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HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

(11)

Date Referred: May 4, 1989

FURTHER REFERRALS:

Date of Committee Action: 2/20/90

The FINANCE Committee considered:

SB 171

SENATE BILL NO. 171 [LENGTH OF SCHOOL TERM]
 "An Act relating to the school term."

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- [] be replaced with HCS SB 171 (HESS) [] the same title
- [] have 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): (Dept) APPROVES PREVIOUS: (Date/Dept)

- [] fiscal impact _____ [] fiscal note(s) _____
- [] zero fiscal note _____ [] zero fiscal note(s) D of Education 3/2/89
- [] zero with analysis _____ [] zero fn/analysis _____

SIGNING DO PASS:

SIGNING:
(Check approp. column)

Paul J. Larson Larson
Steve Swackhammer SWACKHAMMER
Jim Ulmer ULMER
Phil Phillips PHILLIPS
Alan Rieger RIEGER
Dick Shultz Shultz

	Do Not Pass	No Rec	Amend
<u>[Signature]</u> Hoffman	X		
<u>[Signature]</u> Brown	X		
<u>[Signature]</u> Koppen	X		
<u>[Signature]</u> Barnes	X		
<u>[Signature]</u> Wallis	X		

Paul J. Larson Larson
 Chairman's Signature
[Signature] Hoffman

STATE OF ALASKA
1990 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL VERSION: HCS for SB 171 (HESS)
PUBLISH DATE: _____

FISCAL NOTE

REQUEST:

Revision Date: 1/16/90
Title: Relating to the School Term

Agency Affected: Education
BRU: K-12 Support

Sponsor: Senate HESS
Requestor: Senator Fischer

Components: Foundation

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 91	FY 92	FY 93	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

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

REVENUE						
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FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL						

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS : (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Prepared by: Mary Hakala Phone: 465-2800
Division: Commissioner's Office Date: 1/15/90

Approved by Commissioner: William G. Demmert Date: 1/15/90
Agency: Education

Distribution (by preparer):

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

Original sponsor: Fischer

zero - st. resp

1 IN THE SENATE

BY THE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND
SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

2 HOUSE CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 171 (HESS)

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to the school term."

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

8 * Section 1. AS 14.03.030 is amended to read:

9 Sec. 14.03.030. SCHOOL TERM. A school term begins and ends on
10 the dates fixed by the governing body of a school district. A school
11 term shall include not less than 180 days in session, unless [EXCEPT
12 THAT], with the approval of the commissioner,

13 (1) a day used for in-service training of teachers is [MAY
14 BE] substituted for a day in session, up to a maximum of 10 days;

15 (2) an "emergency closure day" is [MAY BE] substituted for
16 a day in session because of conditions posing a threat to the health
17 or safety of students; or [AND]

18 (3) a school board adopts [MAY ADOPT] a school term of not
19 less than 150 days for abating asbestos health hazards in the school,
20 or not less than 160 days for other purposes, and [A SCHOOL IF] the
21 commissioner finds that

22 (A) the shorter term is necessary; [FOR ABATING ASBES-
23 TOS HEALTH HAZARDS IN THE SCHOOL; AND]

24 (B) the school board has submitted an acceptable plan
25 under which students will receive the approximate educational
26 equivalent of a 180-day term; and

27 (C) the school board has exhausted all other remedies
28 that would have allowed retention of a 180-day school term.

1 IN THE SENATE

BY FISCHER

2 SENATE BILL NO. 171

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

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12 THAT], with the approval of the commissioner,

13 (1) a day used for in-service training of teachers is [MAY
14 BE] substituted for a day in session, up to a maximum of 10 days;

15 (2) an "emergency closure day" is [MAY BE] substituted for
16 a day in session because of conditions posing a threat to the health
17 or safety of students; and

18 (3) a school board adopts [MAY ADOPT] a school term of not
19 less than 150 days for a school and [IF] the commissioner finds that

20 (A) the shorter term is necessary [FOR ABATING ASBES-
21 TOS HEALTH HAZARDS IN THE SCHOOL]; and

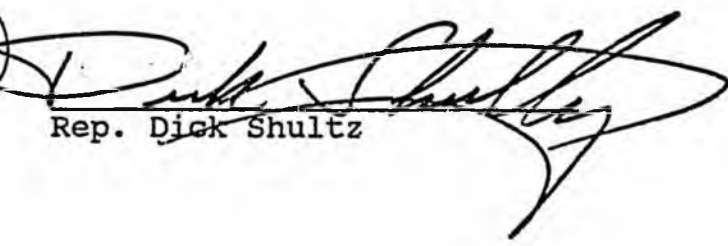
22 (B) the school board has submitted an acceptable plan
23 under which students will receive the approximate educational
24 equivalent of a 180-day term.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT ON SB 171

The House Finance Subcommittee on SB 171 met on February 13, 1990 at 1 p.m., to consider SB 171 and the question that the Finance Committee had directed it to answer: whether the Commissioner of Education currently has the ability to authorize an extension of the length of the school day to satisfy school term requirements. Two of three members were present, Rep. Koponen, chair and Rep. Schultz. Rep. Ulmer was excused due to illness. According to Steve Hole, Department of Education (memo attached), the Commissioner currently has the authority to approve emergency closure days (AS 14.03.030), but the Commissioner does not presently have the authority to authorize districts to make up missed days by extending the number of hours in the school days. The Department of Education and the subcommittee supports this legislation which would add such a provision into law.



Rep. Niilo Koponen, Chair



Rep. Dick Schultz

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

STEVE COWPER, GOVERNOR

GOLDBELT PLACE
801 WEST 10TH STREET
P.O. BOX F
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811-0500

February 7, 1990

The Honorable Niilo Koponen
Alaska State Representative
P.O. Box V
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0500

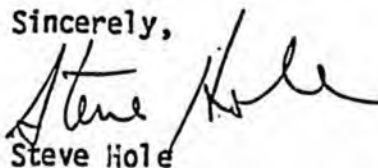
Dear Representative Koponen:

For the record, and as I have testified before other legislative committees on House CS SB-171 (HESS), our interpretation of the bill is that under its provisions, a school board can provide for a school term of less than 180 days, but with extended days in session, and meet the requirement of "... the approximate educational equivalent of a 180 day term..."

The above interpretation is subject to the approval of the commissioner of the plan required by lines 24-26 of this bill, which is also existing law.

The Department supports the bill, and while it would be our intention to implement its provisions in a manner which affords districts flexibility to adjust to exigencies, it also would be our intent to assure that the level of instruction provided under a plan is both academically and age appropriate.

Sincerely,



Steve Hole
Deputy Commissioner



• ALASKA COUNCIL OF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS •
328 Fourth St., Suite 402 Juneau, Alaska 99801 586-8702

POSITION STATEMENT

SB 171 "AN ACT RELATING TO THE SCHOOL TERM."

The Alaska Council of School Administrators looks favorably on SB 171.

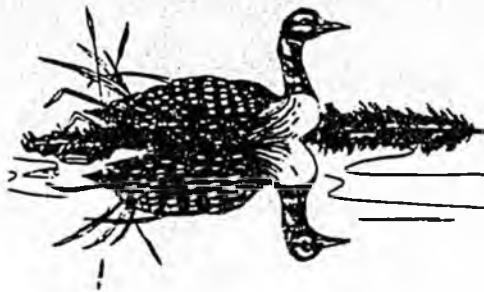
We realize there could be extenuating circumstances requiring school districts to shorten the school year in actual calendar days. Whether it would be by six day school weeks, lengthening the school day or other alternative methods. As long as the minimum requirements are met, and the commissioner has evaluated and approved the plan districts submit for students to receive an equivalent education, then a waiver to the standard 180 day school calendar should be allowed to be adopted.



FEB 02 1989



KENAI PENINSULA
BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT



Nikolaevsk

Николаевск

BOX 5129, NIKOLAEVSK C. P. O.
ANCHOR POINT, ALASKA 99556
Jan. 30, 1989

Senator Paul Fisher
Representative Swackhammer
Representative Navarre

Dear Paul, Swack, Mike

I know that with the foundation formula funding, school construction debt retirement and reduced oil revenues you gentlemen are extremely busy. I hope, however, that you will bring to the floor and pass a bill allowing reduced school year with equivalent hours of instruction such as passed the Senate last year. This is important legislation for all bush communities and as revenues diminish it becomes even more critical.

Senator Fischer's bill last year was appropriate and adequate. It is imperative however that this proposal get immediate attention if it is going to make it through both houses during this session.

I am available to do anything in my power to assist you in this effort. Contact me immediately if I can be of service in making this proposal a reality.

Respectfully,

Bob Moore,
Principal

235-7432 (home)
235-8972 (work)

Letter of Support