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POSITION PAPER
SENATE BILL NO. 325 am

"An Act relating to the education of certain exceptional children; and providing for an effective date:

WHAT THE BILL DOES

Section 1 and 2 broaden the scope of this program by placing center based program offerings on an equal basis with home based programs. Section 3 corrects a legislative oversight from 1978 when this statute was made specific for the 0-3 age group.

DISCUSSION

There is a valid need for center based programs in larger communities, particularly for the two year old children with handicapping conditions. It is this Department's position that center based programs, when offered, should only be supplemental to home based. The reason for this is that a home based program is geared to that individual child, whereas center based programs are geared to a group of children.

There are definite advantages to such a supplemental center based program. It provides an opportunity for a handicapped toddler to interact with peers. It provides an opportunity for parents to interact with each other and garner information and skills. It gives the home based teacher the chance to see the child interact and model behavior of other children. The cost of this center based program need not be excessive if it calls for only a few hours, ~~work~~ for each child. The cost could, however, be very high if the child spent 5 to 8 hours a day in a center with teacher: child ratio of 1:5.

Whether the cost is high or low, if it is supplemental to home based then the net cost would be greater than a purely home based program. It is because of this increased cost that the Department has set its highest priority, as a first step, on getting home based infant learning programs started in all appropriate communities throughout Alaska.

X The Department has received letters of intent from aspiring grantees that total \$1,879,275 for fiscal year 83. The initial Governor's request for FY 83 for these grants was \$1,503,100. That request has now been revised downward to \$1,228,000. Unless there is additional funding added to this BKU, broadening the statute in this way will raise grantees expectations without any realistic funding possibilities at this time.

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One suggestion to limit the cost escalation potential of this bill would be to limit center based programs to areas that have a sufficient population base. A center based program in a rural area where parents' and children's attendance would require travel funds would be prohibitively expensive - the bill in its present form would allow that. If the legislature were to give some broad intent in this regard, the Department could define through regulations, more specifically, the scope of center based activity.

POSITION

The Department favors this bill only if adequate funding is made available for its implementation and only if the center based activity is clearly supplemental to home based. *

Recommended by: E. S. Rabeau
E. S. Rabeau, M.D., Director
Division of Public Health

Date: April 6, 1982

Approved by: H. O. Beirne
Helen O. Beirne, Commissioner
Department of Health and
Social Services

Date: 4-7-82

THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWELFTH LEGISLATURE

FISCAL NOTE

I. REQUEST

Bill/Resolution No. Senate Bill 325 am
 Title "An Act relating to the education of certain exceptional children."
 Requested by Commissioner's Office House HESS Date 4/2/82

II. FISCAL DETAIL

Agency Affected Department of Health and Social Services
 Program Category Affected Health/Public Health
 BRU, Program, Or Subprogram(s) Affected Child and Family Health
 (Note: If more than one budget component is affected, separate line-item amounts and funding for each component in the analysis section.)

EXPENDITURES (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY 82	FY 83	FY 84	FY 85	FY 86	FY 87
100 PERSONAL SERVICES						
200 TRAVEL						
300 CONTRACTUAL						
400 COMMODITIES						
500 EQUIPMENT						
600 LAND & STRUCTURES						
700 GRANTS, CLAIMS, ETC.	0	50.0	250.0	300.0	350.0	400.0
TOTAL	0	50.0	250.0	300.0	350.0	400.0

FUNDING (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY 82	FY 83	FY 84	FY 85	FY 86	FY 87
GENERAL FUND	0	50.0	250.0	300.0	350.0	400.0
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER (Specify Source)						

POSITIONS

	FY 82	FY 83	FY 84	FY 85	FY 86	FY 87
FULL TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
PART TIME						
TEMPORARY						

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

The only fiscal impact will be in grants. In FY 83 the impact is minimal since all grant applications have already been submitted. In FY 84, however, there would be a number of grantees who would apply for center based funding. In FY 85 and beyond the funding would increase due to population growth and inflation.

IV. DATE 4/6/82

PREPARED BY David Spence, M.D.

AGENCY Department of Health & Social Services

PHONE 465-3100

Original: Legislative Finance

cc: Budget and Management

Prime Sponsor (First Legislator Named)

33-001 (Rev. 12/81)

JCC