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CS FOR SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 19(FIN)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTIETH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Offered:

Referred:

Sponsor(s): SENATE RULES COMMITTEE BY REQUEST OF THE DEFERRED MAINTENANCE TASK FORCE

A RESOLUTION

1 Relating to the use of prototype designs in public school construction projects.

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

3 WHEREAS art. VII, sec. 1, Constitution of the State of Alaska, requires the state to
4 establish and maintain a system of public schools to meet the educational needs of children
5 throughout the state; and

6 WHEREAS the Alaska State Legislature recognizes the crucial role that local school
7 districts serve in the state in meeting this most important constitutional responsibility; and

8 WHEREAS the Alaska State Legislature understands the challenges school districts
9 face to ensure Alaska's children have skilled teachers, quality curriculum, and safe schools;
10 and

11 WHEREAS continued growth is projected in the state's school age population that will
12 increase the need for new schools and place further pressure on school district budgets; and

13 WHEREAS prudent stewardship of state resources requires that every effort be made
14 to get the best value for each state dollar spent; and

15 WHEREAS use of prototype school designs has enabled the Municipality of
16 Anchorage, Fairbanks North Star Borough, Kenai Peninsula Borough, and Matanuska-Susitna
17 Borough school districts to more quickly and economically respond to their district's need for

1 new schools and realize cost savings; and

2 **WHEREAS** the use of prototype school designs reduces future routine and major
3 maintenance cost and improves a school district's maintenance program through the use of
4 standardized building components, systems, and products; and

5 **WHEREAS** school districts experience substantially fewer problems during the first
6 school year in a prototype school, thereby reducing the school district's costs and improving
7 the teaching environment for teachers and learning environment for students; and

8 **WHEREAS** public facilities should be designed to accurately reflect the unique needs
9 of our subarctic and arctic environments, and northern design principles can help minimize
10 annual operating and maintenance costs;

11 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature encourages school districts to
12 use prototype school designs wherever feasible so future school classrooms can be constructed
13 quicker and funds maximized; and be it

14 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Governor is requested to direct the Department of
15 Education to develop prototype school designs for schools in consultation with engineering
16 and architecture design professionals, including their statewide and regional organizations, who
17 are familiar with the unique climatic conditions in this state as well as other conditions that
18 affect application of appropriate school designs; and be it

19 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Governor is requested to direct the Department of
20 Education to consult with the bond reimbursement and grant review committee established
21 under AS 14.11.014 in developing designs and incentives for school districts to use prototype
22 school designs in school construction funded through the educational facilities maintenance
23 and construction fund (AS 37.05.560); and be it

24 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Governor is requested to direct the Department of
25 Education, in those instances where a prototype design may not be appropriate, to identify
26 components within prototype building designs that can be standardized and can be
27 incorporated into the school design; and be it

28 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that, if statutory changes are necessary to implement these
29 incentives, the Department of Education is requested to report suggested statutory changes to
30 the legislature by March 15, 1998, so the changes can be considered by the Second Regular
31 Session of the Twentieth Alaska State Legislature.

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Rep. Eldon Mulder, Co-Chair
Rep. Kim Elton
Rep. Richard Foster
Rep. Jeannette James
Rep. Beverly Masek
Rep. Gail Phillips



Sen. Tim Kelly, Co-Chair
Sen. Loren Leman
Sen. Georgianna Lincoln
Sen. Robin Taylor
Sen. Gary Wilken
Sen. Mike Miller

DEFERRED MAINTENANCE TASK FORCE

Capitol Building, Room 501 • Juneau, Alaska 99801 • Phone (907) 465-2647 • FAX (907) 465-3518

Sponsor Statement

Senate Concurrent Resolution 19

Finance Committee Substitute

Use of Prototypical Designed Schools

The Deferred Maintenance Task Force received testimony on the cost savings and operational advantages of prototypical schools. Several communities use them today. The Task Force found that the savings in design cost and the ease of maintaining several identical physical plants offered the opportunity to fund more schools as the savings are achieved.

The resolution recognizes the success several school districts have had with prototype schools, the savings that can be achieved, and the need to recognize the unique climates in Alaska.

This resolution requests the Department of Education work with architects and engineers to develop prototype schools and with the bond reimbursement and grant review committee to develop incentives for districts to use them. The Department of Education is requested to report to the legislature by March 15, 1998, any statutory changes that may be needed to accomplish this goal.

One rural school district has expressed great interest in using a prototype designs for schools in its district. They are currently in discussions with the Fairbanks School District to learn from the Fairbanks experience.

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



DEFERRED MAINTENANCE TASK FORCE

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BUILDING ALASKA FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND THE LEGISLATURE

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DENNIS DEWITT, CHIEF-OF-STAFF
TIM BENINTENDI, MATT GILL, LARRY LABOLLE, AND SHEILA PETERSON

JANUARY 10, 1998

CHAPTER TWO

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

The Deferred Maintenance Task Force adopted the following recommendations.

1. Provide Funding over a Six Year Period for \$1,420,000,000 of Identified Deferred Maintenance Needs
2. Financing Plan
 - a) Create a Public Facilities Financing Corporation with a Build Alaska Fund
 - b) Appropriate \$1.5 billion from the Constitutional Budget Reserve to the Build Alaska Fund
 - c) Make interest on the Build Alaska Fund and the dedicated tobacco tax available to the general fund to increase funds available for annual appropriation to service bonds sold to finance deferred maintenance needs.
3. Authorize a November 1998, Statewide Advisory Vote to Approve the Plan and the New Corporation
4. Require Local School District Financial Participation in School Construction
 - a) 2% to 35% based on AS 14.11.008
5. Require Routine and Preventive Maintenance Programs
 - a) Require Preventive Maintenance Programs be in place prior to receiving funding from this program
 - b) Require Separate operating budget appropriations for routine and preventive maintenance
6. Encourage the Use of Prototypical Designs for Schools
7. Transfer Certain State Owned Harbors to Local Governments

The Task Force found that there were many reasons that state agencies were not funding maintenance. A difference between the legislature and administration in understanding the intent of Legislative appropriations seems to drive much of the problem. The Task Force feels that greater specificity in budgeting would resolve the differences in understanding about the level of funding directed to maintenance. Therefore, the Task Force recommends the budget process be changed to provide for separate appropriations for routine and preventive maintenance (The proposed legislation is found in Appendix G)

The Task Force recognizes that the successful maintenance of our state buildings will require a single dedicated unit (Division or Department) to administer the buildings. The unit would focus on facility operation, rather than program operation. The Task Force encourages the Administration to continue its work on creating a single unit with building operations responsibility. The rent concept discussed in item 8 is helpful in achieving this goal.

6. Encourage The Use Of Prototypical Designs For Schools

The Task Force visited prototypical schools in Fairbanks and listened to testimony about prototypical schools in Anchorage. The Department of Education has done some work in designing prototype for various regions in Alaska. Historically, the state has used prototypical plans for housing and found it to be efficient, effective, and easier to maintain. The state's positive experience with prototype housing is similar to that reported by the Fairbanks' School District for its prototype schools.

One of the tasks assigned to the Task Force is to prevent future problems with deferred maintenance. Clearly the use of a prototypical design that includes structural and major systems will reduce the cost of construction, maintenance, and repair. Having all units using the same type of heating and water system allows a reduction in inventory of parts. It allows better training and reduces "trouble shooting" time. (The proposed Resolution is found in Appendix G)

The Task Force understands that Alaska needs to recognize at least three distinct regions and several educational variables in the prototypical designs. Nonetheless, it believes that three basic regional prototypes can be designed with significant long term savings for the state. The Task Force included \$3,900,000 in the Fiscal Year 1999 funding recommendations to begin design work prototypical schools. The Task Force hopes the Department of Education will use these funds, along with assistance from the Fairbanks and Anchorage School Districts, to accomplish the goal.