

HB

160

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 160(CRA)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE HOUSE COMMUNITY AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Offered:
Referred:

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES NICHOLLA, B.Javis, Ivan

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

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

6 * Sec. 2. FINDINGS. The legislature finds that

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

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

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

14 (4) translations from a Native language into English result in the loss of

1 context and deprivation of the full range of social and cultural understanding necessary to
2 function in the individual's environment;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

4 (6) the ways in which meaningful parent involvement in school
5 performance was achieved;

6 (7) a summary and evaluation of the environmental education
7 curriculum described in AS 14.30.380;

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

10 (9) other indicators of school performance required by the state board;
11 and

12 (10) [(9)] other indicators of school performance selected by the
13 district.

14 * Sec. 4. AS 14.30 is amended by adding a new section to article 6 to read:

15 Sec. 14.30.420. NATIVE LANGUAGE EDUCATION. (a) A school board
16 in a district in which a majority of the students are Alaska Natives shall establish a
17 local Native language curriculum advisory board for each school in the district in
18 which a majority of the students are Alaska Natives. If the local Native language
19 curriculum advisory board recommends the establishment of a Native language
20 education curriculum for a school, the school board may initiate and conduct a Native
21 language education curriculum within grades K through 12 at that school. The
22 program, if established, must include Native languages traditionally spoken in the
23 community in which the school is located. Each school board conducting a program
24 of Native language education shall implement the program as a part of regular
25 classroom studies and shall utilize

26 (1) instructors who are certified under AS 14.20.020 or 14.20.025; and

27 (2) to the extent possible

28 (A) instructors and instructional materials available through the
29 University of Alaska; and

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

31 (b) In this section,

1
2
3
4

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

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

* Sec. 5. This Act takes effect July 1, 1996.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA

BILL NO. HB 160

1995 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Revision Date: March 22, 1995

Department Affected: Education

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

BRU: K-12 Support

Component: Foundation Program

Sponsor: Rep. Nicholia

Requester: (H) CRA

COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 141

Expenditures/Revenues:

(Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 96	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00	FY 01
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

CAPITAL						
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REVENUE FUND SOURCE:						
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FUNDING:

(Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1006 GF/MHTIA						
Other						
TOTAL	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

Estimate of current year (FY95) impact: \$ -0-

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary.) The department estimates the fiscal impact to range from \$0 to \$145.8 annually. Currently five school districts do not have an approved bilingual plan of service on file with the department. School districts that elect to provide Native language education may develop bilingual plans of service. Alutians East and Pelican may apply for bilingual funding through the foundation program. The department has assumed that the two school districts will generate the minimum of one instructional unit each of bilingual funding.

Prepared by: Eddy Jeans

Phone: 465-8685

Division: School Finance

Date: March 22, 1995

Approved by Commissioner: [Signature]

Shirley Holloway

Agency: Education

Date: March 22, 1995

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Fiscal Note, HB 160
March 15, 1995
Page 2 of 2

A standard reporting format will be developed to meet the reporting requirements of HB 160. This format will specify the information that must be reported and the form in which the information must appear. To develop this format a team will meet over a two day period to review alternatives and reach consensus on the reporting model.

Cost associated with redesigning and printing materials currently used by the department for implementing the report card legislation will be borne by the department.

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TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS	0 to 145.8	0 to 145.8	0 to 145.8	0 to 145.8	0 to 145.8	0 to 145.8
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	0 to 145.8	0 to 145.8	0 to 145.8	0 to 145.8	0 to 145.8	0 to 145.8

CAPITAL						
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REVENUE FUND SOURCE:						
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FUNDING:

(Thousands of Dollars)


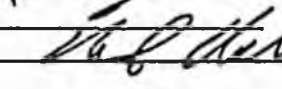
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Prepared by: Eddy Jeans  Phone: 465-8685
 Division: School Finance Date: March 15, 1995
 Approved by Commissioner:  Shirley Holloway
 Agency: Education Date: March 15, 1995

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House District 36

- Alatna
- Alcan
- Allakuket
- Aniak
- Anvik
- Arctic Village
- Beaver
- Bettles
- Birch Creek
- Canyon Village
- Central
- Chalkyitsik
- Chicken
- Chistochina
- Chitina
- Chuathbaluk
- Circle
- Circle Hot Springs
- Coldfoot
- Copper Center
- Coppersville
- Crooked Creek
- Dot Lake
- Dry Creek
- Eagle
- Eagle Village
- Evansville
- Fort Yukon
- Gakona
- Galena
- Grayling
- Gulkana
- Healy Lake
- Holy Cross
- Hughes
- Huslia
- Katag
- Koyukuk
- Lime Village
- Livengood
- Lake Minchumina
- Lower Kalskag
- Manley
- Marshall
- McCarthy
- McGrath
- Medfra
- Mentasta
- Minto
- Nabesna
- Nenana
- Nikolai
- Northway
- Nulato
- Pilot Station
- Rampart
- Red Devil
- Rohy
- Russian Mission
- Shageluk
- Slana
- Sleetmute
- Stevens Village
- Stony River
- Takotna
- Tanacross
- Tanana
- Telida
- Tellu
- Tok
- Tuluksak
- Tyonek
- Upper Kalskag
- Venette
- Wiseman

Representative Irene K. Nicholia

State Capitol • Juneau, Alaska 99801
Phone: 465-4527 FAX: 465-2294

*Resources
Community and Regional Affairs
International Trade and Tourism*

House Bill 160

SPONSOR STATEMENT

There exists, in our State, the potential for a great tragedy. I am, of course, referring to the loss of at least fifteen of the twenty Alaska Native languages by the year 2055. Dr. Michael Krauss, professor of linguistics at the University of Alaska Fairbanks predicts that "short of a miracle or radical social change," this is precisely what will occur.

HB 160 mandates that school districts with a majority of Native students consider the potential for establishing Native language curriculum. This can be accomplished by a local Native curriculum advisory committee, specially delegated the authority to review the need for such curriculum. In those districts where it was determined that a Native language curriculum might be useful, the committee would make the appropriate recommendations to the district. The district would then have the opportunity of accepting or rejecting the recommendations of the committee. Under the authority of HB 160, Native language curriculum would be taught by certified or trained instructors. It also allows for the delivery of the language instruction by existing satellite equipment, or other technology including computer programs and audio distance delivery. The effective date for this Bill is July 1, 1996.

Unfortunately, the current threat to Native languages stems from anti-Native policies that have taken place in our past. American missionaries and educators, in an attempt to assimilate Alaska Natives into the Western/Anglo religion, language and culture, have brought Native languages to the point of extinction. Currently, there is a movement in this country to begin recognizing and appreciating the cultural diversity that exists among Americans. HB 160 would certainly be a positive step toward such an appreciation.

The urgency of this situation is evident: Without proper action on the part of the Legislature, the state may continue to lose its

cultural heritage and diversity. It is incumbent upon the State to adopt measures that would insure the preservation of our Native languages.

I strongly urge you to support this effort and pass HB 160.

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- Chicken
- Chistochina
- Chitina
- Chuathbaluk
- Circle
- Circle Hot Springs
- Coldfoot
- Copper Center
- Copporville
- Cracked Creek
- Dot Lake
- Dry Creek
- Eagle
- Eagle Village
- Evansville
- Fort Yukon
- Gakona
- Galena
- Gering
- Gulkana
- Healy Lake
- Holy Cross
- Hughes
- Huslia
- Katag
- Koyukuk
- Lim Village
- Livengood
- Lake Minchumina
- Lower Kalskag
- Manley
- Marshall
- McCarthy
- McGrath
- Medfra
- Mentasta
- Minto
- Nabesna
- Nenana
- Nikolai
- Northway
- Nulato
- Pilot Station
- Rampart
- Red Devil
- Ruby
- Russian Mission
- Shageluk
- Slana
- Sleetmute
- Stevens Village
- Stony River
- Takotna
- Tanacross
- Tanana
- Telida
- Tetlin
- Tok
- Tuluksak
- Tyonek
- Upper Kalskag
- Venetic
- Wiseman

Representative Irene K. Nicholia

State Capitol • Juneau, Alaska 99801
Phone: 465-4527 FAX: 465-2294

*Resources
Community and Regional Affairs
International Trade and Tourism*

MEMORANDUM

TO: Representative Ivan Ivan, Co-Chairman
and Representative Alan Austerman, Co-Chairman
House Community and Regional Affairs Committee

FROM: Representative Irene Nicholia *Irene*

DATE: February 28, 1995

RE: Scheduling of House Bill 160

I would like to request a hearing of HB 160, "An Act relating to a curriculum for Native language education; and providing for an effective date," in the House Community and Regional Affairs Committee.

Attached please find a copy of the Sponsor statement and Sectional analysis for this bill.

Thank you for your timely consideration of HB 160.

**DIVISION OF LEGAL SERVICES
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY
STATE OF ALASKA**

(907) 465-3867 or 465-2450
FAX (907) 465-2029
Mail Stop 3101

130 Seward Street, Suite 409
Juneau, Alaska 99801-2105

MEMORANDUM

March 1, 1995

SUBJECT: Sectional Summary of SB 160
(Work Order No. 9-LS0536/A)

TO: Representative Irene Nicholia

FROM: Michael F. Ford *M.F. Ford*
Legislative Counsel

You have requested a sectional summary of the above-described bill.

As a preliminary matter, note that a sectional summary of a bill should not be considered an authoritative interpretation of the bill and the bill itself is the best statement of its contents. If you would like an interpretation of the bill as it may apply to a particular set of circumstances, please advise.

Section 1. Short title.

Section 2. Findings.

Section 3. Requires that a school district that provides Native language education, must include a summary and evaluation of the program in the district's annual performance report.

Section 4. Allows a school board to establish a Native language education curriculum, if the curriculum is recommended by the local Native language education curriculum advisory board. Requires a school board in a district in which a majority of the students are Natives to establish a local Native language curriculum advisory board. Requires that a Native language program include Native languages spoken in the community in which the school is located, and that the program include certified instructors.

Section 5. Effective date.

MFF:glc:klb
95-181.glc

Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc.

March 15, 1995

Representative Irene Nicholia
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol Building - Room 501
Juneau, Alaska 99801 -1182

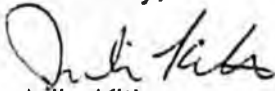
Dear Representative Nicholia:

The Alaska Federation of Natives supports the two bills, HB160 and HB167 which relate to the curriculum for Native language education, culture, history in public schools. These bills would recognize the cultural diversity in districts where there is a significant Alaska Native population with the inclusion of language, culture and history curricula.

The loss of Native language skills and use continues to be a concern of the Alaska Native community. In some areas, there is grave concern about the extinction of the language. Native parents, community members, educators and students have been primary advocates for inclusion of language, culture and history in the curricula. Enclosed are a number of resolutions which were passed at the 1994 AFN Annual Convention which reflect that view.

Education is a high priority with Native people. In order to make changes and inroads to improve education for our children, the community must be involved. The involvement of parents, community and the educational community must be synchronized and connected. Alaska Natives have advocated the preservation and maintenance of Native languages for many years. A number of districts are making strides in language immersion programs with great success. We are involved in a plan which would make systemic change in the education of Native children with the National Science Foundation/Rural Systemic Initiative in a partnership between the University of Alaska Fairbanks and AFN. Elders are providing direction in this effort and continue to tell us that language and culture must be revitalized and included in the education of our children. We support your efforts in this area. Please let us know if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,



Julie Kitka
President

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

1994 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 94-38

TITLE: ALASKA NATIVE LANGUAGE AND CULTURE CLASS

WHEREAS: the knowledge of Alaska Native cultures must be preserved because it has been continuously declining among the Native people,

WHEREAS: most urban and rural schools that have offered bilingual classes as electives have not been effective due to a variety of reasons among students and teaching use methods,

WHEREAS: hands on, project-based techniques tend to be a more effective way of learning,

WHEREAS: this would give Native students a sense of belonging, cultural identity and the ability to pass on their language and history to future generations,

WHEREAS: this project-based class would also enhance the communication between Elders and the youth,

WHEREAS: students would have understanding, knowledge, and appreciation of their Native language and culture,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates to the 1994 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that we encourage schools to include this ANLCC, which includes language, hunting, dancing, writing, Native stories, and other appropriate subjects in their curriculum,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that school districts be requested to initiate changes that allow village schools to teach all forms of cultural activities.

SUBMITTED BY: Joint Elders/Youth Conference

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

1994 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 94-50

TITLE: NATIVE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

WHEREAS: the educational opportunities for Natives is not nearly as great as for non-Natives, and

WHEREAS: most Native villages have limited teaching staff that are not always able to provide educational opportunities found in most schools, and

WHEREAS: there is a need to learn our Native ways, and

WHEREAS: the regular school teachers usually do not know the students' Native language and culture, and

WHEREAS: we need to protect and preserve our old ways, so our traditions will be with us today and tomorrow, rather than in our past and forgotten, and

WHEREAS: students of Alaska have been urging the Alaska school system to fit this into their curriculum, but little has been done to fulfill their needs, and

WHEREAS: most schools are in need of larger, more adequate staffs that can provide us with our Native heritage,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates to the 1994 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that classes such as a Native Studies be stressed to be offered in the school system,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the schools be provided with an appropriate staff, so students can learn about their ancestors and keep our traditions alive.

SUBMITTED BY: Joint Elders/Youth Conference

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



Isaac Juneby
Box 107
Eagle, Alaska 99738
February 13, 1995

Representative Alan Austerman, Chairman
House Committee, Community and Regional Affairs
Alaska State House of Representatives
State Capital
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Representative Austerman:

I am writing to comment on HB 160 and HB 167, sponsored by Representative Nicholia. I am asking you as Chairman of the CRA to support the passage of these important bills I am proponent of Native Education and Culture programs in our schools.

Because, I have seen for many years that Native Languages do disappear and die, my wife and I have been involved for years that this does not happen to the Han Language. Both my wife and I have been involved with the Han Literacy Workshops put on by the Yukon College of Whitehorse and Council of Yukon Indians.

Let me explain why I think these two bills are important. First and foremost, I was one of the unfortunates that couldn't speak my Native Language in School. It was a horrible experience to be scared and punished for not being able to speak my Native Language in school. I have been deprived of my identity and heritage.

This to me was a violation of the United States Code of Human Rights. Nobody should be punished for who and what they are. These 2 bills are what's needed for many of our children in the villages. The Cultural awareness, language, identity and self-esteem are knowledge that all Native Children should know in order to survive today's world.

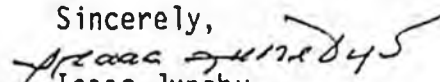
I have difficult time with many of the rural schools teaching Russian, French, Spanish and German and ignoring the Native Languages. I believe if there were some respect for our people's culture, we wouldn't be having misunderstanding about one's heritage as we do now.

I know what can happen to any language if the interests are not there to enhance it's survival. We need to emphasize the importance of their existence. I am appealing to you and your Committee to make sure that some of our languages are not history, and having children read and

study in the schools, and saying that "There was once a Tribe of Athabascan Indians". I know that you will do everything in your Committee to make sure that this does not happen. I am asking for your support to see that these bills are passed in your Committee.

If you have any questions, call me at (907) 547-2281.

Sincerely,


Isaac Juneby

C/C

Representative Irene Nicholia
Alaska State House of Representatives
State Capital
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Representative Ivan Ivan
Alaska State House of Representatives
State Capital
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Representative Pete Kott
Alaska State House of Representatives
State Capital
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Representative Al Vezey
Alaska State House of Representatives
State Capital
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Representative Kim Elton
Alaska State House of Representatives
State Capital
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Representative Jerry Mackie
Alaska State House of Representatives
State Capital
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Senator Georgianna Lincoln
Alaska State Senate
State Capital
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

IRENE L. SOLOMON-ARNOLD
P.O. BOX 543
TOK, ALASKA 99780
FEBRUARY 22, 1995

Representative Alan Austerman, Chairman
House Committee, Community and Regional Affairs
Alaska State House of Representatives
State Capital
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Representative Austerman:

I am writing this letter regarding the House Bills 160 and 167 which is sponsored by Representative Nicholia. I have great concern regarding the passages of these bills because I am directly involved in the Athabascan Language Teaching in Tok. I know from experience that there is no support for promoting Native Languages in our schools. I believe the passage of these bills will enhance and highlight the revival of our Native Languages in the public schools.

I began teaching my Language, Tanacross Athabascan, in Sept. 1992 when the Tok Indian Education Councils initiated the program into our local public school system. At that time I was employed as OSAP Youth Counselor at a local agency office when the this part time job became available I applied for it and was selected to began teaching. Since I was not knowledgeable in any teaching method I was fortunate enough in being sent to Yukon Native Language Centre in Whitehorse, Yukon Canada for training in the oral method of teaching. The reason this program is a success in this school is because of that training. I am going to receive a Teacher's Certificate from Yukon College in June of 1995 which is not a recognized certificate in Alaska but, I believe, these three years of training has been a plus for this language class.

Now the problem is this, in all the years of training for this certificate I have had no financial assistance from the Alaska Gateway School District, Tanana Chiefs Conference Education Department or the Alaska State Education system. All my training has been financed by Yukon Native Education Council Committee which includes my room, board and travel expenses for one week twice a year. If these two bills were recognized and passed this can be corrected for anyone who is seeking an education or a job as Native Language Teacher. Even though I am still struggling with the present school system to accept my Native Language

as part of the school curriculum I continue seeking ways to further my education in this field. I am the first and only graduate of Native Language Education in Associate of Applied Science Degree from the University of Alaska Fairbanks in May 1994. I find that teaching and preserving my language important enough to sacrifice a full time wages and benefits for a part time job with no benefits.

I hope this personal statement will get some positive response for the House Bills 160 and 167. If you need to contact me for further personal support I can be reached at (907) 883-2812 or (907) 883-5161.

Sincerely,

Irene L. Solomon-Arnold
Irene L. Solomon-Arnold

C/C

Representative Irene Nicholia
Alaska State House of Representative
State Capital
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Senator Georgianna Lincoln
Alaska State Senate
State Capital
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Representative Jerry Mackie
Alaska State House of Representative
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