

HB

314

House of Representatives

While in Session:
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Member:
Finance Committee

Finance
Subcommittee Chair:
Courts
Department of Public Safety
Finance
Subcommittee Member:
Department of Fish and Game

Rep. George Jacko, Jr.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Representative Georgianna Lincoln, Co-Chair
Representative Pat Zurney, Co-Chair
House Health, Education and Social Services Committee

FROM: Representative George Jacko, Jr.

DATE: May 7, 1991

SUBJECT: Request for Scheduling of House Bill 314

I respectfully request a hearing to be scheduled for House Bill 314, "An Act establishing a cooperative arrangement grant program for school districts; and providing for an effective date." As we ask Alaska's school districts to tighten their belts from year to year, I believe the Alaska Legislature must find ways to assist them. HB 314 is an attempt to address this need.

Aleutian Region School district is one of Alaska's smallest school districts. Inflation has caused a significant increase in operating costs and, as budgets have been cut as a result of decreasing value of the dollar, the school district has had a difficult time absorbing these increased costs. This is partially because they are very small, yet they must still provide administrative and related educational support services. These functions are necessary but do not provide teachers and materials for the students.

Recently, Aleutian Region has taken the initiative to contract with a neighboring school district for its administrative services in an attempt to reduce costs. I believe the Legislature should support these efforts and encourage all of Alaska's small school districts to find a way to live within their means.

This is why I have introduced House Bill 314, which would provide an incentive to school districts willing to enter into cooperative arrangements of this type in order to reduce costs. Application can be made to the Department of Education for a one-time only "cooperative arrangement" grant of up to \$100,000.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. If you have any questions regarding this legislation, please contact Ingrid Jacobsen of my staff at 465-4942.

GJ/eij

ASSOCIATION OF ALASKA SCHOOL BOARDS

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POSITION PAPER IN SUPPORT OF HB 314

Establishing a Cooperative Arrangement Grant Program for School Districts

The Association of Alaska School Boards supports and encourages favorable consideration HB 314 awarding cooperative services incentive grants to school districts that enter an agreement for shared administrative services.

A one-time cooperative services grant will help offset initial costs of relocation, transfer of staff, and realignment of roles and responsibilities of staff. While long term cost savings may be substantial, these short term costs can prohibit districts from entering into agreements for shared services. These grant would help alleviate the adverse impact and encourage other school districts to look more favorably on cooperative arrangements.

The Association of Alaska School Boards supported passage of HB 282 (Cooperation Between School Districts) last year because it ensured local autonomy and decision making by local school districts considering shared services. Since that time a number of districts have explored shared services, but find that, in some instances, short term costs of implementing are prohibitive. We believe an incentive grant program is the missing piece of the puzzle, and will indicate to districts the seriousness of the Legislature's intent to encourage cooperative services.

5/7/91

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

(7) Date Referred: May 6, 1991 FURTHER REFERRALS: Finance

Date of Committee Action: 4/14/91

The HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES Committee considered: HB 314

HOUSE BILL NO. 314 SCHOOL DISTRICT COOPERATION GRANTS

"An Act establishing a cooperative arrangement grant program for school districts; and providing for an effective date."

- RECOMMENDATIONS: the same title
 be replaced with _____ a new 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 _____ zero fiscal note(s) 4/4/91

SIGNING <u>DO</u> PASS	DP	OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS	DNP	NR	AM
<i>Cheri Davis</i>	✓				
<i>Mary Miller</i>	✓				
<i>J. G. Souders</i>	✓				
<i>Betty Davis</i>	✓				
<i>John E. ...</i>	✓				
<i>...</i>	✓				

John E. ...
 CHAIRMAN'S SIGNATURE