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M E M O R A N D U M

TO: MEMBERS OF THE ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

FROM: SENATOR TERRY STIMSON 

SUBJECT: SENATE BILL 515

DATE: MAY 27, 1981

In the past few weeks many of you may have received public opinion messages regarding Senate Bill 515, an Act which would establish an educational brokerage system in the State of Alaska.

The Educational Opportunity Center in Anchorage, a federally funded agency which does currently provide educational brokerage services, was particularly concerned about the bill as they saw it as a threat to their federal guidelines which require that all Educational Opportunity Centers not compete for services with other local, state or federal agencies. Their concern would have been legitimate if Senate Bill 515 was attempting to replace or compete with existing agencies---but this is not the case. In drafting the bill we were particularly careful to insure that the proposed brokerage system would coexist and cooperate with already established agencies.

Attached please find a copy of the legal interpretation from the Legislative Affairs Agency as to whether Senate Bill 515 would lead to a replacement or duplication of an existing agency. Also attached please find a copy of Senate Bill 515. We have highlighted the germane phrases which I believe clearly describe the cooperative nature of the bill.

As I stated on the Senate floor, my interest in this legislation stems from a general concern for Alaskans who through choice or misfortune find themselves unemployed. I believe it is the job of each and every one of us to assist Alaska residents in finding jobs they are both interested in and qualified for. This may require training or re-training or further studying into a career or vocation. A statewide educational brokerage system would do just that--place Alaskans in touch with new opportunities--place Alaskans in touch with jobs.

Many of you contacted me about the communication(s) you received and I appreciated the opportunity to discuss the subject with you. I hope that this memorandum and the attached will further clarify the intent of this bill.

STATE OF ALASKA  
THE LEGISLATURE

HOUSE - STATE OFFICE  
LEGISLATIVE AGENCY  
327 WEST 12TH

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY

MEMORANDUM

May 18, 1981

SUBJECT: Effect of SB 515  
TO: Senator Terry Stimson  
FROM: THC Linn H. Asper  
Legislative Counsel

You have asked if SB 515, as drafted, will lead to replacement of existing programs or duplication of effort by establishing an educational brokerage program. I have reviewed the drafting of SB 515 and I think that the language of the bill makes it clear that existing programs will not be replaced, impaired or duplicated if the bill becomes law. Sec. 1 of the bill states the legislative findings: (b)(1) of that section provides that the education brokerage program is to use existing programs and publications to accomplish its stated goals. Sec. 2, which adds a chapter to AS 14, provides that the Department of Education shall insure that the educational brokerage program provides counseling and referral services for adults in cooperation with agencies which provide adult education and planning services (AS 14.34.100(5)(1),(D); emphasis added). This language presupposes a cooperative effort with existing programs rather than a replacement of them or a duplication of their efforts. In my opinion amendment of the bill is not necessary to prevent the educational brokerage program from replacing or duplicating existing programs.

LJA:ljb