

The Legislature of the State of Alaska
FISCAL NOTE

First Session - Ninth Legislature

I. REQUEST

Dill No. SB #93
 Title: Relating to evaluation and planning in the Dept. of Education
 Requested by: Senate HESS Committee Date: 2/3/75
 Return Date Requested: ASAP
 Agency: Education Program: Pre-elementary and Secondary education

II. FISCAL DETAIL

Budget Request Unit(s) Affected: Executive Administration
 A. EXPENDITURES: (Thousands of dollars)

OBJECT	FY 75	FY 76	FY 77	FY 78	FY 79	FY 80
100 PERSONAL SERVICES						
200 TRAVEL						
300 CONTRACTUAL	-0-	627.3	677.9	732.2	790.8	854.0
400 COMMODITIES						
500 EQUIPMENT						
600 LAND & STRUCTURES						
700 GRANTS, CLAIMS, ETC.						
TOTAL	-0-	627.3	677.9	732.2	790.8	845.0

B. FUNDING: (Thousands of dollars)

GENERAL FUND	-0-	627.3	677.9	732.2	790.8	845.0
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						

C. POSITIONS:

PERMANENT/TEMPORARY	/	/	/	/	/	/
MAN MONTHS (P./T.)	/	/	/	/	/	/

III. ANALYSIS (See Fiscal Note Preparation Instructions, Section III)

Assumption: That program evaluations would be conducted on individual program basis which are short term in nature, thus not requiring additional personnel in the DOE. Existing personnel would coordinate and conduct long-range planning.

300 Contractual Services
 380 Professional Services \$627.3

Formula: DOE FY 75 authorized budget \$125,545.4 x .05 = \$627.3
 Assume 8% growth in DOE operating budget for succeeding fiscal years.

IV. ATTACHMENTS

V. DATE: 3/3/75 PREPARED BY: William D. Thomas

Original: Legislative Finance
 cc: Budget and Management
 Prime Sponsor (First Legislator Named)

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

AGENCY COMMENTS

SB #93

BACKGROUND

Under AS 14.07.020, Duties of the Department of Education, the Department is directed to "study the conditions and needs of the public schools of the state and adopt or recommend plans for the improvement of education". However, until the advent of significant federal funding for state departments of education in the late 1960's, the Department had no internal planning and research capabilities through which it could fulfill this duty.

In the early years of the Research and Planning Section of the Department, funding for personnel and auxiliary services directed toward research and planning activities was totally supplied from federal sources. As late as Fiscal Year 1972, the budget of the section, which totalled \$302.4, was primarily federally-funded, with only \$23.4 of the total supplied from state funds.

Since FY 72, the state's share of the resources allocated to educational planning and research has steadily increased, until, in the FY 75 budget of \$352,200, total, \$208,960 is general fund. Of the general fund contribution, however, \$200,000 was earmarked for a special research and planning project in statewide student skill level assessment.

DISCUSSION

Over the past five years, several movements on both the national and state level have had considerable impact on the direction of the Department of Education. The nationwide thrust for educational accountability -- that is, accountability by professional educators for the results of educational programs -- puts tremendous pressure on the state departments of education both to describe the present status of their educational programs, and to develop plans to move education from where it is to where it should be, in terms of results. The Department's student assessment program addresses the first need, that is, the need to get an accurate description, in terms of student achievement, of the present educational program. The second charge, to design educational programs which achieve or approximate the results desired by the state for its citizens, has not yet been fully addressed in Alaska. Nor will significant steps be taken to improve educational programs until the planning and development functions are recognized and sufficient resources allocated to such functions.

Statewide, the problems of SOS decentralization, expanded secondary programs, continuing education for adults, and educational uses of an operational satellite system are areas which require careful analysis and planning if the solutions to these problems are to be more successful than present practice. Again, within the limits of the present DOE budget for research and planning, such planning and analysis cannot occur on an organized and effective basis.

The strategy outlined in SB #93 appears a reasonable approach to the problem of inadequate resources. It follows a commonly accepted practice in private industry, that of expending a stable percentage of the agency's total operating resources on research, planning and development functions directed toward product improvement.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The agency recommends that SB #93 be passed as submitted, with the planning and development monies authorized being placed in the budget of the Office of the Commissioner and with reports on planning, research and development activities within the Department made annually to the Legislature.

Name: 

Title: Special Assistant to the Commissioner

Date: February 7, 1975