

**HB**

**145**

# SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT

DATE: 3/24/97

FURTHER: Finance

DATE TURNED  
IN TO OFFICE: 4/9/97

HESS Committee considered CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 145(HES)

"An Act relating to certification of teachers."

and recommends:

be replaced with \_\_\_\_\_ CS \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_\_)

adopt previous \_\_\_\_\_ CS \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_\_)

attached amendment(s)

adopt Letter of Intent by \_\_\_\_\_ Committee

further referral to the \_\_\_\_\_ Committee

**Senate Bill:**

same title

new title

**House Bill:**

same title

technical change

new: SCR# \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNING DO PASS	DP	OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS	NR	DNP	AM
<i>[Signature]</i>					
<i>[Signature]</i>	X				
<i>[Signature]</i>	✓				
<i>[Signature]</i>	✓				
CHAIR: <i>[Signature]</i>	✓				

**NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):**

Department                      Date      Zero      Fiscal

Department	Date	Zero	Fiscal

**PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S):\***

Department                      Date      Zero      Fiscal

Department	Date	Zero	Fiscal

APPROPRIATION -- no fiscal note

\*include fiscal notes accompanying Governor's bill

# HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATE CAPITOL, JUNEAU 99801  
(907) 465-3759



## SPONSOR STATEMENT

### CS HB 145 (HES)

**"An Act relating to certification of teachers."**

We all realize the importance of having well-qualified teachers in our school system. In an effort to provide our state with a quality teaching force, we must ensure that our prospective teachers demonstrate a minimum level of competency in basic skills.

There are over 40 states that include tests as a part of their teacher licensure. The passage of CS HB 145 (HES) would add Alaska to that list.

Beginning July 1, 1998, CS HB 145 (HES) would require people who are not now licensed to teach in the state to pass a competency examination designated by the Alaska State Board of Education before receiving their certification. It is our intention that the Board will select a basic test for primary grades and a test for subject endorsements in secondary. The board will also establish the minimum acceptable level of performance for this examination.

I urge you to support these increased standards for our teachers.

# FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA  
1997 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

No. 2  
Bill Version: CSHB 145 (HES)  
(H) Publish Date: 3/12/97

Title: An act relating to certification  
of teachers...  
Sponsor: Rep. Bunde  
Requestor: \_\_\_\_\_

Dept. Affected Education  
BRU: Teacher & Learning Support  
Components: Teacher Certification  
Serial # 1240

**EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS)**

OPERATING	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00	FY 01	FY 02	FY 03
Personal Services	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Travel	10.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Contractual	40.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Supplies	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Equipment	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Land & Structures	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Grants, Claims	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Miscellaneous	10.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>60.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

CAPITAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
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REVENUE	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
---------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

**FUNDING: (THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS)**

General Fund	60.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Federal Fund	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>60.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

**POSITIONS :**

Full-Time	0	0	0	0	0	0
Part-Time	0	0	0	0	0	0
Temporary	0	0	0	0	0	0

**ANALYSIS: (ATTACH A SEPARATE PAGE IF NECESSARY)**

see attached analysis

Prepared by:

House Finance Committee

Rep. Mark Hanley, Co-Chair

Rep. Gene Therriault, Co-Chair

Date: 3/11/97

Phone: 465-4939

Phone: 465-4797

**COMMITTEE COPY**

PAGE 1

OF

1



# NEA-ALASKA

*Affiliated with the National Education Association*

February 24, 1997

Representative Con Bunde  
Chairman of the House HESS Committee  
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Representative Bunde:

NEA-Alaska supports the use of testing to measure professional knowledge and competency of those who seek initial certification to teach in Alaska. We support HB 145.

Testing teachers prior to certification is consistent with last year's legislative mandate requiring a comprehensive system of teacher evaluation for experienced teachers. Beginning this year school administrators will be working more closely with teachers to both improve individual teaching performance.

NEA-Alaska seeks higher standards for teachers. Preparation programs must be relevant to experiences and needs of the classroom. The use of testing will provide Alaska a wealth of information on how well they are doing to prepare for Alaska's classrooms. Institutions that prepare students to teach in Alaska can use test results to identify methodology and innovation to insure that students who become teachers are trained and prepared well.

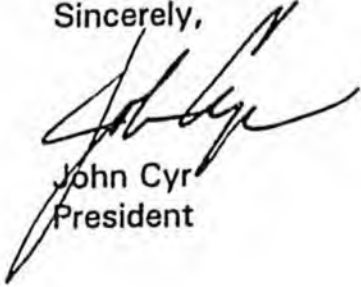
Certification standards imposed on new hires by the state must be rigorous. The evaluation teachers receive in classrooms by administrators along with future efforts by the State Board of Education in working with local school districts to improve teaching performance will move Alaska's schools toward greater levels of excellence. We support the Department's efforts to develop pre-service and practice assessments and measures for new and career teachers.

HB 145 will provide Alaska school districts a degree of assurance that applicants for teaching positions who apply for initial certification have

successfully completed a test designed to measure competency in basic skills, professional knowledge or expertise in their area of teaching specialty.

We look forward to working with the sponsors of the bill to address ways to make the bill better and more functional.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Cyr", written in a cursive style.

John Cyr  
President

TABLE B-2  
ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR THE INITIAL TEACHING CERTIFICATE

STATE	Basic Skills Exam:					Subject Matter Exam	General Knowledge Exam	Knowledge of Teaching Exam	Assessment of Teaching Performance	Footnotes
	Reading	Math	Writing	Spelling	Other					
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
Alabama	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)		(2)		(2)	X	(1) For admission to program (2) Institution's exit exam
Alaska										
Arizona	X	X			(1)					(1) Grammar
Arkansas	X	X	X			X		X		
California	X	X	X			(1)			X	(1) Or completion of an approved subject matter program
Colorado	X	X	X		(1)	X	X	X		(1) Oral English proficiency
Connecticut	X	X	X			X				
Delaware	X	X	X							
D.C.	X	X	X			X			X	
Florida	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	
Georgia						X				
Hawaii	X	X	X			X		X	X	
Idaho										
Illinois	X	X	X		(1)	X				(1) Grammar
Indiana	X		X		(1)	X	X	X		(1) Listening
Iowa										
Kansas	X	X	X					X		
Kentucky	(1)	(1)	(1)	X		X	X	X	X	(1) Required for admission to teacher education
Louisiana	X	X	X		(1)	X	X	X	X	(1) Communication skills
Maine					(1)		X	X		(1) Communication skills
Maryland	X		X	X	(1)	X	X	X		(1) Listening
Massachusetts						(1)				(1) Two-part exam covering communication and literacy skills and the subject matter knowledge for the certificate proposed for fall 1990
Michigan	X	X	X			X	(1)			(1) Elementary Certificate exam (subject-area exam)
Minnesota	X	X	X		(1)					(1) PPST required
Mississippi	X	X	X		(1)	X	X	X		(1) Listening
Missouri	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)		X				(1) For entry into teacher education
Montana	X	X	X		(1)		X	X		(1) Listening
Nebraska	X	X	X							
Nevada	X	X	X			X		X		
New Hampshire	(1)	(1)	(1)							(1) Demonstrate competence by: a) college recommendation, b) possession of MA or higher, c) certification from state requiring basic skills test, d) statement from college
New Jersey						X	(1)		X	(1) For elementary education
New Mexico	X	X	X		(1)		X	X		(1) Listening
New York							X	X		
North Carolina	(1)	(1)	(1)		(2)	X		X		(1) Prior to entry into teacher education (2) Listening
North Dakota	(1)						X	X		(1) Prior to entry into teacher education
Ohio	X	X	X			X	X	X		
Oklahoma	X	X	X			X			X	
Oregon	X	X	X			(1)	X	X	(2)	(1) Communication Skills & General Knowledge Exams required for elementary (2) For Oregon graduates
Pennsylvania	X		X		(1)	X	(2)	X		(1) Listening (2) Includes Math
Rhode Island (1)	X	X	X	X			X	X		(1) Core battery of NTE
South Carolina	X	X	X			X		X		
South Dakota (1)	X	X	X			X			X	(1) Required within the institutional program requirements
Tennessee	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	
Texas	X	X	X			X		X		
Utah										
Vermont										
Virginia	X	X	X			X	X	X		
Washington	(1)	(1)	(1)							(1) Required for some prior to entering teacher education
West Virginia	X	X	X			X			X	
Wisconsin	X	X	X							
Wyoming										

Assessments Used by States for Teacher Certification/Licensure  
1996

state	basic skills	teaching knowledge: pedagogy and/or specialty areas	in-class observation
Alabama	x	preparing institution's exit exam	x
Alaska	-	-	-
Arizona	x	-	-
Arkansas	PPST	-	x
California	x	Praxis II and MSAT	x
Colorado	x	PLACE state developed exams	x
Connecticut	Praxis I	Praxis II	x
Delaware	PPST	-	x
District of Columbia	PPST	Praxis II specialty area tests	x
Florida	x	x	-
Georgia	-	state developed exams	x
Hawaii	PPST	PLTT and Praxis II specialty area tests	x
Idaho	-	-	x
Illinois	x	state developed exams	x
Indiana	x	Praxis II core battery and specialty area tests	x
Iowa	-	-	x
Kansas	PPST	Praxis II core pedagogy	x
Kentucky	x	Praxis II core battery and specialty area tests	x
Louisiana	x	Praxis II core battery and specialty area tests	x
Maine	PPST	Praxis II core battery	-
Maryland	-	Praxis II core battery and specialty area tests	-
Massachusetts	x	Praxis II core battery and specialty area tests	x
Michigan	x	x	x
Minnesota	PPST	-	x
Mississippi	x	Praxis II core battery and specialty area tests	x
Missouri	x	Praxis II core battery and specialty area tests	x
Montana	PPST	Praxis II core general knowledge and communication	x
Nebraska	PPST	-	x
Nevada	PPST	-	x
New Hampshire	x	-	x
New Jersey	-	Praxis II core general knowledge and specialty area tests	x
New Mexico	x	Praxis II core battery and specialty area tests	x
New York	-	Praxis II core battery and specialty area tests	x
North Carolina	PPST	Praxis II core pedagogy and specialty area tests	x
North Dakota	x	-	x
Ohio	x	Praxis II core pedagogy and general knowledge and specialty area tests	x
Oklahoma	PPST	specialty area exams	x
Oregon	PPST	Praxis II core pedagogy and specialty area tests	x
Pennsylvania	x	Praxis II core battery and specialty area tests	-
Rhode Island	x	Praxis II core battery and specialty area tests	x
South Carolina	x	Praxis II core pedagogy and specialty area tests	x
South Dakota	-	-	x
Tennessee	PPST	Praxis II core battery and specialty area tests	x
Texas	x	x	x
Utah	-	-	x
Vermont	-	-	x
Virginia	PPST	Praxis II core battery and specialty area tests	x
Washington	x	-	x
West Virginia	PPST	PLTT and specialty area tests	x
Wisconsin	x	-	x
Wyoming	-	-	x
total	78%	67%	86%

SOURCES: The NASDTEC Manual, 1996-1997; Manual on Certification and Preparation of Educational Personnel in the United States & Canada" (May, 1996) and Educational Testing Service web site

p100716a standstate teacher assessments

**Sec. 14.20.020. Requirements for issuance of certificate.** (a) Except as provided in (f) of this section, the department shall issue a teacher certificate to every person who meets the requirements in (b) and (c) of this section.

(b) A person is not eligible for a teacher certificate unless that person has received at least a baccalaureate degree from an institution of higher education accredited by a recognized regional accrediting association or approved by the commissioner. However, this subsection is not applicable to

- (1) persons employed in the state public school system on September 1, 1962;
- (2) persons issued an emergency certificate during a situation which, in the judgment of the commissioner, requires the temporary issuance of a certificate to a person not otherwise qualified.

(c) The board may establish by regulation additional requirements for the issuance of certificates, including the fees to be charged for each certificate.

(d) The board may by regulation establish various classes of certificates.

(e) The annual estimated balance in the account maintained by the commissioner of administration under AS 37.05.142 may be used by the legislature to make appropriations to the department to carry out the purposes of this section and to support the activities of the Professional Teaching Practices Commission under AS 14.20.460, 14.20.470, and 14.20.500.

(f) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the department may not issue a teacher certificate to a person who has been convicted of a crime involving a minor under AS 11.41.434 — 11.41.440, 11.41.455, or 11.41.460, or under a law in another jurisdiction with elements substantially similar to an offense described in AS 11.41.434 — 11.41.440, 11.41.455, or 11.41.460. When five years have elapsed after a person has received an unconditional discharge for a conviction of a crime listed in this subsection, the person may petition the department to issue the certificate in spite of the conviction if the person otherwise satisfies the requirements for the certificate. When deciding whether to grant or deny the petition, the department shall consider the nature of the particular crime, whether and to what extent the person has been rehabilitated, and the other factors that the department determines are significant.

(g) The department shall issue a teacher certificate to a person who possessed a valid Alaska teacher certificate upon retirement. A teacher certificate issued under this subsection is valid for the life of the retired teacher and qualifies the holder as a substitute teacher in the state.

(h) A person is not eligible for a teacher certificate unless the person has completed three semester hours in Alaska studies and three semester hours in multicultural education or cross-cultural communications. However, the commissioner may issue a provisional certificate, valid for no longer than two years, to an applicant who has not completed the semester hours required under this subsection at the time of application. (§ 37-5-4 ACLA 1949; am § 1 ch 76 SLA 1962; am § 10 ch 98 SLA 1966; am §§ 13, 14 ch 32 SLA 1971; am §§ 19, 20 ch 138 SLA 1986; am §§ 6, 7 ch 151 SLA 1990; am § 1 ch 3 SLA 1991; am § 5 ch 90 SLA 1991; am § 1 ch 105 SLA 1992)

*Revisor's notes.* — In 1992, in (f) of this section, "AS 11.41.434 — 11.41.440" was substituted for "AS 11.41.434 — 11.41.442" in two places to correct a manifest error in § 7, ch. 151, SLA 1990.

*Effect of amendments.* — The 1992 amendment, effective September 18, 1992, added subsection (h).

*Editor's notes.* — Section 10, ch. 151, SLA 1990 provides that subsection (f) does not apply when the crime occurred before September 19, 1990.

*Opinions of attorney general.* — The State Board of Education may not provide for issuance of a "teacher certificate" for a person who does not hold at least a baccalaureate degree unless the person comes

within one of the exceptions enumerated in this section. August 29, 1988 Op. Att'y Gen.

The State Board of Education may provide for a "provisional certificate" that is not a "teacher certificate," but it may not authorize the holder to be employed as a teacher or to be eligible for membership in the Teachers' Retirement System unless the certificate is based upon at least a baccalaureate degree. Similarly, a holder of a provisional certificate based on less than a baccalaureate degree would not be considered a "certificated employee" within the meaning of AS 14.20.550, relating to collective bargaining rights. August 29, 1988 Op. Att'y Gen.

4 AAC 12.020

REGULAR CERTIFICATE (TYPE A): PROVISIONAL CERTIFICATE  
(PROVISIONAL TYPE A).

(a) The regular certificate, valid for five years, shall be issued to an applicant who

(1) has completed a teacher education program approved by the board, has a bachelor's degree, and is recommended by the preparing institution; or

(2) has completed an approved program in another state and is recommended by the preparing institution.

(b) Except as otherwise provided by 4 AAC 12.042, the applicant must have earned at least six semester hours of credit within the five years immediately preceding application.

(c), (d) Repealed 4/9/87.

(e) To meet the requirements of (a) of this section, the applicant must have satisfactorily completed three semester hours in Alaska studies and three semester hours in multicultural education or cross-cultural communications.

(f) The commissioner may issue a nonrenewable provisional certificate (provisional Type A), valid for no longer than two years, to an applicant who has completed the requirements of this section, except for the requirements in (e) of this section.

(g) For the purposes of endorsement and certification for other types of certificates issued under this chapter, a provisional certificate (provisional Type A) may be considered the equivalent of a regular certificate (Type A).

(h) The commissioner may convert a provisional certificate (provisional Type A) to a regular certificate (Type A) upon satisfactory completion of the courses required under (e) of this section and payment of the fee for a regular certificate.

History -

In effect before 7/28/59; am 6/9/61, Register 3; am 4/4/63, Register 10; am 1/28/66, Register 20; am 9/8/66, Register 24; am 5/30/71, Register 38; am 10/4/73, Register 47; am 8/30/75, Register 55; am 9/30/83, Register 87; am 8/30/86, Register 99; am 4/9/87, Register 102; am 7/2/93, Register 126; am 6/9/95, Register 134

Authority -

AS 14.07.060

AS 14.20.020

Marked Up

0-LS0552K

Version

SENATE/CS FOR CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 145(FIN)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTIETH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Offered: 4/25/97

Referred: Rules

Sponsor(s): HOUSE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

A BILL

Added in (S) FIN

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

considered a "technical amendment"

1 "An Act relating to certification of teachers; and providing for an effective date."

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

3 \* Section 1. AS 14.20.020(b) is amended to read:

4 (b) A person is not eligible for a teacher certificate unless that person has  
5 received at least a baccalaureate degree from an institution of higher education  
6 accredited by a recognized regional accrediting association or approved by the  
7 commissioner and, if applicable, has passed the examination or examinations  
8 required by (i) of this section. However, this subsection is not applicable to

9 (1) persons employed in the state public school system on September 1,  
10 1962;

11 (2) persons issued an emergency certificate during a situation that  
12 [WHICH], in the judgment of the commissioner, requires the temporary issuance of  
13 a certificate to a person not otherwise qualified.

14 \* Sec. 2. AS 14.20.020(c) is amended to read: — Added in Finance

15 (c) The board may establish by regulation additional requirements for the

1 issuance of certificates. The department shall establish by regulation [,  
2 INCLUDING] the fees to be charged for each certificate, including fees for criminal  
3 history background checks and for other charges assessed against teachers as part  
4 of certification. In establishing the fees to be charged, the department shall  
5 establish the fee levels so that the total amount of the fees collected relating to the  
6 certification of teachers approximately equals, when added to the other fees  
7 collected from teachers, the actual regulatory costs for certifying and disciplining  
8 teachers in the state. The department shall annually review each fee level to  
9 determine whether the regulatory costs are approximately equal to fee collections.  
10 If the review indicates that fee collections and regulatory costs are not  
11 approximately equal, the department shall calculate fee adjustments to the fees  
12 for certification of teachers and adopt regulations under this subsection to  
13 implement the adjustments. In January of each year, the department shall report  
14 on all fee levels and revisions for the previous year under this subsection to the  
15 office of management and budget. The department shall consider the board's  
16 recommendations concerning the fee levels and regulatory costs before revising  
17 fee schedules to comply with this subsection. In this subsection, "regulatory  
18 costs" means costs of the department that are attributable to regulation of the  
19 teaching profession, including the portion of the expenses of the board that are  
20 attributable to the regulation of the teaching profession and the expenses of the  
21 Professional Teaching Practices Commission.

22 \* Sec. 3. AS 14.20.020 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

23 (i) Beginning on July 1, 1998, a person is not eligible for an initial regular  
24 teacher certificate unless the person has taken and successfully completed a  
25 competency examination or examinations designated, at the time the person took the  
26 test, by the board. The board shall review nationally recognized examinations that are  
27 designed to test the competency of new teachers and shall designate those  
28 examinations that it finds adequately test the skills and abilities of new teachers. For  
29 each examination designated under this subsection, the board shall establish the  
30 minimum acceptable level of performance.

31 \* Sec. 4. The requirements for examination established in secs. 1 and 3 of this Act do not

1 apply to a teacher who holds a valid regular teacher certificate on the effective date of secs.  
2 1 and 3 of this Act.

3 \* Sec. 5. The Department of Education shall report to the legislature by March 1, 1998,  
4 on the examinations the department has selected in compliance with AS 14.20.020(i), enacted  
5 by sec. 3 of this Act. The department shall also report to the legislature by March 1, 1999,  
6 on the progress made in using competency examinations in issuing initial regular teacher  
7 certificates.

8 \* Sec. 6. Section 2 of this Act takes effect July 1, 1998.

- Added in FIN

After July 1, 1998, the fees collected for  
teaching certificates shall cover the  
regulatory costs of certifying & disciplining  
teachers, including the Professional Teaching  
Practices Cmsn.

# FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA  
1997 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

No. 3  
Bill Version: SCS CSHB 145 (FIN)  
(S) Publish Date: 4-29-97

Revision Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Dept. Affected: EDUCATION  
Title: An act relating to certification of teachers BRU: Teaching and Learning Support  
Component: Teacher Certification  
Sponsor: House HES  
Requester: Senate Finance Committee COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 1240

**Expenditures/Revenues:** (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY98	FY99	FY00	FY01	FY02	FY03
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL	15.0					
CONTRACTUAL	75.0	20.0	20.0	20.0	20.0	20.0
SUPPLIES	10.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>23.0</b>	<b>23.0</b>	<b>23.0</b>	<b>23.0</b>	<b>23.0</b>

<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
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<b>CHANGES IN REVENUES</b>						
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**FUNDING:** (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts	0	0	0	0	0	0
1003 GF Match	0	0	0	0	0	0
1004 GF	100.0					
1005 GF/Program Receipts		23.0	23.0	23.0	23.0	23.0
Other:						
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>23.0</b>	<b>23.0</b>	<b>23.0</b>	<b>23.0</b>	<b>23.0</b>

Estimate of current year (FY97) cost: \$

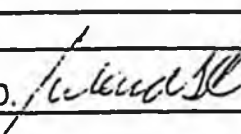
**POSITIONS:**

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

**ANALYSIS:** (Attach a separate page if necessary)

The Senate Finance Committee Substitute requires that the Department of Education establish fees sufficient to cover the cost of certifying and disciplining teachers in Alaska. The legislation requires that the program be self-supporting beginning July 1, 1998. The costs included in this fiscal note are related to developing a teacher examination in FY98 and for implementation beginning in FY99 to be paid by certification applicants. This note does not include changes in the fee structure that will be required in order to become self-supporting.

Please see the attached analysis for additional information on the FY98 costs.

Prepared by: Nancy Buell  
Division: Teaching and Learning Support  
Approved by Commissioner: Shirley J. Holloway, Ph.D.   
Agency: Department of Education

Phone: 465-8689  
Date: 4/25/97  
Date: 4/25/97

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**Department of Education**  
***Fiscal Note Analysis***

SCS CSHB 145 (FIN)

An Act relating to certification of teachers

***Travel - \$15.0***

With the implementation date of July 1, 1998, the department will need to accelerate the work of the Professional Licensure Task Force. The existing travel budget for the Teacher Certification unit is very limited. In order for staff to be able to work with the task force and the State Board in implementing the teacher exam, additional travel will be required.

***Contractual - \$75.0***

Funding under contractual will be used for the following:

1. professional services contract to review and analyze all nationally recognized tests to determine if they meet Alaska's standards for professional educators and determine legally defensible cut-off scores, \$50.0;
2. costs associated with revising forms, procedures, regulations, and the development of informational materials including advertising, printing and mailing, \$5.0;
3. revisions to data base application to accommodate the standards based licensure system including tracking and reporting \$15.0; and
4. start up costs for the administration of the test, \$5.0.

***Supplies - \$10.0***

These funds include office supplies such as purchase of envelopes, preprinted forms, computer software (not hardware), and other consumable supplies related to implementation of the teacher exam.

It is anticipated that once a test is selected that meets the Alaska standards for professional educators, applicants for licensure in the state would pay a specific vendor for administration of the test. However, based on information from other states that have implemented a teacher exam, there are ongoing costs to the department that are reflected in the fiscal note.

The legislation will affect approximately 4,500 new applicants each year including those new to the profession, new to Alaska, new to teaching in Alaska, or new Type B applicants who must qualify for a Type A.

## Impact of Moving Teacher Certification to Occupational Licensing

The Department of Education has no strong objection to moving Teacher Certification to Occupational Licensing, but sees no compelling reason to do so, and some substantial issues would need to be resolved before such a move were made. It may be that after these are explored, the decision would be not to move it, as has been the case with other Departments and licensing functions. Among the issues are:

1. A move would involve changing the statutory authority of the State Board of Education and the Commissioner of Education, both of whom have waiver and approval authority not just over teacher certification, but over approval of the institutions which prepare teachers. At present, no licensing area administered by Occupational Licensing has a relationship with a Board or Commissioner outside of the Department of Administration.
2. In regard to the latter, the only relationship the Department of Education now has with the universities preparing teachers is through the approval of their programs. This includes on-site reviews of in-state programs, for example. Since the primary way in which teachers are prepared is through a university, such a relationship needs to continue. Would Occupational Licensing maintain such a relationship?
3. The State Board of Education is currently in the midst of redefining what is required for licensure for both teachers and administrators. This work has been going on for two years and has involved a large, representative group (NEA, PTA, School Boards, Native Organizations, School Administrators and University staff). It would be critical that there be a transition for this work, which is coordinated with the passage of HB465 and the development of new teacher performance standards. The recommendation of this group is an entirely new system of licensure designed to substantially improve the quality of the workforce according to national and state recommendations. It is the intent of the State Board to propose these changes in the next legislative session.
4. All licenses in Occupational Licensing are funded entirely out of program receipts. 1/3 of the non-designated receipts go to the Professional Teaching Practices Commission, but it has no other relationship to the Department. The relationship of the PTPC to Occupational Licensing would have to be determined, and whether 1, 2 or 3 boards would emerge from the transition (c.g. some new Board which would combine PTPC and SBOE functions, the existing SBOE and PTPC, or a new Board and PTPC, etc.). How much would fees need to be raised to support the new structure?

In the improvement of public education, teacher certification is an important piece, and must be coordinated. The timing is not right to make changes right now, though it would probably be appropriate by the next legislative session. That would give the Department time to look at other models from other states and explore a transition which would be appropriate, or recommend against the move due to the complications which might arise.