

**HB**

**145**

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Mary Pagenkopf

Senate Rules Committee 5/2/97 3:22 pm

# HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



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## SPONSOR STATEMENT

### SCS CSHB 145 (FIN)

"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 SCS CSHB 145 (FIN) would add Alaska to that list.

Beginning July 1, 1998, SCS CSHB 145 (FIN) 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.

Another provision of this bill requires the Department of Education to establish fees for teacher certification that when added to other fees collected from teachers will approximately cover the costs for certifying and disciplining teachers.

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