

SCOMM

#3:2



Pouch V
JUNEAU ALASKA
99811

Alaska State Legislature
House

SELECT COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

(907) 465-4951
or
(907) 465-3729

One hearing by SCOE

Stayed in House HESS
for action (was hold-
over from previous
session).



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SELECT COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

February 3, 1976

(907) 465-4951
OR
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MINUTES

Present: Parr Davis
Hackney Osterback
Ostrosky Swanson

Absent: Wallis Sullivan
Beirne

Testifying: Marshall Lind, Commissioner of Education; SB 203 am
and HB 245
Ernest Polley, Coordinator, Planning and Research;
HB 245

Robert Van Houte, NEA-Alaska, Inc.; SB 203 am

Chairman Parr called the meeting to order at 3:10 pm.

SB 203 am - Relating to school attendance-Hohman

Parr-Hohman's reason for initiating the bill was because there was a problem with some of the school boards in approving an absence requested for participating in an educational experience.

Lind-Section 14.30.010 (Compiled School Laws) is being amended to add a ninth exemption from compulsory school. Department of Education offered no specific recommendation because they are reluctant to make statutory changes if existing sections cover the problem.

The Committee was unsure of the specific intent of the bill (for short absences, extended absences, etc.) and felt the language needed clarification. It appeared the bill was attempting to put into statute a decision which now exists in school board policy; it should remain the prerogative of the school board to decide if a trip is worthwhile to a student, educationally, and to excuse or not excuse the absence.

Mr. Lind-decision to excuse now rests with superintendent. If a school board overrides his decision he can follow a procedure to grieve the override decision. Felt the major obligation is that a decision not be contradictory to existing statute or law. Requests of this type are few.

Van Houte-would support the bill-on the grounds that an absence of this type should be allowed but if it is allowable now under existing law would agree that the bill is not necessary.

Mr. Lind -felt most teachers and administrators would agree that an educational experience is another way of learning. Felt it would be difficult for the Department of Education to determine whether the absence was excusable, not being familiar with the student, his grades, etc.

Rep. Swanson made a motion, asking for unanimous consent, that the bill be laid on the table. So ordered.

HB 245-Evaluation & planning in the Department of Education-HESS

Mr. Lind -will be a videotape available in a week having to do with the satellite effort being planned as well as other phases of the proposed program. An assessment program is being worked on in the critical areas of math and reading which will also serve as an assist to the teachers in diagnosing problems in specific areas. Are also looking at high school graduation requirements and evaluating results being achieved with students. The study would assist the Department of Education in tying together efforts (collection of data, managing this information, planning and design work, and evaluation). Would require new money or a provision from the legislature enabling the Department to take it out of another area (Student Instruction Support program). Program would allow standards to be set and districts would be evaluated against these standards. Would be a way of planning on a statewide basis not possible through local school districts.

Polley-existing standardized tests do not allow teachers to derive any conclusion (merely separates people on a curve) but Criterion Reference testing would tell what specific skills are necessary to achieve the intended result, where specifically the student is lacking, and would provide prescriptive support for corrective action.

Rep. Parr-didn't Right to Read project do this?

Polley-program was much too vulnerable; depended too much on the individual skills of the teacher. Program would include the necessary support system (materials and instructions to teachers, etc.). Can only provide this assistance; districts would decide if they should use it. Felt it would be beneficial to discuss the program with superintendents when they are in Juneau next week to get their views.

Rep. Swanson-it would add to the bureaucracy, instead of doing what Chapter 124 intended; to have the Regional Education Attendance Area Board Members make the decisions on standards and then do what has to be done to meet them.

Polley-outlined the technological communications proposed. Said they felt the methods would be faster and more dependable (than mail service) and would cut down on much of the paper work now required resulting in lower expenses. Also much can be accomplished through computer based instruction, one way and two way audio, tapping into satellites, etc. which can not otherwise be offered. A pilot program is the only way to see if these methods will work.

Rep. Hackney-opposed the cost of the study over the period of time proposed. Asked why they couldn't have the pilot program where hardware now exists.

Polley-explained why they had selected the villages they had for the pilot program; low cost and an area where the need is great, for meaningful evaluation (Skagway, Angoon & Kake).

Mr.Lind -not imposing something new or creating an additional layer of bureaucracy on the school districts and not adding new people to the Department of Education, but instead an attempt of looking for better ways to use the funds now allocated for education and to better utilize the dollars going into the hardware (earth station and satellite) regardless of what is done in education. Will get better return on money being put out now. Individual districts can not accomplish the same because of lack of funds, etc. Students in larger communities have an advantage over smaller villages; would help equalize educational capabilities. The proposed program is a vehicle to enable the Department and the Legislature to do planning and evaluating on those things they feel are significant.

Rep. Osterback- supports program because of what it can do in the villages (thru telecommunications, etc.) to bring in new material on a regular basis.

The Committee agreed they should view the videotape the Department of Education had put together with the Telecommunications Office and should talk with the superintendents to get their views on the bill.

Mr.Lind-asked the Committee to ask the superintendents their views on SB 203 as well.

There being no objection, HB 245 was ordered held in abeyance until a later date.

Chairman Parr adjourned the meeting at 4:30 pm.

Introduced: 2/26/75
Referred: Health, Education
and Social Services

1 IN THE SENATE

BY HOHMAN

2 SENATE BILL NO. 203 am

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 NINTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to school attendance."

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

8 * Section 1. AS 14.30.010(b) is amended by adding a new paragraph to
9 read:

10 (10) is equally well-served by an educational experience
11 approved by the school board as serving his educational interests despite
12 an absence from school, the request for excuse is made in writing by
13 his parents or guardian, and approved by the principal or administrator
14 of the school he attends.
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COMMITTEE REPORT

HOUSE

1/19/76

HESS

Mr. Speaker:

Date _____

The Committee on Select Comm. on Ed. has had SB 203 am

under consideration. A Majority of the members of the Committee

recommends it DO PASS

recommends it DO NOT PASS

recommends it DO PASS WITH ATTACHED AMENDMENT(S)

recommends it BE REPLACED WITH CS FOR _____ AND THAT

CS FOR _____ DO PASS

"and" recommends it BE REFERRED TO THE _____

COMMITTEE

reports it back WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION

"other"

Members signing the Majority report:

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Members NOT concurring in the Majority report:

_____ recommends:

_____ recommends:

_____ recommends:

_____ recommends:

_____ recommends:

_____ Chairman

Introduced: 2/26/75
Referred: Health, Education
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POSITION PAPER

SB # 203

SB #203 "relating to school attendance."

BACKGROUND

Practices and policies concerning student excused and unexcused absences from compulsory school attendance varies widely among districts.

WHAT THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION WOULD DO

The proposed legislation would add an additional exemption to the compulsory school statute, and would codify what is currently practiced by the districts through school board policies or administration rules and regulations.

AGENCY COMMENT

Is it necessary to place this provision in statute?

AGENCY POSITION

No recommendation.

Chapter 30. Pupils.Article

1. Compulsory Education (Sec. 14.30.010--14.30.050)
2. Physical Examinations (Sec. 14.30.065--14.30.125)
3. Education for Exceptional Children (Sec. 14.30.180--14.30.350)

Article 1. Compulsory Education.Section

10. When attendance compulsory
20. Violation
30. Report of violations and procedures

Section

45. Grounds for suspension or denial of admission
47. Admission or readmission, when cause no longer exists
50. Truant officers

Sec. 14.30.010. When attendance compulsory. (a) Every child between seven and 16 years of age shall attend school at the public school in the district in which the child resides during each school term. Every parent, guardian or other person having the responsibility for or control of a child between seven and 16 years of age shall insure that the child is not absent from attendance.

(b) This section does not apply if a child

(1) is provided an academic education comparable to that offered by the public schools in the area, either by attendance at a private school in which the teachers are certificated according to AS 14.20.020 or by tutoring by personnel certificated according to AS 14.20.020;

(2) attends a school operated by the federal government;

(3) has a physical or mental condition which a competent medical authority determines will make attendance impractical;

(4) is in the custody of a court or law enforcement authorities;

(5) is temporarily ill or injured;

(6) has been suspended or denied admittance according to sec. 45 of this chapter;

(7) resides more than two miles from either a public school or a route on which transportation is provided by the school authorities, except that this subsection does not apply if the pupil resides within two miles of a federal or private school which he is eligible and able to attend;

(8) is excused in writing signed by a majority of the members of the school board of a district, or by the director of state-operated schools for a child in such a school, or

(9) has completed the 12th grade.

(10) is enrolled in a full-time program of correspondence study approved by the department; in those school districts providing an approved correspondence study program, a student may be enrolled either in the district correspondence program or in the centralized correspondence study program.

(Sec 37-7-1 ACLA 1949; am Sec 10 ch 98 SLA 1966; am Sec 5 ch 71 SLA 1972; am Sec 5 ch 190 SLA 1975)

SELECT COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

SB 203 am

Senator Hohman:

Why do you think Sec. 14.30.010 does not have adequate provisions for excused absences from school?

Could you give us some specific examples which could substantiate the need for this legislation.