

HB

158

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Copies of minutes listed below were originally included in this file. The minutes are available on the legislative computer database. In order to save space copies of minutes have not been left in the files.

Mary Pagenkopf

Senate Rules Committee 5/7/97 12:25 p.m.



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REPRESENTATIVE FRED DYSON

MEMORANDUM

May 7, 1997

To: Senator Loren Leman, Acting Chair
Senate Rules Committee

From: Representative Fred Dyson *Fred Dyson*

Subject: Request to schedule HB 158

Please schedule HB 158, "An Act relating to attendance at a public school on a part-time basis," for the Senate Floor, pending referral. The bill comes with a zero fiscal note. Attached is a Sponsor Statement for your review.

- E-mail -
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REPRESENTATIVE FRED DYSON

HB 158 Sponsor Statement (revised)

"An Act relating to attendance at a public school on a part-time basis."

HB 158 prohibits public school districts from discriminating against part-time Alaskan students.

The Alaska State Constitution, Article VII, Section 1 (Public Education) states, "The legislature shall by general law establish and maintain a system of public schools open to all children of the State...." The Alaska Administrative Code makes provisions and establishes a funding mechanism for part-time students. According to 4 AAC 09.040, "a student enrolled in one course in a semester equals 0.25 full-time equivalent" of the foundation formula. This graduated scale gives a school full credit for a student who attends four courses daily.

When the Attorney General's office prepared the current state statutes for part-time students and the foundation formula reimbursement for part-time students, it was anticipated that every school would fulfill the constitutional mandate and not discriminate against part-time students.

On April 14th, the State Board of Education unanimously endorsed HB158. They strongly encourage public schools to provide educational service to all local qualified students including home, correspondence, and private school students.

Many public school districts such as Sitka, Mat-Su, and Fairbanks work cooperatively with all non-public school students. Their attitudes and actions allow many options for parents and provide for a quality educational experience. They report virtually no problems from this cooperation. For students who have been expelled from the public schools and are being home schooled in the interim, the part-time option will allow the student to gradually make the transition back into the public school system.

School districts have found part-time students to be academic and social assets to their schools. In working cooperatively with private and home school students, public educators take a critical step toward providing an important resource to "all children of the State." The participation of part-time students in public schools has helped to diminish the apprehension of many parents about the public school system.

As far as we know, every school district in the state accepts part-time students from the home, correspondence and private school communities **except** the Anchorage School District (ASD). ASD reasons that providing an educational benefit to an individual child might accrue as a benefit, somehow, to some private school and thus raise constitutional concerns. The Legislative Legal staff, as well as the Attorney General's office, maintain that there is no constitutional issue.

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FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA

BILL NO. HB 158

1997 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Revision Date: _____

Department Affected: Education

Title: An act relating to attendance at a public school on a part-time basis.

BRU: K-12 Support

Sponsor: Representative Dvson

Component: Foundation Program

Requester: HESS

COMPONENT SERIAL NO. _____ 141

Expenditures/Revenues:

(Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00	FY 01	FY 02	FY 03
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS. CLAIMS	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
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CHANGE IN REVENUES						
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FUND SOURCE

(Thousands of Dollars)

FUND SOURCE	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00	FY 01	FY 02	FY 03
1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1006 GF/MHTIA						
Other						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

Estimate of current year (FY97) impact: -0-

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary.) Section 1 requires a local school board to allow a child who is enrolled at a private school, is a correspondence student or is being home schooled, to enroll as a part-time student. Currently AAC 05.035, allows a school district to enroll a part-time student. School districts that permit part-time enrollment shall adopt a policy how the district will comply with certain requirements and process a request for part-time enrollment. Districts may enroll part-time students if there is space available, if requested by the student's parent, if the student has met the prerequisites for the course and if the enrollment does not result in an expenditure of public money for the direct benefit of a private educational institution. 4 AAC 09.050 establishes the methodology for counting part-time students for foundation funding.

Prepared by: Eddy Jeans, School Finance Manager

Phone: 465-8679

Division: Education Support Services

Date: 3-10-97

Approved by Commissioner: Shirley Holloway, Ph. D., Commissioner

Shirley Holloway

Agency: Education

Date: 3-10-97

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