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ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE  
REPRESENTATIVE MIKE NAVARRE

Co-Chair  
House Finance Committee  
P.O. Box V  
Juneau, Alaska 99811  
(907) 465-3779

April 3, 1991

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Representative Pat Carney, Co-Chair HESS Committee  
Representative Georgianna Lincoln, Co-Chair HESS Committee

**FROM:** Representative Mike Navarre *Mike*

**SUBJECT:** House Bill 133, An Act relating to the school term.

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**Purpose of HB133**

HB 133 proposes a change in statute to add flexibility to the mandatory school term. This measure, if passed, will allow schools to create alternatives to the 180-day rule. It would also provide necessary flexibility to allow for unanticipated extenuating circumstances which could affect the traditional school year.

**Benefits of HB133**

**1. Alternatives** - This legislation would allow schools to implement alternatives to the mandatory 180 day attendance rule which could substantially reduce operational costs in rural areas, and increase time-on-task for both educators and students.

Earlier this year Homer High School was provided with a grant to study restructuring of schools. Administrators found that a school week of four extended days for classes, and the fifth day for activities, would allow the students to participate in extracurricular travel without conflicting with academic time. This change would increase time-on-task for educators and students, and decrease the cost of operations.

Thirtyfive rural school districts in Colorado adopted this system and have found that it increased parent, student, and educator satisfaction with school performance.

**2. Flexibility** - In the event that unanticipated circumstances would force a school to close for a period of time greater than currently allowed, the administrators could adopt an emergency structure for remainder of the term to meet mandatory attendance requirements.

**\*\*Plans for restructuring will be subject to the commisioner's approval\*\***

**Costs of HB 133**

A zero fiscal note was issued by the Department of Education. A copy is included in this packet.

**\* Support letters for HB 133 can be found in the back of this packet**



# NEA-ALASKA

AFFILIATED WITH THE NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

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March 19, 1991

To: **Representatives Carney and Lincoln, Co-Chairs  
Members, House HESS Committee**

Re: **HB 133: "An Act relating to the school term."**

NEA-Alaska supports and encourages your favorable consideration of HB 133.

It provides necessary flexibility for unanticipated extenuating circumstances which might require changes in the traditional school year.

With the continued requirement of approval by the commissioner and the new provision of sub-paragraph (C), the public and student interests as well as the integrity of employee collective bargaining agreements will be protected.

Thank you for your consideration of our position.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Manners  
Executive Director

Don Oberg  
President

cc: **Representative Navarre**

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA  
1991 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. CS HB 133 (HESS)

Revision Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Department Affected: Education  
 Title: School Term BRU: K-12 Support  
 Component: Foundation

Sponsor: House HESS  
 Requestor: Navarre COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 

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Expenditures/Revenues: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 92	FY 93	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96	FY 97
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

CAPITAL						
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REVENUE						
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FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

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

POSITIONS:

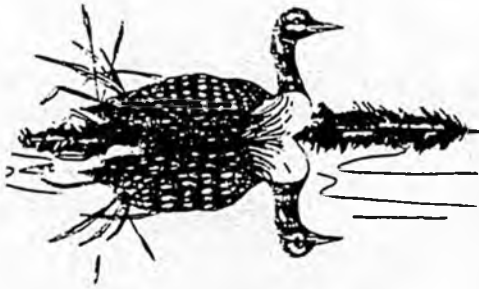
FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

Estimate of current year impact: None

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary.)

Prepared By: Mary Hakala Phone: 465-2800  
 Division: Commissioner's Office Date: 3/18/91  
 Approved by Commissioner: Steve Hole Acting Commissioner  
 Agency: Education Date: 3/18/91

Distribution (by preparer): Legislative Finance, Legislative Sponsor, Requestor, OMB, & Impacted Agency(ies).



Nikolaevsk

Николаевск



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

Feb. 4, 1991

Senator Paul Fischer  
Representative Mike Navarre  
Representative Gail Phillips  
Representative Max F. Gruenberg, Jr.

Dear Representative Navarre,

This letter is to request your efforts to reintroduce legislation providing for flexibility in school terms.

Attached is a copy of a bill introduced and passed during the last legislative session. Also attached is a copy of a letter from Governor Hickel indicating his willingness to conscientiously consider similar legislation should it pass again.

In these times of limited state support for education, I believe this non-cost legislation provides alternatives which can reduce operational costs and increase time-on-task for both educators and students while improving parental satisfaction with school performance.

Thanks for your efforts. Please be assured that I stand ready to testify or communicate to anyone in support of this legislation.

Respectfully,

Bob Moore  
Principal

Mike —  
Thanks for your work before — perhaps this time  
we will make it!!

Bob



**HOMER HIGH SCHOOL**  
KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT



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**"MARINERS"**

DENNIS DEMPSEY, PRINCIPAL  
MICHAEL BUNDY, ASST. PRINCIPAL  
BOB MACAULAY, ATH. DIRECTOR

March 20, 1991

Mike Navarre, Representative  
State of Alaska  
P.O. Box V  
Juneau, AK 99811

SUBJECT: HB 133

Homer High School greatly appreciates your introduction of HB 133. The administration and staff of Homer High School is very anxious to explore alternatives to the current school plan that this Bill will allow for us to do. Earlier this school year, Homer High School was one of a few in the state to receive a grant on restructuring schools for the future. In our research, one of the possibilities in order to better orchestrate all the inherent activities of a high school, is altering the time schedule. At Homer High School we have an amazing amount of class attendance lost due to school sponsored athletic activities on the weekends. It is our opinion, after doing some extensive research on a 4-day school week, that this might be one of the workable possibilities of our restructuring proposal.

But to do so, HB 133 would have to be passed and signed by the governor, which allows for an alternative plan to the 180-day school year. A school week of 4 extended days for classes, and the fifth day for activities, would allow for the students to participate in extracurricular travel that doesn't conflict with academic time. We believe there is excellent potential in just better managing our time, and have consequently researched some real-life data from Colorado, Utah, and New Mexico. For example, Colorado has over 35 school districts on a 4-extended day school week, K-12.

Please continue vigorous support of HB 133. With its passage the option to incorporate more time flexibility in a school program would be possible, and could lead to improvement of our educational program.

Sincerely

Dennis Dempsey  
Principal

*Dennis Dempsey*  
United States Department of Education  
"School of Excellence"