

**S B**

**278**

SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT

FIRST COMMITTEE OF REFERRAL

Date of 5-DAY NOTICE 4/27/89  
IN ACCORDANCE WITH UNIFORM RULE 23

FURTHER

\*\*FISCAL NOTE(S) MUST BE ATTACHED  
IN ACCORDANCE WITH AS 24.08.035

DATE TURNED INTO OFFICE 5/2/89

4/14/89

Mr. President:

HESS Committee considered SB 278

education for exceptional children

and recommended:

replace with CS \_\_\_\_\_  same title  
 attached amendment(s) and  new title

\_\_\_\_\_ letter of intent adopted

do pass

do not pass

no recommendation

individual recommendations

further referral to \_\_\_\_\_

FISCAL NOTE(S) attached  zero

fiscal impact

appropriation no FN attached

Gov. FN introduced w/ bill

MEMBERS SIGNING DO PASS

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

[Signature]  
Tim Kelly  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Paul [Signature] (Do Pass)  
Chair: signature and recommendation

Committee backup attached



# Alaska State Legislature

## SENATE

Official Business

P.O. Box V  
State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99811

SB 278— SPONSOR STATEMENT  
BY SENATOR JAY KERTTULA  
APRIL 19, 1989

I have introduced SB 278, dealing with education programs for gifted children, to help solve a specific problem.

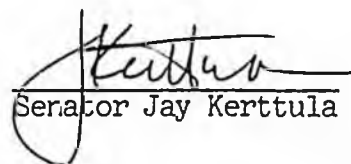
The problem was brought to my attention by concerned parents, by teachers and by school administrators who work with gifted children. They pointed out that some of the statutory procedural requirements for programs relating to gifted children were not only inappropriate, but were taking valuable time away from the teachers and ultimately from the children that these programs are designed to benefit.

I believe this bill will help to streamline these procedures by providing some procedural flexibility. It makes clear that gifted children need not in all cases be treated identically to children who suffer from physical or mental disabilities.

I further believe it is of the utmost importance for the State Board of Education to develop regulations directed specifically at programs for gifted children. This bill requires such regulations to be developed.

I would like to point out that although this bill does not address the need for more teachers and programs specializing in gifted education, it is at least a beginning. I hope that it may contribute to the establishment of a secure statutory and regulatory foundation upon which a larger effort may grow.

The gifted children of Alaska are a precious resource worth investing in. They are the leaders of our future, and we have not always responded to their educational needs to the degree that we should. Ultimately, a larger financial investment in programs for these children should be considered. In the interim, I have sponsored SB 278 simply to enable educators of gifted children to use more efficiently the time and monies that are currently available.

  
Senator Jay Kerttula

SB 278— OVERVIEW

SB 278 amends portions of statutes that relate to educational programs for gifted children.

This bill would exempt programs for gifted children from time-consuming procedural requirements that were developed for programs directed to children with mental or physical disabilities. In their place, it requires the board of education to develop regulations that specifically address programs for gifted children.

The bill makes one further change: it makes clear that "gifted" children include children who exhibit outstanding intellectual or academic ability, or outstanding ability in creative thinking. This is a refinement of the present statutory reference to "creativity," which has provoked misunderstanding and is not consistent with the terminology developed by researchers specializing in gifted children.

SB 278-- SECTIONAL ANALYSIS

This bill amends portions of AS 14.30, which deals with education programs and requirements for "exceptional" children. Exceptional children include children who have physical and mental disabilities, and "gifted" children, who exhibit outstanding ability in specified areas. The bill addresses only provisions relating to gifted children.

Section 1: Exempts children identified as "gifted" from mandatory three year evaluations.

Section 2: Exempts meetings that concern gifted children from requirement that special education supervisor and other specified individuals always be included.

Section 3: Provides that a group education program may be utilized for gifted children, subject to certain requirements.

Section 4: Requires State Board of Education to develop regulations specific to programs for gifted children.

Section 5: Clarifies definition of gifted children.



# NEA-ALASKA

AFFILIATED WITH THE NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

## ANCHORAGE REGIONAL OFFICE

1411 W. 33RD AVENUE  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99503  
(907) 274-0536

## JUNEAU OFFICE

105 MUNICIPAL WAY, SUITE 302  
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801  
(907) 586-3090

## FAIRBANKS REGIONAL OFFICE

2118 CUSHMAN STREET  
FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99701  
(907) 456 4435

April 24, 1989

To: Senator Paul Fischer, Chair  
Members, Senate HESS Committee

Re: Senate Bill No. 278; "An Act relating to  
education for exceptional children."

NEA-Alaska supports and encourages your favorable consideration of SB 278.

This legislation addresses a legitimate concern of professional educators as well as students and parents. As such, it is good public policy.

Some of our current regulations as they pertain to gifted and talented students are cumbersome, constrain opportunities which should be available to them and actually tend to function as a disincentive to excel.

It is important that we be as responsive to the unique needs of gifted and talented students as it is that we respond to those who are disadvantaged.

Thank you for your consideration of our position.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Manners  
Executive Secretary

  
Judy Salo  
President

cc: Senator Jay Kerttula

## FISCAL NOTE

**REQUEST:**

Revision Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Title: Education for Exceptional  
       Children  
 Sponsor: Kerttula  
 Requestor: Kerttula

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

**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						
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
<b>CAPITAL</b>						
<b>REVENUE</b>						

**FUNDING:** (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
<b>TOTAL</b>						

**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: 4/17/89  
 Approved by Commissioner: William G. Demmert Date: 4/17/89  
 Agency: Education

- Distribution (by preparer):
- Legislative Finance
  - Legislative Sponsor
  - Requestor
  - Office of Management and Budget
  - Impacted Agency(ies)



# NEA-ALASKA

AFFILIATED WITH THE NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

## ANCHORAGE REGIONAL OFFICE

1411 W. 33RD AVENUE  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99503  
(907) 274-0536

## JUNEAU OFFICE

105 MUNICIPAL WAY, SUITE 302  
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801  
(907) 586-3090

## FAIRBANKS REGIONAL OFFICE

2118 CUSHMAN STREET  
FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99701  
(907) 456-4435

April 24, 1989

To: Senator Paul Fischer, Chair  
Members, Senate HESS Committee

Re: Senate Bill No. 278; "An Act relating to  
education for exceptional children."

NEA-Alaska supports and encourages your favorable  
consideration of SB 278.

This legislation addresses a legitimate concern of  
professional educators as well as students and parents. As  
such, it is good public policy.

Some of our current regulations as they pertain to gifted  
and talented students are cumbersome, constrain  
opportunities which should be available to them and actually  
tend to function as a disincentive to excel.

It is important that we be as responsive to the unique needs  
of gifted and talented students as it is that we respond to  
those who are disadvantaged.

Thank you for your consideration of our position.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Manners  
Executive Secretary

  
Judy Salo  
President

cc: Senator Jay Kerttula



# Alaska State Legislature

## SENATE

Official Business

P.O. Box V  
State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99811

SB 278— SPONSOR STATEMENT  
BY SENATOR JAY KERTTULA  
APRIL 19, 1989

I have introduced SB 278, dealing with education programs for gifted children, to help solve a specific problem.

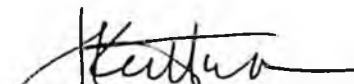
The problem was brought to my attention by concerned parents, by teachers and by school administrators who work with gifted children. They pointed out that some of the statutory procedural requirements for programs relating to gifted children were not only inappropriate, but were taking valuable time away from the teachers and ultimately from the children that these programs are designed to benefit.

I believe this bill will help to streamline these procedures by providing some procedural flexibility. It makes clear that gifted children need not in all cases be treated identically to children who suffer from physical or mental disabilities.

I further believe it is of the utmost importance for the State Board of Education to develop regulations directed specifically at programs for gifted children. This bill requires such regulations to be developed.

I would like to point out that although this bill does not address the need for more teachers and programs specializing in gifted education, it is at least a beginning. I hope that it may contribute to the establishment of a secure statutory and regulatory foundation upon which a larger effort may grow.

The gifted children of Alaska are a precious resource worth investing in. They are the leaders of our future, and we have not always responded to their educational needs to the degree that we should. Ultimately, a larger financial investment in programs for these children should be considered. In the interim, I have sponsored SB 278 simply to enable educators of gifted children to use more efficiently the time and monies that are currently available.

  
Senator Jay Kerttula

SB 278— OVERVIEW

SB 278 amends portions of statutes that relate to educational programs for gifted children.

This bill would exempt programs for gifted children from time-consuming procedural requirements that were developed for programs directed to children with mental or physical disabilities. In their place, it requires the board of education to develop regulations that specifically address programs for gifted children.

The bill makes one further change: it makes clear that "gifted" children include children who exhibit outstanding intellectual or academic ability, or outstanding ability in creative thinking. This is a refinement of the present statutory reference to "creativity," which has provoked misunderstanding and is not consistent with the terminology developed by researchers specializing in gifted children.

SB 278-- SECTIONAL ANALYSIS

This bill amends portions of AS 14.30, which deals with education programs and requirements for "exceptional" children. Exceptional children include children who have physical and mental disabilities, and "gifted" children, who exhibit outstanding ability in specified areas. The bill addresses only provisions relating to gifted children.

Section 1: Exempts children identified as "gifted" from mandatory three year evaluations.

Section 2: Exempts meetings that concern gifted children from requirement that special education supervisor and other specified individuals always be included.

Section 3: Provides that a group education program may be utilized for gifted children, subject to certain requirements.

Section 4: Requires State Board of Education to develop regulations specific to programs for gifted children.

Section 5: Clarifies definition of gifted children.

## FISCAL NOTE

**REQUEST:**

Revision Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Title: Education for Exceptional  
       Children  
 Sponsor: Kerttula  
 Requestor: Kerttula

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

**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						
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
<b>CAPITAL</b>						
<b>REVENUE</b>						

**FUNDING:** (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
<b>TOTAL</b>						

**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: 4/17/89  
 Approved by Commissioner: William G. Demmert Date: 4/17/89  
 Agency: Education

Distribution (by preparer):  
 Legislative Finance  
 Legislative Sponsor  
 Requestor  
 Office of Management and Budget  
 Impacted Agency(ies)