

HB352

(11)

# HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

Date Referred: February 14, 1992

FURTHER REFERRAL.

Date of Committee Action: 4/22/92

The FINANCE Committee considered:

SSHB 352

SPONSOR SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 352

NATIVE LANGUAGE EDUCATION

"An Act relating to a curriculum for Native language education; and providing for an effective date."

### RECOMMENDATIONS:

be replaced with CSHB 352 (FIN)  the same title

have attached amendments(s)

do pass

do not pass

no recommendations

individual recommendations

additional referral to the \_\_\_\_\_ Committee

ADOPTS: \_\_\_\_\_ letter of Intent

ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(S): (Dept)

APPROVES PREVIOUS: (Dept/Date)

fiscal impact \_\_\_\_\_

fiscal note(s) \_\_\_\_\_

zero fiscal note HFC 4/22/92

zero fiscal note(s) \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNING <u>DO PASS</u>	DP	OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS	DNP	NR	AM
<u>Eileen P. Machean</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>George Jacobo Jr.</u>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<u>Mike Yavane</u>		<u>Ron [unclear]</u>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<u>Monica [unclear]</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>Roll E. [unclear]</u>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<u>Jan Brown</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
<u>[unclear]</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
<u>Ronald J. Jan</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
<u>J. Wilmer</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				

Mike Yavane EP. Machean  
CHAIRMAN'S SIGNATURE

STATE OF ALASKA  
1992 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. CSHB 352 (FIN)

Revision Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Department Affected: EDUCATION  
 Title: A CURRICULUM FOR NATIVE LANGUAGE EDUCATION BRU: K - 12 SUPPORT  
 Component: DATA MANAGEMENT  
 Sponsor: REPRESENTATIVE LINCOLN  
 Requestor: HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 

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EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 93	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96	FY 97	FY '98
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	0	0	0	0	0	0
CAPITAL	0	0	0	0	0	0
REVENUE FUND SOURCE:	0	0	0	0	0	0

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND	0	0	0	0	0	0
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER FUND SOURCE:						
TOTAL	0	0	0	0	0	0

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
PART-TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
TEMPORARY	0	0	0	0	0	0

Estimate of current year impact: \_\_\_\_\_

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary.)

Prepared By: Co-Chair Eileen MacLean *Eileen P. MacLean* Phone: 465-4833  
Co-Chair Mike Navarro *Mike Navarro* Phone: 465-3779  
 Division: House Finance Committee Date: 4/22/92

Approved by Commissioner: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

CS FOR SPONSOR SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 352 (FINANCE)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Offered:

Referred:

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES LINCOLN, Ellis, B.Davis, Mackie, Koponen, Kubina, Ivan, Gruenberg, Leman, Donley, Finkelstein, Ulmer, Bruckman

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act relating to a curriculum for Native language education; and providing for an  
2 effective date."

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

4 \* Section 1. SHORT TITLE. This Act may be known as the Native Language Education Act.

5 \* Sec. 2. FINDINGS. The legislature finds that

6 (1) Alaska's indigenous Native cultures and languages are unique, essential elements of  
7 Alaska's heritage;

8 (2) Alaska's indigenous Native languages are an integral part of Alaska Native people's  
9 culture and well-being;

10 (3) knowledge of one's indigenous language is important for the development of social  
11 skills and self-esteem; it further contributes to the development of the individual, and the ability to  
12 communicate;

13 (4) translations from a Native language into English result in the loss of context and  
14 deprivation of the full range of social and cultural understanding necessary to function in the individual's

1 environment;

2 (5) when Native children are proficient in their primary indigenous language, they are  
3 more likely to do better in school; they also develop a higher degree of proficiency in English;

4 (6) historically, Alaska Native children first learned their Native language in their homes  
5 and communities but with the passing of Native elders and with a current generation of parents who are  
6 not fluent in their Native language, younger generations are less knowledgeable about their language and  
7 culture;

8 (7) the loss of indigenous Native languages dates back to the late 1800's when  
9 mainstream American missionaries enforced federal policies that forbade the use of Native languages,  
10 punished children for speaking their own language, and urged parents to speak only English to their  
11 children;

12 (8) the continuation of "no Native language" policies in federal, territorial, and state  
13 school systems between 1910 and 1970 resulted in the loss of many Native languages;

14 (9) the fact that only two of the 20 Alaska Native languages are fluently spoken by  
15 children today is an indicator of the impending extinction of Native languages;

16 (10) unless action is taken, by the year 2055 only five of the 20 Alaska Native languages  
17 will be spoken by anyone, and soon thereafter the Native languages of Alaska may vanish.

18 \* Sec. 3. AS 14.03.120(e) is amended to read:

19 (e) A district shall, by October 31 of each year, provide to the state board, and make  
20 available to the public, a report on the performance of each public school and public school  
21 students in the district. The report must be entitled "School District Report Card To The Public"  
22 and must be prepared on a form prescribed by the department. The report must include

23 (1) the percent of district students in the top and bottom quarter of standardized  
24 national achievement examinations; results under this paragraph shall be disclosed in a manner  
25 that does not reveal the individual identities of students;

26 (2) the percent of students who are not promoted to the next grade;

27 (3) student, parent, and community member comments on the school's  
28 performance;

29 (4) the annual percent change in enrollment and the percent of enrollment change  
30 due to student transfers into and out of the district;

31 (5) attendance, retention, and graduation rates;

1 (6) the ways in which meaningful parent involvement in school performance was  
2 achieved;

3 (7) if Native language education is provided, a summary and evaluation of  
4 the curriculum described in AS 14.30.420;

5 (8) other indicators of school performance required by the state board; and

6 (9) [(8)] other indicators of school performance selected by the district.

7 \* Sec. 4. AS 14.30 is amended by adding a new section to read:

8 Sec. 14.30.420. NATIVE LANGUAGE EDUCATION. (a) A school board in a district  
9 in which a majority of the students are Alaska Natives may establish a local Native language  
10 curriculum advisory board for each school in the district in which a majority of the students are  
11 Alaska Natives. If the local Native language curriculum advisory board recommends the  
12 establishment of a Native language education curriculum for a school, the school board may  
13 initiate and conduct a Native language education curriculum for grades K through 12 at that  
14 school. The program must include Native languages traditionally spoken in the community in  
15 which the school is located. Each school board conducting a program of Native language  
16 education may implement the program as a part of regular classroom studies and shall utilize

17 (1) certified instructors or instructors who have knowledge and adequate training  
18 in teaching the Native language of the community in which the school is located;

19 (2) to the extent possible

20 (A) instructors and instructional materials available through the University  
21 of Alaska; and

22 (B) audio-visual, computer and satellite technology.

23 (b) In this section,

24 (1) "district" has the meaning given in AS 14.17.250;

25 (2) "Native" means a person of one-fourth degree or more Alaskan Indian,  
26 Eskimo, or Aleut blood.

27 \* Sec. 5. This Act takes effect July 1, 1994.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA  
1992 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB 352

Revision Date: 2-11-92  
Title: A Curriculum for Native Language Education  
Sponsor: Representative Lincoln  
Requestor: (H) HESS

Department Affected: Education  
BRU: K-12 Support  
Component: Data Management

COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 

1	2	4	1
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Expenditures/Revenues: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 93	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96	FY 97	FY 98
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL	22,500	0	0	0	0	0
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>22,500</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

CAPITAL						
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REVENUE FUND SOURCE:						
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FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND	22,500	0	0	0	0	0
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER FUND SOURCE:						
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>22,500</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

Estimate of current year impact:

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary.)

See attachment

Prepared by: Mike Maher  
Division: Commissioner's Office

Phone: 465-2800  
Date: 2-11-92

Approved by Commissioner:   
Agency: Education

Date: 2-11-92

HESS

## FISCAL NOTE FOR HB 352

### Cost to the Department:

The Department estimates a contractual cost of \$22,500. This cost will cover two items required in Section 3. AS 14.03.120 (e) (7).

\$20,000. is to develop an evaluation model, and \$2,500. is to redo the Implementation Guide for District Report Cards to accommodate changes.

### Costs to School Districts:

Although HB 352 poses no significant increased cost to the Department of Education, it will pose a cost to each school district which conducts a Native language education program for grades K-12. The Department staff estimates a cost of \$60,000. per school site not currently served, to implement a Native Language curriculum. Of this amount, we assume that 1/3 would cover the staff salary, 1/3 would cover staff development and 1/3 would cover the cost of curriculum and materials development.

Many districts and sites currently have Native language instruction programs as described in their approved Bilingual Plans of Service. Based on our review of schools where more than 50% of the student population is Alaska Native, we have determined that at least 63 such school sites do not provide any kind of Native language program at this time. At the cost of \$60,000 per site, total cost, statewide, would come to \$3,780,000.

14715011E

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Representative Georgianna Lincoln

HESS Committee, Co-Chair  
Resources Committee, Vice-Chair

Budget Subcommittees  
Health and Social Services  
Revenue

P.O. Box V  
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Phone: (907) 465-3732

FAX: (907) 465-2652

MEMORANDUM

Alatna  
Allakaket  
Aniak  
Anvik  
Arctic Village  
Beaver  
Bettles  
Birch Creek  
Chalkyitsik  
Chuathbaluk  
Crooked Creek  
Evansville  
Fort Yukon  
Galena  
Grayling  
Holy Cross  
Hughes  
Huslia  
Kalskag  
Kaltag  
Koyukuk  
Lake Minchumina  
Lime Village  
Lower Kalskag  
Manley Hot Springs  
Marshall  
McGrath  
Minto  
Mountain Village  
Nikolai  
Nulato  
Pilot Station  
Pitkas Point  
Rampart  
Red Devil  
Ruby  
Russian Mission  
Shageluk  
Sleetmute  
St. Mary's  
Stevens Village  
Stony River  
Takotna  
Tanana  
Telida  
Tuluksak  
Tyonek  
Venetie  
Wiseman

TO: Representative Eileen MacLean, Co-Chair  
Representative Mike Navarre, Co-Chair  
House Finance Committee

FROM: Representative Georgianna Lincoln *georg*

DATE: February 21, 1992

RE: CSSH B 352 ( )  
Native Language Education Act

CSSH B 352( ) asks schools where a majority of the students are Alaska Natives, to teach the language that is traditional within the community when a local Native curriculum advisory committee has so recommended. It elevates the status of Native language by incorporating it into the school curriculum and asking that it be taught by certified or trained instructors. It allows for the delivery of language instruction by existing satellite instruction or other distance delivery technology, including computer programs and audio distance delivery. It provides for an effective date of July 1, 1994.

The HESS Committee softened the mandate portion of the bill to provide for **local** Native language curriculum advisory committees who would be charged with evaluating the need for language education in their school. School districts would be required to implement the Native language education curriculum only after a local advisory board has made a recommendation to do so.

The blank CS rewords Section 4 (a) in response to concerns that the language wasn't clear in directing that the Native language curriculum advisory committees should be established in each village where the majority of students are Alaska Natives. It also extends the effective date one year, to July 1, 1994, to allow districts additional time to comply.

Many of Alaska's Native languages are on the brink of extinction. Linguists tell us that unless corrective action is taken soon, by the year 2055--not very long from now--at least 15, and possibly 18, Native languages will be lost. Eyak, the Athabaskan language of a people who thrived for 3,500 years along the Gulf of Alaska, has one remaining Native speaker; she is 73 years old. Dr. Michael Krauss, professor of linguistics at the University of Alaska Fairbanks predicts that "short of a miracle or radical social change" we will lose 15, and possibly 18, of our 20 Native languages by the year 2055.

Sadly, the loss of Alaska Native languages is rooted in anti-Native language educational policies promoted by American missionaries and educators around the turn of the century. Schools played a critical role in efforts to assimilate Alaska Natives into the Western/Anglo religion, language and culture; in fact, children were punished for speaking their Native language.

Schools cannot, nor should they, carry the burden of Native language preservation alone. Parents, extended family members, and communities have important roles as well. In many villages, however, many of those tools are lost. We must have our schools involved and committed to teaching and preserving our Native languages. Presently, our schools are teaching Spanish, Russian, and Japanese to our children. Many who have the capability to extent their programs to include Native languages have not.

As a complement to this bill, Senator Murkowski is working with Congress to secure federal funding to help preserve Alaska's Native languages. S. 1595, the "Alaska Native Languages Preservation and Enhancement Act of 1991" has passed the Senate and is awaiting House action. It will provide \$2.5 million per year for five years, to assist in Native language preservation and education efforts in Alaska.

HB 352 is supported by the Alaska Federation of Natives, the White House Conference on Indian Education, the Denakkanaaga Elders Conference, the Tanana Chiefs Conference, Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation, and the Association of Village Council Presidents, the Interior Education Council, the Village Participation Conference, the Rural Alaska Community Action Program, and by numerous village corporations and associations.

## Sectional Analysis

CSSSHB 352 ( )

Sec. 1. Short Title: Native Language Education Act

Sec. 2. Findings.

Sec. 3. Amends School District Report Card statute to include summary and evaluation of Native language education, if provided by the district.

Sec. 4 (a). Adds a new section to Educational Programs statute related to Native Language Education.

A local Native language curriculum advisory board would be established for each school where a majority of the students are Alaska Native.

Upon recommendation of the local Native language curriculum advisory board, the district would be required to teach Native language in the schools, grades K-12.

Directs school boards to utilize certified instructors or individuals with knowledge and training in teaching the language, and to the extent possible, instructors and materials available through the University and satellite technologies.

Sec. 4(b). Defines "Native" Alaskan for the purposes of this bill, to be a person with one-fourth degree or more Alaska Indian, Eskimo or Aleut blood.

Sec. 5. Effective date: July 1, 1994.

# Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc.

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
TESTIMONY ON HB 352 - NATIVE LANGUAGES BILL  
ALASKA STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
HESS COMMITTEE - FEBRUARY 13, 1992

REPRESENTATIVE LINCOLN, REPRESENTATIVE CARNEY AND MEMBERS OF  
THE HESS COMMITTEE:

GOOD MORNING, MY NAME IS DOROTHY LARSON, EXECUTIVE VICE  
PRESIDENT OF THE ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES TO SPEAK IN  
SUPPORT OF HB352, THE NATIVE LANGUAGE BILL.

[ THE ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES AT ITS FEBRUARY 6 BOARD ]  
[ MEETING HELD IN JUNEAU REAFFIRMED ITS SUPPORT FOR HB352. ]  
THE ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES ASSEMBLED IN CONVENTION IN  
OCTOBER 1991 PASSED RESOLUTION 91-86 SUPPORTING HB352 AND  
URGING ITS PASSAGE. OTHER RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED BY THE AFN  
ELDERS AND AFN YOUTH CONFERENCES TO THE AFN CONVENTION  
PASSED THE CONVENTION CONCERNING THE TEACHING,  
REVITALIZATION AND MAINTENANCE OF ALASKA NATIVE LANGUAGES IN  
THE SCHOOL CURRICULUM. I WILL FORWARD THOSE RESOLUTIONS TO  
YOU WITH A COPY OF AFN'S WRITTEN TESTIMONY.

THE AFN MEMBERSHIP IS IN SUPPORT OF ANY AND ALL EFFORTS TO  
IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION IN ALL AREAS THAT WILL  
ENHANCE THE ACHIEVEMENT AND SUCCESS OF ALASKA NATIVE  
STUDENTS.

WE ARE SUPPORTIVE OF THE VERY RECENT REPORTS TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, THE US DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FROM THE INDIAN NATIONS AT RISK TASK FORCE, GOAL #2 TO MAINTAIN NATIVE LANGUAGES AND CULTURES - BY THE YEAR 2000 ALL SCHOOLS WILL OFFER NATIVE STUDENTS THE OPPORTUNITY TO MAINTAIN AND DEVELOP THEIR TRIBAL LANGUAGES AND WILL CREATE A MULTICULTURAL ENVIRONMENT THAT ENHANCES THE MANY CULTURES REPRESENTED IN THE SCHOOL.

THE WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON INDIAN EDUCATION WHICH MET JUST 3 WEEKS AGO INCLUDE VERY SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING THE TEACHING, REVITALIZATION, MAINTENANCE AND INCLUSION OF NATIVE LANGUAGES IN THE SCHOOL CURRICULUM. THOSE RECOMMENDATIONS INCLUDE LANGUAGE AND CULTURAL PRESERVATION AND THAT THIS BE ONE OF THE NATION'S HIGHEST EDUCATIONAL PRIORITIES. ALSO, THAT 6 CREDITS OF NATIVE STUDIES BE REQUIRED COURSE OF STUDY FOR TEACHER RECERTIFICATION. THIS WAS ALSO A RECOMMENDATION OF THE ALASKA WHCIE.

THE ALASKA WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON INDIAN EDUCATION MET IN SEPTEMBER 1991 SUPPORTING ALASKA NATIVE LANGUAGE, CULTURE AND HISTORY STUDIES FOR ALASKAN SCHOOLS. THIS GROUP OF OVER 70 PEOPLE OF WHICH ALL BUT ABOUT 5 OR 6 PEOPLE WERE ALASKA NATIVE, INCLUDED PARENTS, SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS, TEACHERS, COUNSELOR AND ADMINISTRATORS, UNIVERSITY FACULTY, TRIBAL

LEADERS AND OTHERS. I WILL ALSO INCLUDE COPIES OF THE INDIAN NATIONS AT RISK REPORT AND THE ALASKA WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON INDIAN EDUCATION REPORT.

ONE OF THE GOALS OF THE ALASKA WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON INDIAN EDUCATION WAS THAT BY THE YEAR 1994, ALL SCHOOLS WILL OFFER NATIVE/INDIAN STUDENTS THE OPPORTUNITY TO MAINTAIN AND DEVELOP THEIR TRIBAL LANGUAGES AND CREATE A MULTICULTURAL ENVIRONMENT THAT ENHANCES THE MANY CULTURES REPRESENTED IN SCHOOL. INCLUDED IN THAT GOAL WERE RECOMMENDATIONS THAT PARENTS ALSO BE TAUGHT NATIVE LANGUAGES; THAT CURRICULUM MUST BE DEVELOPED; LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS NEED TO SUPPORT TEACHING NATIVE LANGUAGES IN THE SCHOOLS; ALTERNATIVE CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS FOR TEACHERS NEED TO BE IMPLEMENTED IN NATIVE LANGUAGES TO HELP TO START LANGUAGE PROGRAMS; EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS NEED TO INCLUDE TEACHING NATIVE LANGUAGES. OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS ARE TO TREAT NATIVE LANGUAGES WITH THE SAME STATUS OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES IN THE SCHOOLS.

THE ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES GIVES EDUCATION A VERY HIGH PRIORITY ON ITS LIST OF GOALS FOR THE 1990'S. AFN BELIEVES THAT INCORPORATION OF NATIVE LANGUAGES AND NATIVE STUDIES MUST BE INCLUDED IN THE CURRICULUM TO ASSIST THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM IN MAKING CHANGES IN THE ACHIEVEMENT AND SUCCESS FOR ALASKA NATIVE STUDENTS, WHO AS A GROUP MUST ACHIEVE PARITY WITH OTHER STUDENTS IN ALASKA. WE LIVE IN A MULTICULTURAL

WORLD, LET'S INCLUDE ALASKA NATIVE LANGUAGES AND STUDIES AS PART OF OUR SCHOOL CURRICULUM, IT WILL ENHANCE MULTICULTURAL AWARENESS AND UNDERSTANDING OF ALASKA'S FIRST PEOPLE.

SUPPORT FOR NATIVE LANGUAGE TEACHING, MAINTENANCE, AND REVITALIZATION COMES FROM A GRASS ROOTS LEVEL, DEMONSTRATED BY ALASKA NATIVE YOUTH, ELDERS, PARENTS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS. SCHOOL POLICY MAKERS, ADMINISTRATORS AT THE LOCAL, REGIONAL, AND STATE LEVELS MUST EXPLORE AVENUES AND SUPPORT THE TEACHING AND STUDY OF ALASKA NATIVE LANGUAGES IN THE SCHOOLS.

AFN BELIEVES PARTNERSHIPS WITHIN THE EDUCATION COMMUNITIES NEED TO BE FORGED - WITHIN THE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM, THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM.

THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO OFFER AFN'S TESTIMONY THAT SUPPORTING THE TEACHING OF NATIVE LANGUAGES IN OUR SCHOOLS.



## DIOCESE OF JUNEAU

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

419 SIXTH STREET  
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801  
TELEPHONE 907/586-2227

March 2, 1992

The Honorable Mike Navarre  
Box V  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Representative Navarre,

I am writing this letter in support of SB 421 sponsored by Senator Hoffman. There is a particular appropriateness to this Bill in view of the fact that this year we celebrate the 500th Anniversary of Columbus's voyage to America. The linguistic, cultural and artistic traditions of our Native peoples are a heritage that can enrich and ennoble all of us.

However, due to the deprivation and discrimination Native peoples have been subjected to, there is a special need to assist them in retaining their traditions. Language is at the heart of a peoples' identity. It is essential that our society do everything it can to foster and preserve the languages of our Native peoples.

I therefore urge you to support SB 421.

Sincerely yours,

+Michael H. Kenny  
Bishop of Juneau

# Alaska State Legislature



Mike Navarre  
Co-Chair  
(907) 465-3706

Eileen MacLean  
Co-Chair  
(907) 465-3722

INTERIM ADDRESS  
34824 S. Tornsky Beach Rd.  
Soldotna, Alaska 99669  
(907) 261-7842

INTERIM ADDRESS  
P.O. Box 290  
Barrow, Alaska 99723  
(907) 852-7111

House of Representatives  
Committee on Finance  
P.O. Box V, Juneau, Alaska 99811

March 13, 1992

+Michael H. Kenny  
Bishop of Juneau  
Diocese of Juneau  
419 Sixth Street  
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Bishop Kenny:

Thank you very much for writing in support of SB 421, an act relating to a curriculum for Native language education.

I have shared your letter with the other members of the House Finance Committee so that they are aware of your support when this bill is scheduled for a hearing.

Sincerely,

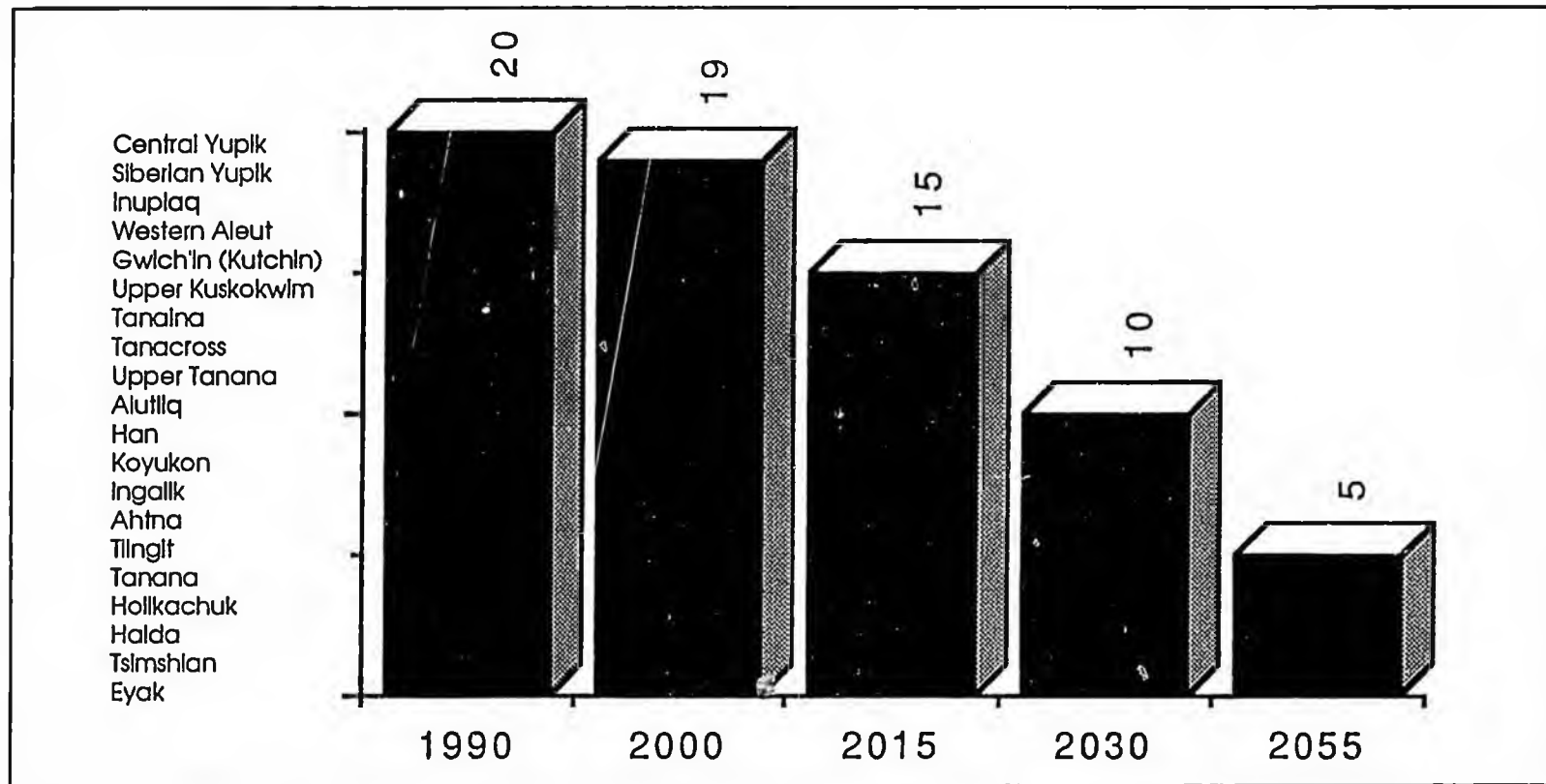
A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mike Navarre".

Representative Mike Navarre, Co-Chair  
House Finance Committee

cc: House Finance Committee w/encl.

MN:lsg

## Languages in Peril



Not allowing for miracles, Eyak will probably not survive this century; Alaska Tsimshian, Alaska Halda, Hollkachuk, and Tanana will probably be extinct by 2015; and Tlingit, Ahtna, Ingallik, Koyukon and Han will probably be extinct by 2030. Furthermore, Alutiiq, Upper Tanana, Tanacross, Tanaina and Upper Kuskokwim have an extremely doubtful future . . . not allowing for miracles or other radical changes, they will probably be extinct within a lifetime, by about 2055. By that year, then, probably only five of the twenty Alaska languages will still be spoken . . . Western Aleut . . . Kutchin . . . Inupiaq . . . Central Alaska Yupik and Siberian Yupik . . .

Dr. Michael Krauss  
Alaska Native Languages: Past, Present and Future  
Alaska Native Language Center Research Papers - 1980  
University of Alaska Fairbanks

PLEASE MICROFILM TOP PAGE ONLY

