commissioner of  
23 revenue considers necessary or proper in administering the assets of the fund;  
24 (6) to maintain accounting records of the fund in accordance with investment  
25 accounting principles and with distinction between the principal and income accounts of the fund;  
26 (7) to engage an independent firm of certified public accountants to annually audit  
27 the financial condition of the fund's investments and investment transactions;  
28 (8) to enter into and enforce contracts or agreements considered necessary for the  
29 investment purposes of the fund;  
30 (9) to report to the department the condition and investment performance of the  
31 fund.

1                   **Sec. 14.30.780. EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE.** (a) The Education  
2 Technology Committee is composed of the director of the division of libraries, archives, and  
3 museums and six members appointed by the governor. The governor shall appoint

4                   (1) four members who are educators with demonstrated education technology  
5 experience;

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

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

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

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

10                   (2) one member with demonstrated education technology experience who is  
11 employed by the University of Alaska; and

12                   (3) one member with demonstrated education technology experience who is  
13 employed by the department.

14                   (b) The committee shall review project and grant applications and approve project  
15 funding or award grants to a school district, a public school, or a publicly funded library from  
16 the fund. In reviewing project or grant applications the committee shall consider the  
17 completeness and consistency of the application in meeting the requirements of AS 14.30.760(c)  
18 and (d). In funding projects or awarding grants to a school, district, or library, the committee  
19 shall incorporate the applicant's plan for utilizing education technology. In funding projects or  
20 awarding grants, the committee shall develop appropriate guidelines to ensure an equitable  
21 distribution of project and grant funds. The committee shall recommend to the department the  
22 best method for providing statewide teacher training and training to other instructional personnel  
23 on the application and implementation of education technology as a part of the classroom  
24 curriculum.

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

27                   **Sec. 14.30.790. DEFINITIONS.** In AS 14.30.750 - 14.30.790,

28                                   (1) "committee" means the Education Technology Committee;

29                                   (2) "district" has the meaning given in AS 14.17.250;

30                                   (3) "education technology" means instructional equipment and materials that are  
31 used to enhance the quality and increase the efficiency of teaching and learning, including

1 hardware, software, and telecommunications;

2 (4) "fund" means the Alaska education technology fund;

3 (5) "publicly funded library" means a library eligible for a grant under  
4 AS 14.56.310.

5 \* Sec. 3. Before accepting project or grant applications under AS 14.30.760(b), enacted in sec. 2 of  
6 this Act, the Department of Education shall conduct

7 (1) a survey of education technology resources in public schools and publicly funded  
8 libraries in the state; and

9 (2) a statewide education technology grant and project writing seminar, available to all  
10 public schools, school districts, and publicly funded libraries.

11 \* Sec. 4. AS 14.30.760, 14.30.770, 14.30.780, and 14.30.790 are repealed December 31, 1998.

12 \* Sec. 5. This Act takes effect July 1, 1992.