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B

556

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

(7)

Date referred: 4/22/88

FURTHER REFERRALS:

DATE: 4-28-88

The Health, Education and Social Services Committee has considered HB 556

"An Act adding class size and workload to the matters subject to negotiation between school boards and their certificated employees."

RECOMMENDS:

- replace with _____ the same title
- attached amendment(s) a new title
- do pass
- do not pass
- no recommendation
- individual recommendations
- additional referral to the _____ Committee

ADOPTS: _____ letter of intent

ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):

- fiscal impact same as previous fiscal note published _____
- zero fiscal note same as previous zero fiscal note published 4/22/88
- zero with analysis

SIGNING DO PASS:

[Handwritten signatures]

SIGNING OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:

[Handwritten signatures]

_____ No Rec.

_____ - No Rec.

_____ - No Rec.

[Handwritten signature]

Co Chairman's signature

[Handwritten signature]



ALASKA ASSOCIATION OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPALS
ALASKA ASSOCIATION OF SECONDARY SCHOOL PRINCIPALS
ALASKA ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS

• ALASKA COUNCIL OF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS •
328 Fourth St., Suite #211 - Juneau, Alaska 99801 586-9702

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of House HESS
FROM: Stephen T. McPhetres
DATE: April 22, 1988
SUBJECT: HB 556 - NEGOTIATIONS CLASS SIZE

The Alaska Council of School Administrators is opposed to the passage of HB 556 for several reasons. We felt Representative Davidson asked some key questions regarding alternative approaches to dealing with class size and need to be addressed.

- (a) Class size is definitely a bill which carries with it a fiscal note. I believe the Department of Education projected a \$20 million figure to lower the PTR in grades K-3 in all schools in Alaska.
- (b) Further, class size is a strong subject of discussion in support of HB 407, the creation of the education endowment fund, yet, the legislative is reluctant to address this proposal.
- (c) Many districts in Alaska already have district wide goal setting meetings where such topics as class size, of an issue, can be addressed in a collegial manner, not in an adversary manner that negotiations creates.
- (d) The Governor, the State Board of Education, and many organizations and educators view class size as a top priority in Alaskan schools. It will be addressed if that commitment continues to be strong.

Finally, the resources of a school district include money, energy, and time. Each of these is a limited resource and there is only so much of each to be expended in a given school year. Any process that diverts inordinate amounts of energy and time from the process of educating students is problematic.

FISCAL NOTE

REQUEST:

Revision Date: _____
Title: class size and workload.
subject to negotiation.
Sponsor: House HESS
Requestor: House Labor and Commerce

Agency Affected: Education
BRU: K-12 Support
Components: Foundation

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	FY 91	FY 92	FY 93
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING		0				
CAPITAL						
REVENUE						

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND		0				
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL						

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS : (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Technically this is a zero fiscal note. However, the bill holds potential for significantly increasing operating cost of school districts, a substantial portion of which is offset through the foundation program.

Prepared by: Steve Hole
Division: Commissioner's Office

Phone: 465-2800
Date: 4-18-88

Approved by Commissioner: William G. Demmert
Agency: Department of Education

Date: 4-18-88

Distribution (by preparer):

Legislative Finance
Legislative Sponsor
Requestor
Office of Management and Budget
Impacted Agency(ies)

STATE OF ALASKA
THE LEGISLATURE

POUCH Y - STATE CAPITOL
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811
907-465-3800

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY
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May, 1988

Copies of minutes listed below were originally included in this file. The minutes are available on the STAIRS database CMPR. In order to save space copies of minutes have not been left in the files.

Mary Van Nimwegen

HL+C	4-21-88	2:00 p.m.
H HESS	4-28-88	8:30 a.m.

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

(7)

Date referred: 4/12/88

FURTHER REFERRALS: HESS

DATE: 4/21/88

The Labor & Commerce Committee has considered HB 556

"An Act adding class size and workload to the matters subject to negotiation between school boards and their certificated employees."

RECOMMENDS:

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ADOPTS: _____ letter of intent

ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):

- fiscal impact same as previous fiscal note published _____
- zero fiscal note same as previous zero fiscal note published _____
- zero with analysis

SIGNING DO PASS:

SIGNING OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:

David Duley
Ellis
Craig
[Signature]
[Signature]
[Signature]
[Signature]

David Duley
 Chairman's signature



NEA-ALASKA

AFFILIATED WITH THE NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

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FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99701
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April 16, 1988

To: Rep. David Donley, Chair
Members, House Labor & Commerce Committee

Re: HB 556; "An Act adding class size and workload to
the matters subject to negotiations between
school boards and their certificated
employees."

NEA-Alaska supports and encourages favorable consideration
of this legislation by the Committee.

HB 556 puts in place a method for the resolution of the
increasing class size and workload problems in our school
districts but it does not impose a solution for them on the
parties.

Anticipating that there may be resistance to this
legislation by school boards and administrators it should be
emphasized that HB 556 only establishes a mechanism to deal
with the problems but leaves the solution to be developed at
the local school district level.

The Kenai decision on the scope of teacher negotiations held
that since there was not clear legislative intent language
on the subject of negotiability, class size and workload
should be considered as non-negotiable matters. Subsequent
to this decision and with the recent decline in revenues
available to public education, we have seen in many
districts larger class sizes and substantially increased
teacher workloads.

As a result, teachers as employees, have not had an
effective means to deal with these critical issues.

In late February of 1988 you were provided with copies of
the NEA-Alaska and PTA surveys of various districts around
the state which clearly demonstrated increased class sizes
and workloads.

The public clearly wants lower class sizes. Governor Cowper
in his State of the State message encouraged that the

Legislature address the issue. Research consistently shows that lower class sizes enhance the learning potential and opportunity for each child. Smaller classes make more time available for individual instruction.

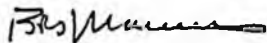
Because of the diversity of our state and the unique differences in school districts relative to their size and programs it is probably not realistically possible to legislate numbers relative to class size and workload which would adequately address this issue.

We feel that negotiability of the issue provides the potential to deal with the uniqueness of the problems and lends itself to the best potential for their resolution.

We encourage your support for this legislation.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns.

Respectfully submitted,



Bob Manners
Executive Secretary

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