

HB

443



JUNEAU ALASKA

Alaska State Legislature
House

HB 443

HESS COMMITTEE MEETING

May 1, 1975

Members Present:

Beirne Sullivan
Davis Swanson
Hackney
Ostrosky

Chairman Sullivan called the meeting to order at 3:15pm.

HB 443 Correspondence Study

Commissioner Lind spoke against the bill as such. (See position paper) Also spoke briefly to SB 367. The state should be responsible for the correspondence study program. We don't see any problem with the present operation. 367 speaks to the development of a division. Adult education and correspondence study should perhaps be merged.

Hackney What has been the feed-back from the school districts themselves and also from the individual from the correspondence homes?

Lind Response from parents has been negative to any change. they are happy to the present system.

Beirne Line 21 (SB367) Isn't this saying that the borough will pay back into the Dept. At the present time, how much are they giving back?

Lind Yes, 500 out of 15. a-1 this would do is raise the amount going back to the Dept. It has been completely a State program but depending on the location they may need more than \$1500. The entire amount given to them for correspondent study must be spent only for that purpose.

Beirne I read it to say that the 1/3 will be returned to the Dept.

Lind I think this is true in the unorganized boroughs. All this will be altered with the passage of HB 24.

Hackney Would you consider it necessary to have that handled on a division basis?

Lind No. building all the components together, I think you would be taking up division justification, I don't recommend the establishment of division.

Williams Dept. of Education.

Sullivan What kind of functions would be handled with the local level?

Williams Options, depending on the readiness, the total responsible would mean the delivery of study to students, this covers correspondence with the parents, training teachers, home visitations, providing own curriculum materials.

Page Two
HESS Meeting
5-1-75

Sullivan Why would this be helpful?

Williams Places the operation closer to the people receiving the services. More sensitive to the needs of the students in their area. The program operates with it doing home visitations and one to do the study services. There isn't enough coordination of student needs. Provides a unified service to the students. Concerned with the quality of the program to the student in the home.

Lind The School Districts only provide so much. A smaller village or town would be provided for by the State until they are ready or the closest borough is ready to help themselves. This could take quite sometime.

Hackney This is my concern, if Fairbanks would be able to handle the outlining areas.

Margaret Justice I think HB 443 is very farreaching. Preschool should be encompassed and also post-secondary until the government decides to fund such levels. Something great happens when parents teach their youngsters. The state has a choice to develop a system called home study and this is a unique and important change. We must have a choice for our children, at the present time we don not have this choice, they are required by law to go to public school whether they are learning or not. We would like to have the opportunity to prove to you that a centralized correspondence study is the right of the individual and hopefully this trend would spread to other states.

Beirne ASked that the bill be held over until a work study could be done in this area and prepare the members to vote.

Chairman It was unanimously agreed upon, bill held over.

HB 349 Everett Simpson, Chief Architect for the Div. of Bldgs.

Almost impossible to come up with the total costs for such construction. Based on 12 child capacity, it would require 800 sq. ft. or 80\$ per sq. ft = \$64,000 for new facilities

Sullivan Point of contention here, I am under the understanding that \$35 sq ft was the licensed rate we used in Anchorage, including restrooms corridors etc.

Simpson According to 1973 Building Code it is 50\$ per sq. ft.

It was decided that Mr. Simpson would do further study in the area and study a re estimated cost of expenditure to the state.

Meeting adjourned.

Introduced by: Burton
Date: April 15, 1975
Action: Adopted
Vote: 114.33 Yes, 9 No

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH

RESOLUTION 75-24

A RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO DECENTRALIZATION OF THE STATE
CORRESPONDENCE STUDY PROGRAM AND THE PLACING OF CORRESPONDENCE
STUDY UNDER LOCAL CONTROL.

WHEREAS, an adequate and effective program for correspondence study is now being administered through the Department of Education, of the State of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Education has established a Correspondence Study Division, whose only charge and concern is correspondence study at the elementary level, while local school districts already have several other areas of responsibility; and

WHEREAS, there is a library and supplementary material easily accessible currently prepared, stocked, and serving its students; and

WHEREAS, the current centralized correspondence program provides, among other things, continuity, central records, a professional staff, able to deal with the students as individuals; and

WHEREAS, at present there are nine teachers working part time to handle all of the state's elementary correspondence program, with a teacher for each grade level and that by placing the program in local control would require a duplicate cost in supplies, salaries, and books for between 20 to 40 different local districts; and

WHEREAS, there are only approximately 350 lawful elementary correspondence students within the State of Alaska, and these students;

would not likely receive the attention or priority in the local districts and as a result the students are likely to become lost in the shuffle; and

WHEREAS, decentralization would emasculate any proper state direction of a correspondence program in that no direct feedback would then be available to the state;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH:

That the Assembly of the Kenai Peninsula Borough hereby opposes the decentralization of the correspondence school program now administered by the State of Alaska through the Department of Education, and further, that the present program as instituted and administered should receive the support and encouragement its staff deserves.

That copies of this resolution shall be transmitted to Governor Jay S. Hammond; Dr. Marshall L. Lind, Commissioner of Education; Senator Clem Tillion, Rep. Hugh Malone, Rep. Leo Rhode, and Rep. Keith Specking.

ADOPTED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH THIS 15th DAY OF April, 1975.



Assembly President

ATTEST:



Borough Clerk

Kenai Peninsula Borough
Resolution 75-24
Page 2 of 2 Pages

MEMORANDUM

State of Alaska

TO: Marshall Lind
Commissioner of Education

DATE: April 30, 1975

FILE NO:

TELEPHONE NO:

FROM: Vern Williams, Coordinator
Learner Assistance *VW*

SUBJECT: House Bill #443

Background:

Historically the Department of Education has provided correspondence services to elementary and secondary students in the state who are unable to attend school because they reside at such a distance from school that it is impossible or impractical for them to attend regular school sessions.

More recently these services have been offered in some districts of the state as an alternative to attendance in the regular school program. The State Foundation Program provides for funding to school districts based on numbers of students enrolled in the correspondence study program.

Discussion:

The State Board of Education is dedicated to the philosophy of local control of all educational programs. The Board believes that programs administered at the local level are more sensitive to the needs of those receiving services than programs administered at the State level. Funding to support all programs should be made available to local school districts.

The bill is antipodal to the philosophy of the Board in that it would place control and administration of the correspondence study program exclusively at the State level and redirect State Foundation support money from the local school districts to the State Department of Education.

Attached is a copy of the State Board of Education's position paper on Correspondence Study.

Recommendation:

We recommend that the bill not be passed.

VW:lg
Attachment

MEMORANDUM

State of Alaska

TO: Marshall Lind
Commissioner of Education

DATE: April 29, 1975

FILE NO:

TELEPHONE NO:

FROM: Vern Williams, Coordinator *VW*
Learner Assistance

SUBJECT: Senate Bill #367

Background:

Historically the Department of Education has provided correspondence services to elementary and secondary students in the State that are unable to attend school because they reside at such a distance from school that it is impossible or impractical for them to attend regular school sessions.

More recently these services have been offered in some districts of the State as an alternative to attendance in the regular school program. The State Foundation Program provides for funding to school districts based on numbers of students enrolled in the correspondence study program.

Discussion:

The tone of this bill is consistent with the philosophy of the Department of Education and the State Board of Education i.e., that the Correspondence Section in the Department of Education will continue to be responsible for curriculum development, in-service training and research evaluation.

Postsecondary education is quite universally considered to be a credit program at the college level. If this is the interpretation of the term used in this bill, the responsibility more appropriately lies with the University. Correspondence courses are available at present through the University of Alaska.

The present funding pattern for correspondence consists of legislative appropriations supplemented by program receipts collected from districts on the basis of students enrolled in the program and who reside in the district.

Recommendations:

The legislation, as written, does not materially affect services provided correspondence students by the Department. The Department of Education, however, does not see the need for the establishment of a Division of Correspondence Study.

VW:lg
Attachment

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Position Paper on

CORRESPONDENCE STUDY

The State Board of Education, at its Thirty-Seventh Regular Session, held March 2 and 3 in Juneau, moved that "...the Department of Education should proceed with the decentralization (of the Correspondence Study program operation)."

Subsequent to this decision, a great deal of misleading information has been circulated to Correspondence Study parents and the general public. At its April meeting, the Board reaffirmed its earlier decision regarding decentralization of the Correspondence Study program and outlined in detail the Board policy and desires concerning the transition from central to local operation of the program.

First, the Board reaffirmed its belief in the dedication to the philosophy of local control of all educational programs. Second, it restated its desire that the present level of quality of Correspondence Study be maintained or improved for each student.

The State Board directed the Department of Education to work closely with those city and borough school districts which have Correspondence Study programs, and to provide assistance to districts in setting up local programs.

Operation of the Correspondence Study program will be turned over to a local city or borough district when it is mutually agreed by the district or city and the Department of Education that the district or city is ready to assume operation without loss of program quality to the individual student. Further, the State Board directed the Department to continue the operation of the Correspondence Study program for those students residing in the Unorganized Borough. In addition,

the Board directed the Department of Education to work cooperatively with the Alaska State-Operated School System on the improvement of the secondary Correspondence Study program. Department of Education operation of Correspondence Study for students in the Unorganized Borough will continue until such time as control of the total education function is decentralized in the Unorganized Borough.

Throughout the transition period from central to local operation, the State Department of Education will provide staff training and program development services to the affected school districts. Further, the State Department of Education will continue indefinitely to maintain those functions which are most cost/effectively provided on a State level. Such State level functions include curriculum development for elementary, secondary, and other age groups; provision of supplementary media and materials; in-service training for local district Correspondence Study staff, and centralized research and program evaluation.

In summary, the State Board decision of March 3, 1975, and reaffirmed on April 3, 1975, directs the Department to initiate a plan for the transition of the Correspondence Study operation from State to local district control; such transition to be based on mutual agreement and readiness between the Department of Education and the affected district. Direct operation of Correspondence Study services for students of the Unorganized Borough is to be maintained by the Department of Education, until such time as this function can be more effectively handled at a level closer to the students involved.