

HB

453

POSITION PAPER  
ON  
HOUSE BILL 453

"An Act relating to the age of persons eligible for programs for exceptional children".

It appears that the purpose of this Bill is to effect two substantial changes in Alaska law: 1) to place responsibility on local governments, through the procedures of the Department of Education and the foundation program, for the education of "exceptional adults"; 2) to establish a procedure by which education programs for adults qualify for special grants from the Department of Health and Social Services; 3) to amend and extend Senate Bill 188 and House Bill 454.

The Division of Mental Health cannot speak to the general citizens' desire that the State assume such an educational responsibility. However, there are several questions which we wish to raise regarding House Bill 453:

1. A tangle of intent between the two apparent purposes of the Bill: placement of authority and responsibility for the education of adults, including mentally retarded adults in the Department of Education (14.30) and placing the same responsibility and authority only for mentally retarded adults in the Department of Health and Social Services (47.20).

We believe that this will extend the present difficulties experienced by this Department and the Department of Education regarding provision of similar services to the same group (e.g., day care and services to the mentally retarded).

2. While AS 14.30.191 specifies that diagnostic standards be established jointly by the Department of Education and the Department of Health and Social Services, the new language of House Bill 453 specifies that only for adults (as distinct from children) determination of eligibility for a program whose standards are established by the Department of Education should reside only with the Department of Health and Social Services. We believe this to be inconsistent with sound program management and to raise potential difficulties between the two departments and consumer groups.

3. The third difficulty is of a more practical sort and is, perhaps, best spoken to by the Department of Education. It is possible that the State is interested in assuming responsibility, beyond the present Adult Basic Education program and Vocational Education and Rehabilitation programs, for those adults who have not fully benefited from the educational experiences of their childhood years. The group of "exceptional adults" in House Bill 453 is possibly quite large, containing as it does, not only the mentally retarded whose need for such services is unquestionable and greatly needed but also many adults with "learning disabilities" and "emotional handicaps". It is estimated that at least 4000 exceptional adults would become eligible for new "competent education services" upon passage of this bill. The reason for this large figure is that there is no way known to determine that an adult would not benefit from competent educational services of some kind. Therefore, all adults who are mentally retarded, physically handicapped, emotionally handicapped, learning disabled, gifted and multiply-handicapped would become eligible for educational services.

Position Paper

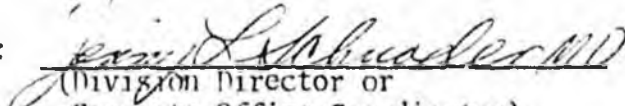
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4. It would be more appropriate that additional opportunities for education be made available for exceptional adults in the State's community college system.

Position: Oppose.

Recommended By:

  
(Division Director or  
Separate Office Coordinator)

5-7-75  
(Date)

Approved:

  
(Commissioner)

5/8/75  
(Date)

Comments by Governor's Office:

By:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

The Legislature of the State of Alaska  
FISCAL NOTE

First Session - Ninth Legislature

I. REQUEST

Bill No. House Bill 453

Title: An Act relating to the age of persons eligible for programs for exceptional

Requested by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ children.

Return Date Requested: \_\_\_\_\_

Agency: \_\_\_\_\_ Program: \_\_\_\_\_

II. FISCAL DETAIL

Budget Request Unit(s) Affected: Special Education

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						
400 COMMODITIES						
500 EQUIPMENT						
600 LAND & STRUCTURES						
700 GRANTS, CLAIMS, ETC.						
TOTAL	4,000,000	same	same			

B. FUNDING: (Thousands of dollars)

GENERAL FUND	3,700,000	"	"			
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER (Local)	300,000	"	"			

C. POSITIONS:

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

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

The Special Education Section of the Department of Education estimates that for 4000 exceptional adults, \$4,000,000 per year would be expended based on the School Foundation Support program.

IV. ATTACHMENTS

V. DATE: 5-7-75

PREPARED BY: Joseph L. Schroeder

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