

SB

172

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

(7)

Date Referred: April 17, 1989

FURTHER REFERRALS: FINANCE

Date of Committee Action: 4/24/89

The HEALTH, EDUCATION, & SOCIAL SERVICES Committee considered: SB 172

SENATE BILL NO. 172 [EXTEND SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICE AGENCY]
"An Act extending the termination date of the Special Education Service Agency; and providing for an effective date."

- RECOMMENDATIONS:
- be replaced with _____ 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) _____
- zero with analysis _____ zero fn/analysis 3/30/89 Educational

SIGNING DO PASS:

[Signature]
[Signature]
[Signature]
[Signature]

SIGNING:
(Check approp. column)

	Do Not Pass	No Rec	Amend

[Signature]
Chairman's Signature



SENATOR FRED F. ZHAROFF
ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

REC'D APR 19 1989

PO BOX 405 KODIAK, ALASKA 99615 (907) 486-5259
DURING SESSION:
PO BOX V, JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811 • (907) 465-3473 • 465-3474

DISTRICT N

ALASKA PENINSULA • ALEUTIAN CHAIN • BRISTOL BAY • KODIAK ISLAND • LAKE CLARK LAKE ILIAMNA • PIRIBLOF ISLANDS • SHUMAGIN ISLANDS

April 17, 1989

MEMORANDUM

TO: REPRESENTATIVE JOHNNY ELLIS

FROM: SENATOR FRED F. ZHAROFF

RE: SB 172, extending the Special Education Services Agency

I respectfully request a committee hearing on Senate Bill 172, an act extending the termination date of the Special Education Services Agency.

SESA provides special education services through outreach services to the deaf, blind, retarded and handicapped in the areas where there is no special education offered through the school or the school district. SESA also delivers instructional support and training for school personnel.

The continuation of SESA has received a great deal of support from many areas of the state. I have enclosed copies of these letters for your perusal.

Although the measure has a 'zero' fiscal note, \$1.42 million dollars has been included in the Department of Education's budget under the Schools for the Handicapped component.

SB 172 passed the Senate HESS Committee with a Letter of Intent stipulating that the Department of Education perform an annual review of the agency and make recommendations. This is fully acceptable to myself, the other sponsors, and the agency.

This will be SESA's last year in operation unless we act this session to extend it. Please schedule this important bill at your earliest convenience.

Thank you for your time and attention in this matter.

STATE OF ALASKA BILL VERSION: SB 172
 1989 LEGISLATIVE SESSION PUBLISH DATE: 4/12/89

FISCAL NOTE

REQUEST: _____

REVISION DATE: _____ AGENCY: Dept. of Education
 TITLE: Extending termination BRU: K-12 Support
date of Spec.Ed.Service Agency
 SPONSOR: Zharoff, Duncan et al COMPONENTS: Schools for the Handicapp
 REQUESTOR: Senate Finance

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (MILLIONS OF DOLLARS)

	FY 89	FY 90	FY 91	FY 92	FY 93	FY 94
OPERATING						
PERS. SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND/BUILD.						
GRANTS/CLAIMS		1.42	1.42	1.42	1.42	1.42
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL		1.42	1.42	1.42	1.42	1.42
CAPITAL						
REVENUE						

FUNDING: (THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS)

GENERAL FUNDS	1.42	1.42	1.42	1.42	1.42
FEDERAL FUNDS					
OTHER					
TOTAL	1.42	1.42	1.42	1.42	1.42

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME					
PART-TIME					
TEMPORARY					

ANALYSIS:

The funding shown above is included in the FY 90 budget.

PREPARED BY:

Richard Uehling
 SENATOR RICK UEHLING, CO-CHAIRMAN
 SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

DATE: April 12, 1989

PHONE No.: 465-4821

FISCAL NOTE

REQUEST:

Revision Date: _____
 Title: Extending The Termination Date of
 The Special Education Service Agency
 Sponsor: Zharoff, Duncan, et.al.
 Requestor: Zharoff

Agency Affected: Education
 BRU: K-12 Support
 Components: Schools for the Handicapped

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 89	FY 90	FY 91	FY 92	FY 93	FY 94
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
CAPITAL						
REVENUE						

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)

Formula funding of SESA is included within the Department's operating budget request within the component "Schools for the Handicapped."

Prepared by: Marv Hakala Phone: 465-2800
 Division: Commissioner's Office Date: 2/1/89
 Approved by Commissioner: William G. Demmert Date: 2/1/89
 Agency: Education

Distribution (by preparer):

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

Alaska State Legislature

SENATOR PAUL FISCHER, Chairman
SENATOR JIM DUNCAN, Vice Chairman
SENATOR AL ADAMS
SENATOR LLOYD JONES
SENATOR TIM KELLY



PO BOX V
ROOM 508
STATE CAPITOL
(907) 465-3760

Senate Committee on Health, Education and Social Services Letter of Intent SB 172

It is the intent of the Alaska State Legislature that the Department of Education evaluate the efficiency and services provided by the Special Education Services Agency during the interim and report back to the Legislature no later than the fifteenth day of the second session of the 16th Alaska Legislature. It is further the intent of the Legislature that the Department include in its report recommendations for the improvement fo the operation and financial support of the Agency.

Senate adopted 4/14/89

RECEIVED

Box 945
Wrangell, AK 99929
March 27, 1989

Alaska State Senate
Box V
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Zharoff

Thank you for your support of the Special Education Service Agency (SESA). It is, in my opinion, vital that SESA continue in its present capacity. Small schools such as Wrangell simply cannot have a special education staff well-equipped to deal with the full range of handicapping conditions. SESA staff members provide us with excellent, up-to-date information and techniques to put to use in our classrooms.

Thank you for your efforts.

Yours truly

Madelyn A. Stella

Madelyn A. Stella

4-b Resource teacher



WRANGELL

**PUBLIC SCHOOLS
DISTRICT OFFICE**

PO BOX 2319

WRANGELL, ALASKA 99929

Telephone 907/874-2347

MARY A. FRANCIS, Ph.D. Superintendent

GATEWAY TO THE STATE

March 29, 1989

Senator Fred Zharoff
P.O. Box 7
Juneau, Alaska 99911

Dear Senator Zharoff:

As the superintendent of a school district which receives services from the Special Education Service Agency (SESA), I wish to commend you for your efforts to maintain this agency.

SESA provides much-needed support and expertise to our special education staff. It is simply not possible for a small staff to have expertise in the full range of handicapping conditions. The SESA people bring us excellent, up-to-date information and techniques with which we would not otherwise be familiar.

Please continue your support.

Sincerely,

Mary Annexstad Francis, Ph.D.
Superintendent

MF:lh

RECEIVED MAR 24 1980

Sharon & Earle Good
P.O. Box 1621
Wrangell, AK 99929

Senator Zheroff
Pouch
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator Zheroff,

We would like to see that SESA stays in services to our school dist. here in Wrangell. We are very concerned because we have one of those "special little people" in our home. Our foster-boy 5 has Alcohol Syndrome very badly because of a mother who chooses to drink all the time, even when pregnant. She has bore 9 children 6 of which have FAS. And all of which are on the rolls of D.F.Y.S., Medicaid, special schooling etc. which the state must support, probably till age 18 or after.

Why can't a Bill be put into effect that after a 2nd baby paid for by state it should be mandatory a mother be fixed, so she can play her game's without costing the tax payers. I bet this would stop a lot of spending & be worth the expenses, listed above. We would in 30 years stop the problem & cost the state much less.

Please keep SESA alive these "little people" need it as bad as the oxygen they breathe which I might also say the state is paying for in this case of our 5 year old.

Thank you Sharon & Earle Good

March 27, 1989

Senator Zharoff
P.O. Box V, Room 121
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator:

I am pleased to write to you about the Special Education Services Agency (SESA) based in Anchorage.

We became aware of SESA in September of 1985 when our daughter, Gwen, became involved as a participant of SESA services in the Ketchikan Gateway School District. At that time, she was interviewed and loaned the appropriate visual aids to benefit her in the classroom. SESA has been very adamant about sending us reports following their visits with her in the classroom.

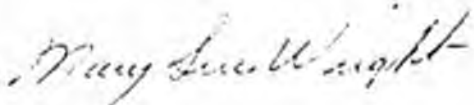
The current representative, Bill McIver, is very conscientious and works hard to make sure Gwen has the proper tools to use in the classroom. He has also made provisions for her to attend a summer camp for blind and low vision children held in Anchorage the last two years.

I feel fortunate that Gwen has had this assistance through her elementary years and now in the junior high period of her life. She has been and is aware of her handicap and copes extremely well in her daily activities.

Your efforts in sustaining further funding for SESA to continue will be most appreciated by Gwen and all other students who benefit from their assistance.

Thank you for your time and consideration given to this matter.

Sincerely yours,



Kenneth G. & Mary Sue Wright
P.O. Box 9488
Ketchikan, AK 99901
Parents of: Gwen K. Wright
7th Grade
Schoenbar Junior High

March 22, 1989

Senator Paul Fisher
Senator Zharoff
Senator Lloyd Jones
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senators,

My husband Ken and I have lived in Wrangell, AK for the past five years and intend to continue to make it our permanent home. We own and operate a yacht based sport fishing business. Part of the reason we will continue to live here is due to the consistent services of the "Special Education Service Agency" SESA which provides the necessary services for our five year old daughter Joy, who was born with Down Syndrome.

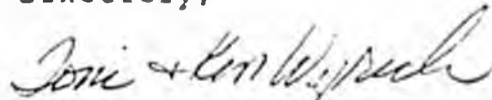
Joy will be mainstreamed into the regular kindergarden in the fall of '89. She has made much progress largely due to the services provided by SESA, however she will continue to require such specialized services in order to attain her full potential and become a productive asset to our society.

We are in favor of Senator Zharoff's bill to drop the review provision and make the agency a permanent one.

The costs to provide these services to handicapped youngsters particularly in these early years when they benefit the most from them, will, in the long run cost the state far less than attempting to impart the same training at an older age. With the aid of SESA and other like agencies, my daughter and many other handicapped youngsters can and will become productive citizens of our society. Please, lets help them attain that status in our society and the necessary self esteem to do so. We owe it to ourselves and the handicapped are no less deserving.

Thank you for considering our heartfelt request to continue to fund such vitally necessary services as SESA.

Sincerely,



Toni & Ken Wyrick

Angling Adventures

P.O. Box 2027

Wrangell, Alaska 99929

(907) 874-3084

ASETS*

*Alaska Specialized Education and Training Services, Inc.
A Non-profit Alaskan Corporation

2330 Nichols Street
Anchorage, AK 99508-3495
(907) 279-6617

Karen Ward, Ed.D.
Executive Director

March 20, 1989

Senator Fred Zharoff
P.O. Box V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator Zharoff,

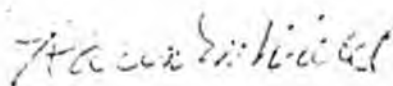
I am writing on behalf of the Specialized Education and Training Services, Inc. (ASETS) in support of SB 172 to continue the Special Education Service Agency.

It is imperative that Alaska continues to provide special education services to low incidence handicapped children in their home communities. For many years, children with handicapping conditions were sent outside and later to urban areas to receive services. ASETS is a private non-profit agency in Anchorage which provides residential and vocational services for adults with developmental disabilities and severe mental illness. We serve many adults who were displaced from their communities years ago due to lack of services in rural Alaska. Many of these individuals have little or no contact with their families or culture. Agencies such as the Special Education Service Agency bridge the gap for children with severe handicaps in rural Alaska. Today, children with disabilities are more likely to remain in their home communities with families and friends who care and receive appropriate services.

The Special Education Service Agency helps coordinate services in rural Alaska and will be instrumental in the development of services for these children when they reach adulthood in rural Alaska.

ASETS supports SB 172 wholeheartedly.

Sincerely,



Karen M. Ward, Ed.D.
Executive Director

cc. Senator Paul Fischer



UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA ANCHORAGE

3211 Providence Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99508

March 8, 1989

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION
(907) 786-1771
VAX ID: AYSOE
FAX: 786-1749

Senator Fred Zharoff
Capitol Room 121
P. O. Box V
Juneau Alaska 99811

Dear Senator Zharoff:

This letter of support is written on behalf of the Special Education Services Agency (SESA). My extensive experience with SESA has been centered around two experiences. The first was as a service provider (Infant Learning Teacher) in Nome from 1981-1984 and currently as a professor for the Special Education program located at the University of Alaska Anchorage.

As a ILP teacher, the assistance SESA provided was invaluable. SESA provides technical assistance and training for rural professionals working with children who experience a low incidence handicapping condition. SESA staff assist rural professionals with identification, assessment, program planning, and training to carry out the child's individual program. There were numerous occasions when I do not know what I would have done if SESA staff were not available to provide this service.

SESA provides this valuable service 'free of charge' to its constituents. Rural school districts and Infant Learning Programs would be unable to provide these services if SESA were not available and agencies needed to contract with private providers. We are all aware of the many problems rural programs face. SESA is an excellent way to assist programs in providing quality individual services to handicapped children and their families.

As a professor at UAA, I have utilized SESA staff in a variety of ways. SESA staff have acted as consultants (again 'free of charge') in planning our rural distance delivery program. SESA staff have produced training videotapes around the issue of providing services to children with low incidence handicapping conditions. The tapes have been very well received by our graduate students.

I strongly support the continuation of SESA funding. They are providing a service no one else provides that the state rural professionals could not live without. As with many agencies, SESA could utilize more staff and reach even more children and their families. They are number one in my book: they not only promise services--they delivery.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Debra Veit".

Debra Veit, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor
Special Education Program

DV/sw
1/0V.0309.1



RECEIVED MAR 02 1989

STEVE COWPER
State of Alaska

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL FOR THE HANDICAPPED AND GIFTED

600 University Avenue, Suite B • Fairbanks, Alaska 99709 • Phone (907) 474-440

February 27, 1989

Senator Fred Zharoff
Alaska State Legislature
PO Box V
Juneau AK 99811

Dear Senator Zharoff:

The Governor's Council for the Handicapped and Gifted supports SB172 which would continue the Special Education Service Agency.

We feel and data show that the agency plays a very important role in making sure quality special education services are available to our children with the most severe disabilities no matter where they live in Alaska.

We are also pleased that SESA has been able to secure federal grants of about \$400,000 each year for projects which improve special education services in general and provide training and other opportunities to teachers, aides, and community agency personnel.

Thanks to you and the co-sponsors of SB172 this agency can continue to provide specialized help to children with disabilities and their families, and the local school districts which serve them.

The Endorsement of the agency by the Council, the state special education directors' association (AAASE), the school boards association (AASB), the State Board of Education, and NEA show how much broad-based support there is for SESA.

Thank you very much for your leadership in introducing this legislation.

Sincerely,

Duane French
Duane French
Council Chairperson

:ntg

ALASKA ASSOCIATION FOR
ADMINISTRATORS
OF
SPECIAL EDUCATION

P.O. BOX 196614
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99519-6614
269-2294

March 2, 1989

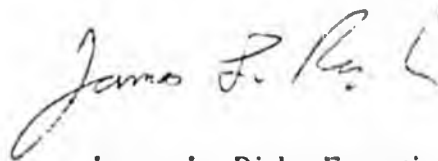
The Honorable Fred F. Zhoroff
P.O. Box V(MS3100)
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator Zhoroff:

I am writing this letter as President of the Alaska Association of Administrators of Special Education (AAASE) in support of the continuation of the Special Education Service Agency (SESA). At our fall conference, our organization voted unanimously to support the continuation of SESA. The administrators of special education are very supportive and appreciative of the scope and quality of services SESA provides to our low incidence handicapped students throughout the State of Alaska. Without these valuable services many of our rural handicapped students would not be able to remain in their home communities.

If you need any additional information regarding this very important Special Education issue please feel free to call my office at 269-2294.

Sincerely,



James L. Rich, Executive Director
Special Education
Anchorage School District

President
Alaska Association of Administrators for
Special Education

cc: Mike Malone, Executive Director
Communication, Planning & Development
Anchorage School District

AAASE Board Members