

SENATE CS FOR CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 203 (FINANCE)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Offered: 5/12/92

Referred: Rules

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; the plan required under this paragraph shall be  
19 developed in consultation with the Department of Administration and must be consistent with  
20 AS 44.21.315(c).

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

24 Sec. 14.30.760. ALASKA EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY FUND ESTABLISHED. (a)  
25 The Alaska education technology fund is established in the department. The purpose of the fund  
26 is to (1) enhance the quality and equity of education at public elementary and secondary schools  
27 by providing money to purchase, install, and maintain education technology in classrooms; (2)  
28 provide training in the use of education technology to help students achieve student performance  
29 standards; (3) provide access to networks for public schools through the University of Alaska  
30 computer network, the Department of Administration computer network, or other means  
31 consistent with the program developed under AS 14.30.750 and AS 44.21.315(c); and (4) provide

1 education technology, including computer and resource sharing systems, to publicly funded  
2 libraries. Money in the fund may be used to provide grants or may be expended by the  
3 department for projects that further the purposes described in this subsection. The fund consists  
4 of legislative appropriations to the fund and public or private donations made for the purpose of  
5 the fund.

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

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

14 (1) educational goals and objectives;

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

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

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

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

22 (6) a proposed budget;

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

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

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

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

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

- 1 (2) a comprehensive plan for using the education technology selected to achieve  
2 library goals and objectives;
- 3 (3) required initial and ongoing training for library personnel to effectively use  
4 the education technology;
- 5 (4) a description of the education technology proposed to be purchased;
- 6 (5) a proposed budget;
- 7 (6) a description of local efforts or resources that will be contributed;
- 8 (7) provisions for site preparation, equipment security, and required technical and  
9 maintenance support; and
- 10 (8) whether the library participates in a resource sharing system.

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

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

16 Sec. 14.30.770. 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. 14.30.780. EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE. (a) The Education  
6 Technology Committee is composed of the director of the division of libraries, archives, and  
7 museums and seven members appointed by the 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 member with expertise in telecommunications employed by the  
19 Department of Administration.

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

31 (c) Members of the committee serve without compensation but are entitled to receive per

1 diem and travel expenses authorized for boards and commissions under AS 39.20.180.

2 Sec. 14.30.790. DEFINITIONS. In AS 14.30.750 - 14.30.790,

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

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

5 (3) "education technology" means instructional equipment and materials that are  
6 used to enhance the quality and increase the efficiency of teaching and learning, including  
7 hardware, software, and telecommunications;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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