

SCR

39

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

(7)

Date referred: 2/26/88

FURTHER REFERRALS:

DATE: April 19, 1988

The Health, Education and Social Services Committee has considered SCR 39

Requesting the State Board of Education to require the study of Alaska history and government in Alaska schools.

RECOMMENDS:

- replace with HCS SCR 39 (HESS) 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 2/23/88
- zero with analysis

SIGNING DO PASS:

SIGNING OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:

Ch. Ellis
ROBERT BELL
Bill Hinds
Auto Korman
W. J. Schumaker
George Stanley
Dave D. Douley

Auto Korman
 Chairman's signature
Ch. Ellis

FISCAL NOTE

REQUEST:

Revision Date: _____ Agency Affected: Education
 Title: Alaska history and government. BRU: _____
 Sponsor: Hensley Components: _____
 Requestor: Senate HESS

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	0	0	0	0

CAPITAL						
---------	--	--	--	--	--	--

REVENUE						
---------	--	--	--	--	--	--

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND		0	0	0	0	0
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL						

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS : (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Prepared by: Steve Hole Phone: 465-2800
 Division: Commissioner's Office Date: 2-19-88
 Approved by Commissioner: William G. Demmert Date: 2-19-88
 Agency: Department of Education

Distribution (by preparer):
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 Office of Management and Budget
 Impacted Agency(ies)

STATE OF ALASKA
THE LEGISLATURE

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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

H HESS

4-19-88

8:30 a.m.

Alaska State Senate

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Juneau, AK 99811
Phone: (907) 465-2444
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Senate Finance Committee
State Affairs Committee
Vice-Chair, Rules Committee
Chair, Administrative Regulation Review

William L. Hensley

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Representative Niilo Koponen, Co-Chairman
Representative Johnny Ellis, Co-Chairman
House Health, Education, and Social Services Committee

FROM: Senator Willie Hensley

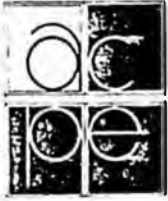
SUBJ: Resolution relating to the teaching of Alaska history and government in the schools.

DATE: April 18, 1988

Thank you for scheduling a hearing on my resolution requesting the State Board of Education to require students to complete one unit of Alaska history and government to graduate from high school.

The reasoning behind my proposal is set out in the resolution, which is attached, but I want to highlight one element: the 1987 report of the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education that 33 percent of Alaska's seniors surveyed said they had no educational experience in Alaska history. A copy of the Commission's news release is also attached.

Enclosures



ALASKA COMMISSION ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION
BOX FP - JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811
907/465-2854

News Release
Troubled Times - Troubled Students
September 1987

Last year's Alaska high school seniors were more critical of their high school experiences than any group of seniors in the last ten years reported the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education. In its annual survey of Alaska's high school seniors the Commission discovered that the 1985-86 seniors departed from a number of trends established by their predecessors. Dr. Kerry D. Romesburg, the executive director of the Postsecondary Commission, reported that "the percentage of seniors rating their overall high school experience as 'poor' more than doubled from previous years, and the number of seniors rating their high school experiences as 'outstanding' plummeted last year." Romesburg said, "this was only one of the disturbing results of the 1985-86 survey."

"Throughout the survey responses, one sees a reflection of the downturn in Alaska's economy," according to Romesburg. Last year's seniors placed much more emphasis on grades and quality of instruction than seniors in previous surveys. They also continued an increasing tendency to attend college out-of-state and a decreasing tendency to plan to return to Alaska after completing school. Less than half (only 43.3 percent) of the seniors who planned to attend college out-of-state said they planned to return to Alaska after graduation. Romesburg added that many students submitted written comments reflecting the poor job outlook in Alaska.

On a positive note, the survey reports that nearly two-thirds of the seniors still expressed general satisfaction with their high school training, and the seniors from Alaska's smaller high schools are much more pleased with the quality of instruction in their schools than were previous seniors. The findings also reflect that nearly two of every three seniors planned postsecondary education and an increasing number planned to attend a 4-year college or university. The most popular choices were the University of Alaska, Fairbanks and the University of Alaska, Anchorage. When asked why the seniors elected to attend school in Alaska or out-of-state, the responses varied. Those attending in Alaska reported it was due to low tuition and living expenses and closeness to home, while those attending out-of-state reported it was due to availability of program, reputation of school, or geographic location.

"A new aspect of last year's survey was to assess attitudes within specific target disciplines," said Romesburg. The survey is a joint project between the Postsecondary Commission and the State Department of Education. The Department selected the disciplines of natural resources, social sciences, and science to be targeted last year. Romesburg stated that the Department has not yet formally reacted to the report, but that he finds some results surprising. Nearly half of the seniors indicated no educational experience in the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act and a full third of the seniors reported no educational experience in Alaska History, and of those who did have coursework in these areas, many felt the work was poor. "I believe a very legitimate question to raise is why a course in Alaska History is not a state requirement for graduation," said Romesburg.