

SB

86

HFIN

FILE

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2001 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 1
 Bill Version: SB 86
 (S) Publish Date: 4/11/01

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dept. Affected: Education & Early Development
 Title: An Act relating to employment of teachers who BRU: Teaching & Learning Support
have subject-matter expertise Component: Teacher Certification
 Sponsor: Senator Kelly
 Requester: Senate HESS Component Number: 1240

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
----------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

CHANGE IN REVENUES ()						
------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type)						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2001) cost: 0.0

Check this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2002 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This bill adds a new section, 14.20.015, that allows for exceptions from some teacher certification requirements for persons hired as subject matter expert teachers. Someone hired as a subject-matter teacher must still meet specific criteria: must have at least a baccalaureate degree, must have majored in the subject matter that person will be teaching, must have at least five years of work experience in that subject matter, must pay the fees required for criminal background check and certification, and may be required by a district to complete a competency examination.

This is a zero fiscal note for the department.

Prepared by: Barbara Thompson, Deputy Director Phone 465-8727
 Division: Teaching & Learning Support Date/Time 3/15/01 12:00 AM
 Approved by: Bruce Johnson, Deputy Commissioner of Education Date 3/16/01
 Agency: Department of Education & Early Development

For distribution information, call the Governor's Legislative Office

Alaska State Legislature

Session:
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801
Phone: (907) 465-2327
Fax: (907) 465-5241



Interim:
119 N. Cushman
Fairbanks, AK 99701
Phone: (907) 456-8161

Senator Pete Kelly
District P

CS for Senate Bill 86 (FIN)

Version 22-LS0539\B

“An Act relating to employment of teachers who have subject-matter expertise; and providing for an effective date.”

Alaska is facing a shortage of competent teachers that can provide a quality education for our youth. Senate Bill 86 expands the application pool by including those with subject matter experience and expertise to obtain a teaching certificate.

Under this legislation, local school districts have the authority to hire persons holding at least a baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution. Applicants must major or minor in the area they wish to teach and have at least five years work experience in their subject matter expertise.

SB 86 implements a limited teaching certificate for those subject matter teachers. Subject matter teachers are authorized to teach in a classroom pending they enroll in a post-baccalaureate teaching program. Once the program is completed, subject matter educators are qualified for a regular teaching certificate.

The limited subject matter certificate requires the local school to provide an experienced teacher to mentor the subject matter educator. This will assist the new educator in becoming familiar with the process during the first year of employment. This legislation also requires subject matter educators to pass a competency examination on their area of expertise before they are employed.

SB 86 implements safeguards that require subject matter teachers to submit fingerprints and pay fees for a criminal history background check so that the department can deem applicants suitable for employment.

Alaska State Legislature

Session:
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801
Phone: (907) 465-2327
Fax: (907) 465-5241



Interim:
119 N. Cushman
Fairbanks, AK 99701
Phone: (907) 456-8161

Senator Pete Kelly
District P

CS for Senate Bill 86 (FIN)

Version 22-LS0539\B

Sectional Analysis

“An Act relating to employment of teachers who have subject-matter expertise; and providing for an effective date.”

*** Section 1.**

This section gives the purpose and legislative intent of the bill. It is the findings of (a) this act that (1) there is a shortage of qualified teachers in the state and (2) those subject-matter experts could offer a valuable resource to the classroom. Also, that (3) the state should encourage those individuals with subject-matter expertise become teachers.

It is the purpose of this legislation that (b)(1) the options available to local school districts to improve the quality of instruction offered to the students. Also, the legislation gives school districts the (2) flexibility in the way they provide instruction in subject areas that are considered a local priority or special need.

(c) The intent of the Act is to regulate subject matter educators by use of local school boards and regional educational attendance areas limiting the authority of the Board of Education and Early Development.

*** Sec. 2.** AS 14.20 is amended by adding a new section to read:

14.20.022 (a) This section outlines the requirements for a subject matter limited teaching certificate. The limited certificate is valid only for teaching in the area of expertise for the subject-matter educator.

To be eligible for the limited certificate (b) the person must hold at least a baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution or be approved by the Commissioner. Applicants must (A) have majored or minored in the subject the person will be teaching. The person must also (B) have at least five years work experience in the subject matter. (2) The person wishing to teach must submit fingerprints to the department to be used for a criminal history background check. The department will deem the person suitable for employment under AS 14.20.020 (f).

14.20.022(b)(3) requires subject-matter expertise teachers to be currently enrolled in an approved post-baccalaureate teacher education program at an accredited institution. Once completed during a two-year maximum period, subject-matter expertise teachers will qualify to receive a regular teaching certificate.

14.20.022(b)(4) Applicants must pay a fee to the department under AS 20.020 (c) that covers the criminal history background check, which does not exceed the fee required for the initial regular certificate.

14.20.022(c) requires local school districts to administer a competency examination for subject matter teachers. The examination must be taken prior to employment.

14.20.022(d) limits the subject-matter expertise certificate to one school year and may be renewed for one additional school year upon showing substantial progress towards completion of the teaching education program.

14.20.022(e) requires local school districts to provide a mentoring program for subject-matter expertise teachers. The school district must provide an experienced teacher to mentor the new educator. This will assist to ease the process for the new teacher.

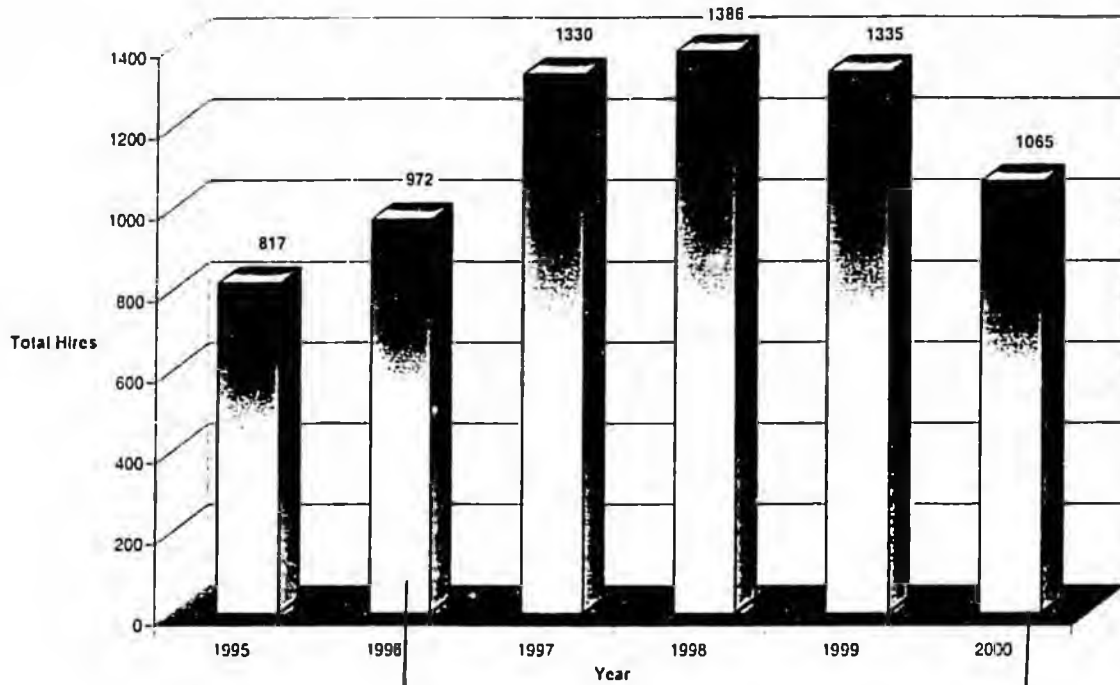
14.20.022(f) states that a person employed by a local school district or regional educational attendance area is considered to be a certified teacher or a certified employee for all purposes of AS 14.25 (teacher's retirement system). Employment under this section counts toward acquiring tenure under AS 14.20.150; however a subject-matter teacher cannot receive tenure until they receive a teaching certificate under AS 14.20.020.

14.20.022(g) allows the Department to adopt regulation necessary to implement this legislation. In this section, (h) refers to a "subject-matter expert teacher" is qualified to teach under (b) of this section.

***Sec. 3**

This establishes an effective date on the bill. This legislation would become effective July 1, 2001.

Total Hires - Six Year Overview

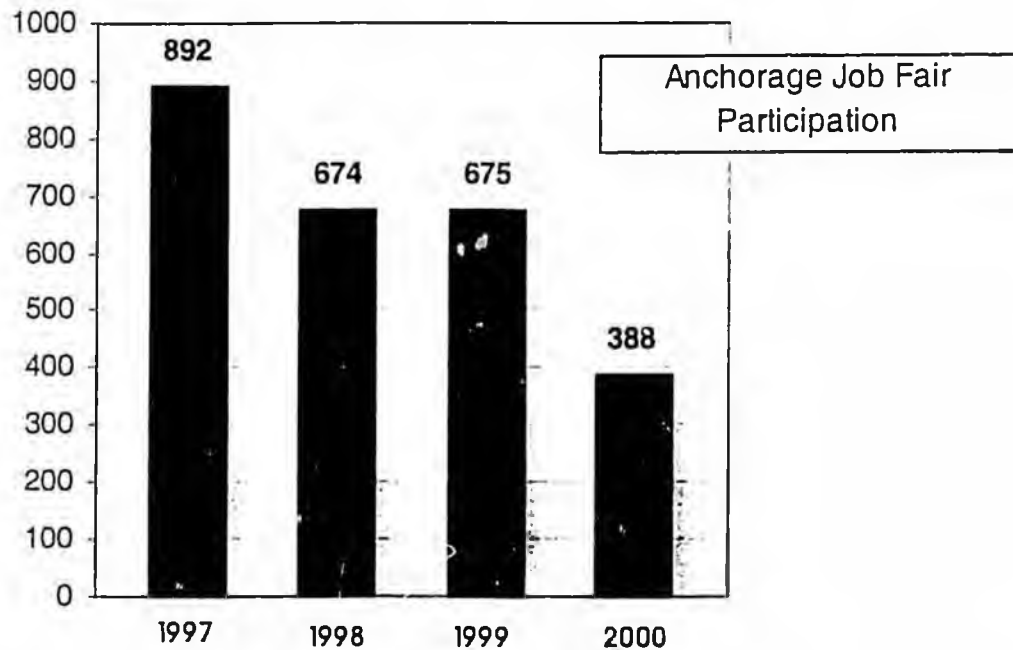


Just a few years ago it seemed everyone wanted to teach in Alaska, now that has changed as the Lower 48 has increased reciprocity and lessened the red tap on certification requirements. In addition adding higher salaries and signing bonuses has drawn many teachers to the Lower 48.

The American Federation of Teachers at <http://www.aft.org/> has some excellent data on salaries and cost of living.

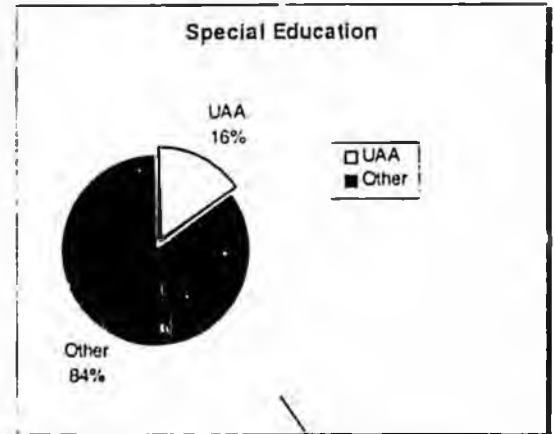
Don't let this number fool you. 88.7 vacancies went unfilled at the start of the school year. Of those 88.7 vacancies 60.2 of them were in Special Education areas.

ATP Job Fair Attendance 1997-2000



The April Job Fair, once considered the 7th largest event in the state, has seen the impact of the teachers shortage. District could spend four full days interviewing candidates, now we see them snagging them up before their doors even open.

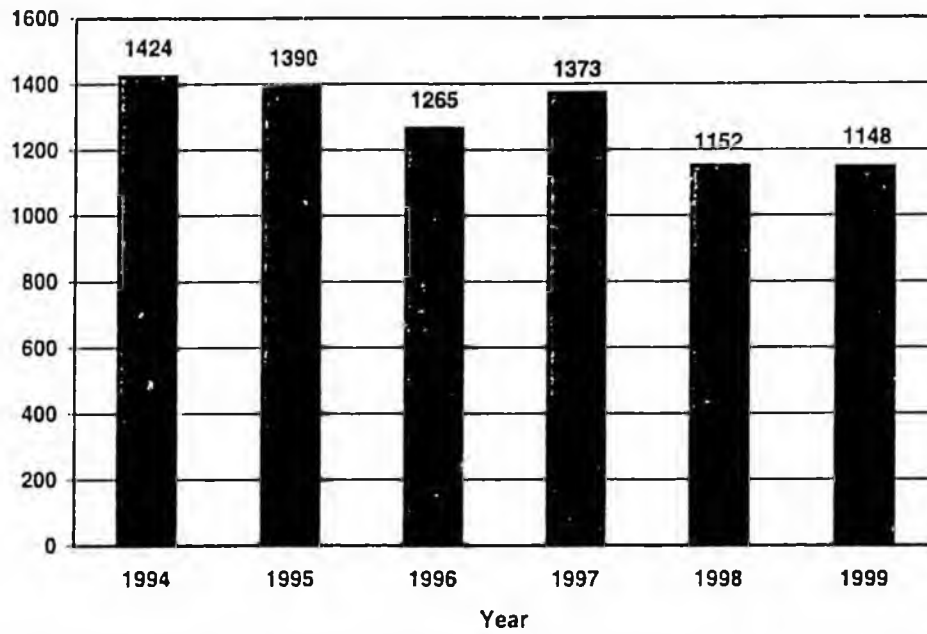
We expect 400 applicants this year.



Special Education is one of the highest demand areas, as you can see the UAA system just doesn't have the capacity to meet the needs of the state.

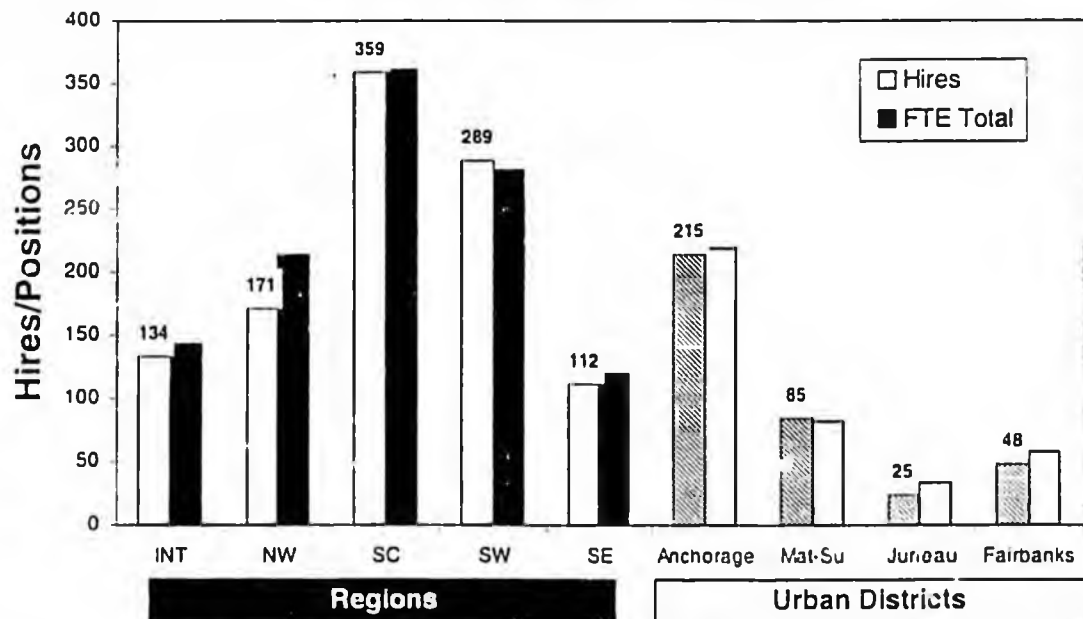
This graph only indicates the number of teachers produced, not the number of teachers placed. It is assumed to be below 10% as many teachers in the program are teaching on waivers.

ATP Registrant Pool 1994-1999



This graph indicates the number of teachers/principals who registered with our services. FY 2000 was less than 900.

Positions Filled By Region



March 15, 2001

Neal Lacy
1800 Red Fox Dr
Wasilla, Alaska 99654
re: SB 86

Dear Senator,

My name is Neal Lacy and I am a teacher. I have taught marine mechanics and small engines at Wasilla High School for 11 years. Prior to this I taught marine mechanics at Mat-Su College for five years. In 1989, the Department of Education flew me to Juneau to write the curriculum for outboard mechanics for the state. They recognized me as an "expert in my field."

A limited certificate is for teachers that possess skills and experience for which there is no college program. Marine mechanics, drafting, nursing, construction trades, ROTC, automotive service, native studies, sign language are some of them. In my case, I obtained a limited vocational certificate when I taught snowmobile repair to students from the Summer Educational Enhancement project with the Lower Yukon School District. I qualified for this certificate because of my skills, college teaching experience and 12 years of industry experience.

SB 86 is important. It gives schools a chance to hire talented business professionals who are technically up to date, can improve our vocational education, and produce a first class work force. It also corrects a serious flaw in the teacher certification system.

The A certified teachers and limited certified teachers do the same work (grading, school duties, curriculum development and discipline) but limited certified teachers can never achieve tenure. This might not seem like much, but in the teaching profession, it's everything. It annoys me to know the teaching establishment thinks less of me just because I don't have a bachelors degree and have not been through a college teaching program. During my years teaching at the Mat-Su College many teachers, principals and superintendents took my class for credit to retain their certificates. This hardly seems fair. I have taught the teachers. During 11 years of being a public high school teacher, I have been evaluated just like an A certified teacher and have met those standards year after year. I as well as my fellow limited certified teachers deserve tenure.

Over the years of researching the problem I have found two major problems. First, the Commissioner of Education, Shirley Holloway, is vehemently opposed to any teacher who has not gone through a college teaching program. In dealing with the teacher shortage, this is not "thinking outside the box." Second, my own union, NEA, looks down on me like subhuman scum and believes we infect the teaching pool because we can think on our feet.

In conclusion, passing this bill is the right thing to do. It puts good people in the class which is good for our kids. The fact that Shirley Holloway and NEA is against it means it must be the right thing to do.

Sincerely from a good teacher,

Neal Lacy



[Fwd: CSSB86]

Subject: [Fwd: CSSB86]

Date: Wed, 04 Apr 2001 09:01:22 -0900

From: Pete Kelly <Senator_Pete_Kelly@Legis.state.ak.us>

Organization: Alaska State Legislature

To: Kristopher Knauss <Kristopher_Knauss@Legis.state.ak.us>

Subject: CSSB86

Date: Wed, 04 Apr 2001 13:35:17 -0400

From: "Daniel Sheehan" <DSHEEHAN@cbasyracuse.org>

To: <Senator_Pete_Kelly@legis.state.ak.us>

Thank you for bringing up CSSB 86 before the HESS committee.

I spoke with Robin Taylor two years ago about the practice of Alaskan School districts assigning teachers outside their areas of certification.

Teachers should be trained in the subjects they teach. If a teacher has been working in a subject area for 5 years or more it should be recognized as on the job training. I retired from my teaching position in Alaska because my district had moved me from one subject area to another one time too often. I am now teaching in another state and earning more money and have a lower cost of living. Don't listen to NEA or the School districts when they ask for the "freedom" to assign teachers outside their areas of training. They are doing a great disservice to teachers and children.

Thank you, Dan Sheehan Mickey23@hotmail.com

**Cheryl Cornell, M.Ed.
P.O. Box 71575
Fairbanks, AK 99707**

May 1, 2001

**Senator Pete Kelly
Juneau, AK**

Dear Senator Kelly,

I am writing this letter of support for Senate Bill 86 regarding teaching subject matter in areas of expertise without requiring teacher certification.

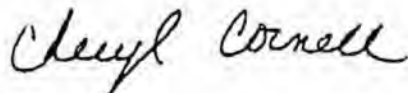
I applaud your insight, as there will soon be a shortage of teachers nationwide, due to early retirement and lower numbers of college students selecting teaching as a career.

I myself would benefit greatly from this bill, as I have already obtained a Masters in Education degree, focusing on Special Education. Unfortunately I was unable to complete my student teaching due to emergency surgery, and did not become teacher certified as a result. I opted to do an internship at Children's Hospital in Boston, Massachusetts in the area of adapted computer technology. I was a single parent and could not afford to return to college for another semester in order to become teacher certified. My degree was completed at Bridgewater State College in Massachusetts. This was the first teachers college in the United States, and remains at the forefront in teacher education.

This bill would allow me the opportunity to teach and use the methods and skills I have obtained, as well as become teacher certified.

Thank you for your efforts.

Sincerely,



Cheryl Cornell, M.Ed.