

H B

125

Alaska State Legislature

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House of Representatives

MEMORANDUM

TO: SENATE HESS
FROM: REPRESENTATIVE RON LARSON *R.L.*
SUBJECT: COMMENTS ON SCHOOL CLOSURE DAYS

Having been an active teacher in Alaska for the past 23-½ years, I have personally seen many days when schools have remained opened simply to meet the mandate of "student in session days", when it was clearly obvious that in doing so, the health and safety of many individual students were being compromised.

The superintendent of school districts needs to be able, at least on a limited basis, to provide school closure days, when in their opinion the health and safety of students may be jeopardized by requiring student attendance. (Example: days with extreme weather conditions, breakdown of school heating system, loss of electrical power, possible bomb threats, or other unforeseen threats to health and safety conditions).

I might note that as a classroom teacher, I found that classroom procedures and general learning experiences are best retained by using normal procedures for missed work, instead of trying to make up missed work by holding school on Saturdays or extending school days at the end of the regular school year.

A personal example I might cite is: during one such day last year, I know of five automobile accidents involving students trying to get to school under extreme icy road conditions. School was held all that day with only 15-20% of the students present, and therefore, no regular classroom type instruction took place. The only purpose or value in holding school that day was to satisfy a requirement under State law. I might also add that the Matanuska-Susitna Borough is also being sued at this time over a bus accident that took place on a day when road conditions were extremely icy.

STATE OF ALASKA
PRELIMINARY STATEMENT OF FISCAL IMPACT

Bill No: House Bill No. 125 Date on Bill: 1/26/83
 Title: "An Act relating to 'emergency closure days 'in response to a threat to the health and
 Sponsor: Representative Larson safety of students."
 Requestor: _____

1. Estimated fiscal impacts on: Department of Health & Social Services

a. Expenditures:

(Thousands of Dollars)

	FY 83	FY 84	FY 85	FY 86
Capital	0	0	0	0
Operating	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0

B. Revenues:

Revenue				
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2. Source of funds to offset fiscal impact of bill:

Responsibility for identification of funding is that of the author of the bill.

3. Assumptions:

4. Disclaimer:

This statement has not been reviewed by OMB in the Office of the Governor. It does not represent the policy of the Sheffield Administration or the final estimate of fiscal impact.

Prepared by: Dean Tirador, M.D. *MT* Phone: 465-2113
 Division: Public Health Date: 2/8/83

Approved by Commissioner: *Robert L. ...* Date: 2/22/83
 Department: Health and Social Services

5. Distribution:

- Original to Legislative Finance
- Copy to OMB
- Copy to Sponsor
- Copy to Requestor

2/8/83

POSITION PAPER

HOUSE BILL NO. 125

"An Act relating to 'emergency closure days' in response to a threat to the health or safety of students."

This Bill amends AS 14.03.030 by adding a provision that an "emergency closure day" may be substituted for a day in session because of conditions posing a threat to the health or safety of students.

The Department of Health and Social Services cannot comment on the educational impact of the new provision. Emergency closures for strictly health or safety reasons are a relatively uncommon event and can be kept at a minimum by strict enforcement of existing statutes and regulations relating to immunization requirements and building and safety codes. In the past year, there have been no instances in which the Division of Public Health has recommended closure of a school due to health reasons. The most likely reasons for closure would probably relate to environmental considerations due to failure of utilities such as heating, water or sewerage systems.

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

Date: Feb 5, 1983

Approved by: Robert London Smith
Robert London Smith, Ph.D.
Commissioner
Department of Health and Social Services

Date: 2/9/83

THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

FISCAL NOTE

I. REQUEST

Bill/Resolution No. HB - 125
Title An Act relating to 'emergency closure days'...
Requested by House HESS Date 2/22/83

II. FISCAL DETAIL

Agency Affected Education
Program Category Affected Elementary and Secondary Education
BRU, Program, Or Subprogram(s) Affected K-12 Foundation Support
(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 83	FY 84	FY 85	FY 86	FY 87	FY 88
100 PERSONAL SERVICES						
200 TRAVEL						
300 CONTRACTUAL						
400 COMMODITIES						
500 EQUIPMENT						
600 LAND & STRUCTURES						
700 GRANTS, CLAIMS, ETC.		0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL		0	0	0	0	0

FUNDING (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND		0	0	0	0	0
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER (Specify Source)						
OPERATING						
CAPITAL						

POSITIONS N/A

FULL TIME						
PART TIME						
TEMPORARY						

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

THIS FISCAL NOTE IS PRESENTLY BEING REVIEWED BY THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET.

This bill has no fiscal impact.

IV. DATE 2/22/83

PREPARED BY Steve Hole

AGENCY Education

PHONE 465-2865

Original: Legislative Finance

cc: Budget and Management

Prime Sponsor (First Legislator Named)

33-001 (Rev. 12/82)

