

**SB**

**167**

**HFIN**

**FILE**

(11)

# HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

Date Referred to Committee: May 15, 1999

FURTHER REFERRALS:

Date of Committee Action: 5/16/99

The FINANCE Committee considered:

CSSB 167(FIN)

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 167(FIN)

UOA SCHOLARSHIPS/ALASKA SCHOLARS PROGRAM

"An Act relating to scholarships to attend the University of Alaska; and providing for an effective date."

recommends it be replaced with the following committee substitute \_\_\_\_\_  the same title  a new title

additional referral to \_\_\_\_\_ Committee  attached amendment(s)

ADOPTS: \_\_\_\_\_ Letter of Intent

ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(S): \_\_\_\_\_ (Dept)

APPROVES PREVIOUS: \_\_\_\_\_ (Dept/Date)

fiscal note(s) \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>Senate</sup> fiscal note(s) UA, 5/7/99

zero fiscal note(s) \_\_\_\_\_

zero fiscal note(s) \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNING WITH RECOMMENDATIONS		DP	DNP	NR	AM
<u>Car Bunde</u>	Bunde	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
<u>Vic Kohring</u>	Kohring			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<u>John Austerman</u>	Austerman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
<u>J. Davis</u>	J. Davis	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
<u>Ben Grussendorf</u>	Grussendorf	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
<u>James Moss</u>	Moss	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
<u>G. Davis</u>	G. Davis			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<u>William</u>	William			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<u>John</u>	John	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			

VICE CHAIR'S SIGNATURE Car Bunde V.C.  
Bunde

# FISCAL NOTE

No. 1  
 Bill Version: SB 167  
 (S) Publish Date: SB 167

**STATE OF ALASKA**  
**1999 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

Revision Date (Note if correction)	_____	Dept. Affected	University of Alaska
Title	UA Scholars Program	BRU	University of Alaska
	University of Alaska	Component	Systemwide Budget Reductions & Additions
Sponsor	Senator Gary Wilken	Component Serial No.	_____
Requester	Senate HESS Committee		

**Expenditures/Revenues**

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 00	FY 01	FY 02	FY 03	FY 04
Personal Services					
Travel					
Contractual					
Supplies					
Equipment					
Land & Structures					
Grants & Claims	494.1	1,360.8	2,011.5	2,497.5	2,708.1
Miscellaneous					
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>494.1</b>	<b>1,360.8</b>	<b>2,011.5</b>	<b>2,497.5</b>	<b>2,708.1</b>

<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>					
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<b>CHANGE IN REVENUES ( )</b>					
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**FUND SOURCE**

1002 Federal Receipts					
1003 GF Match					
1004 GF					
1005 GF/Program Receipts					
1037 GF/Mental Health					
Other (University Receipts)	494.1	1,360.8	2,011.5	2,497.5	2,708.1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>494.1</b>	<b>1,360.8</b>	<b>2,011.5</b>	<b>2,497.5</b>	<b>2,708.1</b>

Estimate of any current year (FY99) cost: None

**POSITIONS**

Full-time					
Part-time					
Temporary					

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

This bill provides for a scholarship of \$2,700/year for 4 years to the University of Alaska for students who meet the following criteria: (a) graduate within the top 10% of a graduating class of 30 students or more; (b) be one of the top 2 graduates of a graduating class of 15-29 students; or (c) be the top graduate of a class of less than 15 students. Based on information compiled by the Alaska Dept. of Education and the above criteria, 733 students would be eligible for the scholarship. This fiscal note assumes that 25% of potentially eligible graduates will take advantage of the program in FY00, and that 50% of potentially eligible graduates will take advantage of the program each year thereafter. It further assumes that 75% of each year's participants will enroll in the following year - i.e., 75% of the freshmen will enroll as sophomores, 75% of the sophomores will enroll as juniors, etc.

The FY00 identified university receipt funding for this scholarship program is the University's Natural Resources Fund which is the earnings on the University's Land Grant Trust Fund.

Prepared by	Pat Pitney, Director	Phone	474-7958
Division	UA Office of Budget and Institutional Research	Date	4/30/99
Approved by	CoPat Pitney, Director	Date	4/30/99
Agency	UA Office of Budget and Institutional Research		

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## GARY WILKEN

SENATOR  
Districts 29 & 30  
West Fairbanks

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Member: Health, Education, &  
Social Services (HESS)  
Member: Legislative Budget & Audit  
Member: State Affairs



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Website: [www.garywilken.com](http://www.garywilken.com)  
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Interim:  
1851 Fox Ave.  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701  
Tel: (907) 451-5501  
Fax: (907) 451-0438

## Sponsor Statement

### CS for SB 167 (FIN) - University of Alaska Scholarships

The University of Alaska Board of Regents has established the Alaska Scholars Program. Under this program, scholarships are awarded to the top 10 percent of Alaska's high school students to attend the University of Alaska. A recipient receives the scholarship for up to four years, provided the student successfully completes a full-time certificate or degree program. The award, in the amount of \$1,350 per semester, may be used for tuition, fees, room, board, books, transportation and other education expenses.

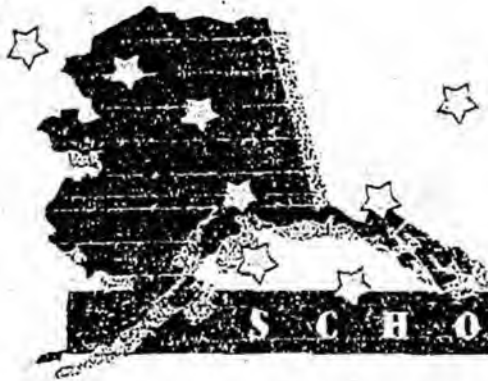
An individual is eligible for a UA Scholarship if, at the end of the junior year, the student is: (1) in the top 10 percent of a class of 30 or more students; (2) one of the top two students in a class of 15-29 students; or (3) the top student in a class of less than 15 students. The award may be used at any University of Alaska campus.

Unfortunately current confidentiality requirements make it difficult for schools to release the names of eligible students. Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 167 (FIN) remedies this problem. This legislation requires a qualified high school in the state to provide the Board of Regents a list of the names and addresses of students in the graduating class who meet the scholarship eligibility requirements. However, the school will not release this information if the parent of the student objects to the disclosure.

Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 167 (FIN) ensures that the Alaska Scholars Program will continue and our bright and talented students will be encouraged to attend the University of Alaska. I urge your support for SB 167.

\*\*\*

May 14, 1999



# University of Alaska

UA Scholars Program  
P.O. Box 755200  
910 Yukon Dr., Suite 202  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99775-5200

## SCHOLARS PROGRAM

April 30, 1999

### Update on the UA Scholars Program

State of Alaska Department of Education records show 286 public and 37 private Alaska High Schools that qualify to participate in the UA Scholars Program in 1999. These include all public high schools, charter schools and correspondence school programs tied to a public school, as well as private schools throughout the state which are either accredited by the Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges, or registered with the State of Alaska Department of Education.

Approximately 7,200 Alaska high school students will graduate in the class of 1999; we had estimated that 733 students would qualify in the top 10% of their class of 1999. Current estimates of total participation in this program appear to be about a 25% acceptance rate.

To date, we have received information from 117 Alaska high schools, including 2 charter schools, 7 correspondence schools and 4 Christian schools. Seven schools informed us that they do not have any graduating seniors for the class of 1999.

As of April 29, 1999, we have received 668 names of eligible UA Scholars Program recipients. All of these students have been notified of their receipt of this award via a personal letter from President Hamilton. Official UA Scholars Program certificates will be presented to these award recipients at the various awards ceremonies at the high schools throughout the state in early May.

UAA shows 82 UA Scholars have applied for admission; UAF shows 84 applicants that are receiving the UA Scholars Award and UAS has a total of 15 applicants as of April 29, 1999 that are UA Scholars Award recipients.

4/30/99 atr

January 8, 1999

Public Affairs

(907) 474-7272

## UA President Hamilton Says Scholars Award Program Looks Beyond Oil Prices to Secure Alaska's Future

There has never been a more important time for Alaska to invest in higher education, by increasing opportunities for young Alaskans to attend college in their own state, University of Alaska President Mark R. Hamilton told high school principals and counselors in Anchorage and Fairbanks this week.

The university's chief executive met with the school officials to discuss with them the University of Alaska Scholars Award Program which will give the top 10 percent of each high school graduating class, beginning in the spring of 1999, a four year scholarship award to the University of Alaska campus of their choice.

Hamilton said the program is designed to help reduce the number of Alaska's top high school graduates who leave the state for education and jobs elsewhere. He said almost 60 percent of the state's graduates who go on to higher education leave Alaska to attend college in the Lower 48 each fall, and most of them never return. Other states educate anywhere from 70 to 80 percent of their college-bound high school graduates at their own in-state colleges and universities.

"Alaska is dead last in this country in the retention of its high school students," Hamilton said. We have to turn that around because Alaska needs to take its whole team, not just the elite, into the 21st Century."

Hamilton said in his opinion the "brain drain" is a natural resource issue that dwarfs discussions about the price of oil from day to day. "We're exporting our future and we're not nearly concerned enough about it," he said.

Counting state, local and federal funds, Hamilton said Alaska spends about a billion dollars a year on K-12 education, so that means that each year the cohort of Alaska high school graduates represents an investment of \$12 billion, an amount which represents half of what's in the Alaska Permanent Fund.

"If we don't make more of an effort to keep Alaska's best and brightest in the state, then we are spending a considerable amount of money each year to make kids smarter for export to other states," he said. "It doesn't make any sense."

Hamilton believes the University of Alaska Scholars Award Program will start to make a difference in solving the problem, and he hopes that people around the state will agree with him. "The recipients of these awards will become the best possible ambassadors for the University of Alaska in communities all across the state, and because they are most likely to stay in Alaska after graduating, they will help build the state's future," he said.

The award amount for the graduating high school classes of 1999 and 2000 will be \$10,800 per recipient. The award is redeemable in the amount of \$1,350 per semester, for a total of eight semesters. To be eligible, students must be in the top 10 percent of their class at an Alaska high school accredited by the Alaska Department of Education.

The UA Scholars Award Program cost is estimated to vary from \$500,000 to \$750,000 a year, and will be paid initially by the university from earnings of the University of Alaska Land Grant Endowment Fund.

"This is part of the money the university receives for managing and developing its land," Hamilton said, "and it is appropriate that we re-invest a major part of it in Alaska's young people, the state's greatest natural resource."

Program specifics are being developed now, Hamilton said, and will be widely disseminated soon to all Alaska school districts.

The University of Alaska Scholars Program is receiving national attention because of recent studies which show that the cost of higher education continues to rise nationally as available federal grant money continues to erode, putting higher education out of reach for many families in America. California and Texas have both announced similar student retention scholarship programs.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Bob Miller, 907-474-7272.

2. Have successfully earned a high school diploma from an Alaska public high school or other high school in Alaska accredited by the Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges; and
3. Be accepted into a certificate or degree program of the University of Alaska, by the fall semester of the year following high school graduation; and
4. Be enrolled as a full-time student at the University of Alaska.

To maintain eligibility for the UA Scholars Award, a Recipient must, in accordance with standards adopted by the University of Alaska:

1. Be in good academic, financial aid, and student code of conduct standing; and
2. Be making satisfactory academic progress toward completion of a certificate or degree program.

**B. Campus Designation or Choice:**

A Recipient may choose to attend any campus of the University of

Alaska, and may transfer to any campus of the University of Alaska without affecting the Award. If a Recipient transfers between campuses of the UA system, the UA Scholars Award will move with them.

**C. Other scholarships and financial assistance:**

The UA Scholars Award may be redeemed in cash for payment of Eligible Expenses, if, for example, a student has prepaid tuition credits through the ACT program, or receives a scholarship or financial assistance from another source. Redemptions in cash shall be made in accordance with procedures established by the Program Administrator. Because of federal requirements and requirements of other financial assistance awards, in certain circumstances, receipt of the UA Scholars Award may reduce the availability of financial assistance from other sources.

**D. Eligible Expenses:**

Eligible Expenses means tuition, fees, room, board, books, supplies, transportation, and other educational costs incurred for attendance at the University of Alaska as determined by the Program Administrator.

**E. Expiration of UA Scholars Award:**

A UA Scholars Award expires:

1. When the Recipient loses eligibility for redemption; or
2. When the sum of the redemption under the Award equals the total amount of the award; or
3. Six years from the inception of the semester of initial redemption of the Award.

**Program Administrator**

**A. Appointment and Authority**

A Program Administrator shall be appointed by the University President to carry out the day-to-day administration of the Program. The Program Administrator shall have all powers necessary or appropriate to carry out his or her duties. Any interpretation or action with respect to the Award and its administration shall be conclusive and binding upon any and all affected parties and persons.

**B. Notices to the Program Administrator**

Communications to the Program shall be effective when received at the Office of the UA Scholars Program Administrator, University of Alaska, 910 Yukon Dr., Suite 202, PO Box 755200, Fairbanks, Alaska, 99775-5200.

**Other Provisions**

**A. Governing Law**

The provisions of law and authoritative interpretations shall take precedence over any provisions of the UA Scholars Award. The Program shall be construed in accordance with applicable federal law and the laws of the state of Alaska. Jurisdiction and venue for any litigation arising out of the Program shall be solely in State District or Superior Court in Anchorage or Fairbanks, Alaska.

**B. Transferability**

UA Scholars Awards are not transferable to other individuals or Recipients.

**C. Income Tax Withholding**

Benefit payments made under the Program may be subject to income tax reporting or withholding requirements. No representations, expressed or implied, are

made herein as to the taxability of benefits received under this Program.

#### D. Correction of Errors

In the event an incorrect amount is paid to or on behalf of the beneficiary, such amount may be recovered from the Recipient, or any remaining balances or payments may be adjusted to correct the error. The processing of adjustments which are *de minimis* in amount may be waived at the discretion of the Program Administrator.

#### E. Availability of Funds

All redemption or other distributions of benefits under this Program are subject to the availability of funds.

#### F. No Additional Rights

No person shall have a cause of action to recover damages arising out of this Program. Neither the establishment of this Program, the granting of an Award, nor any action of the University related to the Program shall be held or construed to confer upon any person any right to be or continue to be a student at the University. Nothing in the UA Scholars Program shall be construed to expand a student's rights beyond

those provided in University policies, regulations and other applicable documents.

#### G. Amendment or Termination

The Board of Regents reserves the right to terminate, discontinue, or suspend this Program or to merge or consolidate this Program with other programs. This Program may be amended by authority of the University President at any time, except that any reduction in benefits awarded to Recipients shall be approved by the Board of Regents.

#### **Dispute Procedure**

Disputes shall be resolved under existing campus procedure or such other procedures as the Program Administrator deems appropriate.

It is the intent of this Program that no rights are created which are the subject of judicial review. To the extent review is sought, further review may only be obtained by filing an appeal with the Superior Court of Alaska within 30 days of the final decision in accordance with Alaska Appellate Rule 602(a)(2).

Final decisions of the University shall be upheld unless shown to be discriminatory on some basis prohibited by state or federal law.

- A. For a class of 30 or more students, be in the top 10 percent of the applicant's class;
- B. For a class of 15 - 29 students, be one of the top two students; or
- C. For a class of less than 15 students be the top student.

Students who do not meet the eligibility criteria in their junior year, but subsequently qualify in the top 10% of their senior class, may submit a request for consideration of eligibility to the Program Administrator.

For students graduating in the current 1998-99 academic year, (graduating class of 1999), ranking will be determined as of the end of the junior year. (June, 1998.)

Each participating high school shall be asked to:

- A. Establish criteria to determine which students are academically ranked in the top ten percent of their junior class;
- B. Provide the university with a list of the students ranked in the top ten percent of their junior class, at the end of their junior year; and

- C. Notify eligible students of their opportunity to participate in the UA Scholars Award Program.

#### **Application for Award**

Applications for the UA Scholars Award shall be submitted at the time designated by, and in a form satisfactory to, the Program Administrator. At a minimum, the application shall include the following:

- A. Name, address, date of birth and social security or ID number of applicant;
- B. Verification of high school class standing;
- C. Name of the high school(s) attended during the qualifying period; and
- D. Verification of United States citizenship or lawfully admitted permanent resident alien status.

#### **Redemption**

- A. General:

To redeem a UA Scholars Award, a student Recipient must:

- 1. Be a U.S. citizen or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence in the United States;

## Introduction

Let's give our young people reasons to stay in Alaska.

Over half of Alaska high school graduates who leave to attend colleges in other states never return. This represents an incredible loss of talent and knowledge for Alaska that must be replaced, in part, and at significant cost, by hiring outside the state. Just as importantly, it represents a diminishment of Alaska's collective history and heritage. The University of Alaska Scholars Program is an attempt to encourage more young people to stay in Alaska for their college education. We know if we educate our young people in Alaska, the chances are substantially increased that they will stay to accept a job, raise a family, and contribute to the social, cultural, and economic enrichment of Alaska in ways that can never be matched by those of us who come here late in life.



Mark Hamilton, President  
University of Alaska

## General Purpose

The purpose of the University of Alaska Scholars Program (also referred to herein as the "UA Scholars Award", "Award", or "Program") is to provide an incentive for Alaska's middle and high school students to achieve excellence, to nourish efforts of school districts to provide high quality education, and to encourage the top high school graduates in Alaska to attend the University of Alaska.

## UA Scholars Award

A UA Scholars "Award Certificate" shall be issued to each applicant by the University President upon verification of eligibility. The amount of the Award shall be established by the Board of Regents and may be adjusted periodically without notice. The UA Scholars Award for the graduating high school classes of 1999 and 2000 is \$10,800 per Recipient. The Award is redeemable in the amount of \$1,350 per semester, for a total of eight semesters.

## Eligibility for Award

A student will be eligible for a UA Scholars Award if the student meets one of the following academic achievement standards at the end of their junior year at an Alaska public or other high school in Alaska accredited by the Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges:

Application Form-print clearly Application Form-print clearly Application Form-print clearly

Name: (first, middle initial, last)  
\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(city) \_\_\_\_\_, AK (zip) \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone #: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Social Security Number:  
\_\_\_\_\_

High School Attended:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Graduation Date: (mo./yr.)  
\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Class Standing at end of Junior Year:  
(rank/class size) \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Semester you plan to enroll at UA:  
spring/fall \_\_\_\_\_ year \_\_\_\_\_

Expected UA graduation date:  
spring/fall \_\_\_\_\_ year \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a U.S. citizen or hold status  
as a lawfully admitted permanent  
resident alien?

yes  no

I give the University of Alaska permission  
to contact me.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

University of Alaska campus you  
plan to attend:

University of Alaska Anchorage

- Anchorage Campus
- Chugiak/Eagle River College
- Kenai Peninsula College
- Kachemak Bay Branch
- Kodiak College
- Matanuska-Susitna College
- Prince William Sound C.C.

University of Alaska Fairbanks

- Fairbanks Campus
- Bristol Bay Campus
- Chukchi Campus
- Interior Campus
- Kuskokwim Campus
- Northwest Campus
- Tanana Valley Campus

University of Alaska Southeast

- Juneau Campus
- Ketchikan Campus
- Sitka Campus

## Questions?

Call: 1-877-AKSCHOL  
1-877-(257-2465)

E-mail: [scholars@alaska.edu](mailto:scholars@alaska.edu)  
web page: [www.alaska.edu/ua/scholars](http://www.alaska.edu/ua/scholars)

Mail this application form to:

UA Scholars Program  
University of Alaska  
910 Yukon Dr., Suite 202  
P.O. Box 755200  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99775-5200



University of Alaska

SCHOLARS

PROGRAM

*Find out more*

visit our web site:

[www.alaska.edu/ua/scholars/](http://www.alaska.edu/ua/scholars/)

email us:

[scholars@alaska.edu](mailto:scholars@alaska.edu)

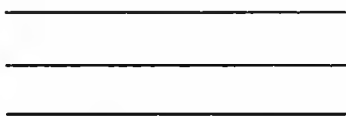
1-877-AKSCHOL

***UA Scholars Program***

University of Alaska  
910 Yukon Dr., Suite 202  
PO Box 755200  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99775-5200

*Address Correction Requested*

Place  
Stamp  
Here



***UA Scholars Program***

University of Alaska  
910 Yukon Dr., Suite 202  
PO Box 755200  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99775-5200

Place  
Stamp  
Here

**FISCAL NOTE**

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**STATE OF ALASKA  
 1999 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

Revision Date (Note if correction) \_\_\_\_\_ Dept. Affected University of Alaska  
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Prepared by Pat Pitney, Director Phone 474-7958  
 Division UA Office of Budget and Institutional Research Date 4/30/99  
 Approved by CoPat Pitney, Director Date 4/30/99  
 Agency UA Office of Budget and Institutional Research

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