

SENATE BILL NO. 139

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATOR JONES

Introduced: 2/22/91

Referred: HES and Finance

A BILL**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1 "An Act establishing an early childhood and parenting education coordinating committee
2 within the Department of Community and Regional Affairs."

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

4 * **Section 1. FINDINGS.** The legislature finds that an adequate and coordinated system for early
5 childhood and parenting education is essential to the welfare of the children of the state and to the state
6 as a whole. The legislature also finds that there is a need for coordination and communication between
7 agencies charged with early childhood and parenting education programs and that those agencies need
8 to work together to establish long-term policies and a coordinated direction.

9 * **Sec. 2. (a)** The early childhood and parenting education coordinating committee is established in
10 the Department of Community and Regional Affairs. The committee is composed of a representative
11 of the state Board of Education, the commissioner of health and social services, the commissioner of
12 community and regional affairs, the commissioner of labor, the commissioner of education, one member
13 of a local parent and teacher association, one parent member of a local headstart or early childhood
14 education program, and two practitioners in the fields of early childhood and parenting education.

1 Except for a commissioner or the representative of the state Board of Education, committee members
2 shall be selected by the governor and may not be employees of the state. The commissioner of
3 education shall serve as the chair of the committee.

4 (b) Members of the committee serve without compensation but are entitled to per diem and
5 travel expenses authorized for boards and commissions under AS 39.20.180.

6 (c) The committee shall meet as often as necessary to carry out duties required by law.

7 (d) The committee shall

8 (1) develop a plan for a statewide program of early childhood education, including the
9 education of children with developmental disabilities, and parenting education;

10 (2) address the following three issues concerning the development of long-term, effective
11 policies regarding early childhood education:

12 (A) the historical rift between the educational and custodial models of early
13 childhood education;

14 (B) the historical conflicts between elementary school and early childhood
15 education over purposes, methods, and control;

16 (C) the tradeoffs necessary between the costs and quality of early childhood
17 education programs;

18 (3) answer the following nine questions relating to the formation of a statewide program
19 of early childhood education:

20 (A) which children shall be served;

21 (B) how long should early childhood education programs operate;

22 (C) what level of funding should be provided and how should state and local
23 revenue and parent fees be used;

24 (D) what types of funding mechanisms should be used;

25 (E) which state agency or agencies should be responsible for administering early
26 childhood education programs;

27 (F) what types of program controls should be instituted;

28 (G) what types of teacher preparation and certification should be required;

29 (H) what type of curriculum is necessary to meet the needs of an early childhood
30 education program, especially as they relate to the linguistic, developmental, and cultural needs
31 of children;

1 (I) what type of curriculum is necessary to meet the needs of parent education and
2 support.

3 (e) The committee shall prepare a report of its findings and submit the report to the governor
4 and the legislature by May 31, 1992.

5 * Sec. 3. This Act is repealed June 1, 1992.