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# Alaska State Legislature

SENATOR  
GENE THERRIAULT

Mailing Address:  
119 N. Cushman, Suite 101  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701  
(907) 488-0857  
Fax: (907) 488-4271



Senate

While in session  
State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska  
99801-1182  
(907) 465-4797  
Fax: (907) 465-3884

Senate District Q

## REQUEST FOR HEARING

**To:** Representative Fred Dyson

**Subject:** CSSB 11(FIN)

**Sponsor:** Senator Gene Therriault *Gene T*

**Date:** April 3, 2002

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I would like to respectfully request that CSSB 11(FIN) be scheduled for a hearing before the House Health, Education & Social Services Committee at the committee's earliest convenience.

SB 11 requires a parent or guardian who elects to enroll a child in first grade at the age of six to maintain the child in attendance. SB 11 does not take away the parent's option of enrolling a child in public, private or home schooling. In addition to ensuring a child receives all the proven benefits of earlier education, SB 11 also addresses a problem created in the classroom when a parent enrolls his or her child in school at the age of 6 but only sends that child to school sporadically until required to do so by state law at age 7. Lowering the mandatory attendance age to 6 will both improve education opportunities for the student and minimize disruptions to the rest of the classroom.

Probable supporters include teachers and school principals.

Thank you.

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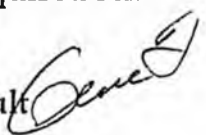


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**CSSB 11 (FIN) "An Act relating to required school attendance; and providing for an effective date."**

Sponsor: Senator Gene Therriault 

## Sponsor Statement

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SB 11 requires a parent or guardian who elects to enroll a child in first grade at the age of six to maintain the child in attendance. It does not take away the parent's option of choosing public, private or home schooling. It also does not take away the option of enrolling a child in Kindergarten at age 5 or 6. Finally, it does not take away any of the exemptions for allowable absences currently provided under existing law.

Research indicates that earlier education is beneficial, and in fact most children in Alaska are enrolled by the age of 6. However, a small percentage of students who are enrolled do not actually attend on a regular basis because state law does not require attendance until age 7. So even though a six-year-old might be enrolled in school, he/she could miss unlimited number of days and still not be considered truant. This places a burden on teachers to keep that student up with the rest of the class and increases the potential for the student to be "held back."



# FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA  
2002 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 2  
Bill Version: CSSB 11(FIN)  
(S) Publish Date: 3/6/02

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): \_\_\_\_\_ Dept. Affected: Education & Early Development  
Title "An Act relating to required school attendance" BRU K-12 Support  
Component Foundation Program  
Sponsor Senator Therriault  
Requester S Finance Component No. 141

**Expenditures/Revenues** (Thousands of Dollars)

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

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Miscellaneous						
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ( )						
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**FUND SOURCE** (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate)						
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

Estimate of any current year (FY2002) cost: \_\_\_\_\_

Check this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2003 budget proposal:

**POSITIONS**

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

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

Adds a new subsection to AS 14.30.010 that requires a six year old to comply with compulsory attendance once the child is enroll in public school. The compulsory school age remains at seven but once a parent enrolls a six year old in a public school they are required to attend.

Prepared by: Eddy Jeans, School Finance Manager  
Division: Education and Early Development  
Approved by: Ed McLain, Deputy Commissioner  
Agency: Education and Early Development

Phone 465-8679  
Date/Time 3/5/02 11:51 AM  
Date 3/5/2002

(13) A PARENT MAY WITHDRAW A SIX YEAR OLD CHILD FROM THE FIRST GRADE CKE.



**Sec. 14.30.010. When attendance compulsory.** (a) Every child between seven and 16 years of age shall attend school at the public school in the district in which the child resides during each school term. Every parent, guardian or other person having the responsibility for or control of a child between seven and 16 years of age shall maintain the child in attendance at a public school in the district in which the child resides during the entire school term, except as provided in (b) of this section.

(b) This section does not apply if a child

(1) is provided an academic education comparable to that offered by the public schools in the area, either by

(A) attendance at a private school in which the teachers are certificated according to AS 14.20.020;

(B) tutoring by personnel certificated according to AS 14.20.020; or

(C) attendance at an educational program operated in compliance with AS 14.45.100 — 14.45.200 by a religious or other private school;

(2) attends a school operated by the federal government;

(3) has a physical or mental condition that a competent medical authority determines will make attendance impractical;

(4) is in the custody of a court or law enforcement authorities;

(5) is temporarily ill or injured;

(6) has been suspended or expelled under AS 14.03.160 or suspended or denied admittance under AS 14.30.045;

(7) resides more than two miles from either a public school or a route on which transportation is provided by the school authorities, except that this paragraph does not apply if the child resides within two miles of a federal or private school that the child is eligible and able to attend;

(8) is excused by action of the school board of the district at a regular meeting or by the district superintendent subject to approval by the school board of the district at the next regular meeting;

(9) has completed the 12th grade;

(10) is enrolled in

(A) a state boarding school established under AS 14.16; or

(B) a full-time program of correspondence study approved by the department; in those school districts providing an approved correspondence study program, a student may be enrolled either in the district correspondence program or in the centralized correspondence study program;

(11) is equally well-served by an educational experience approved by the school board as serving the child's educational interests despite an absence from school, and the request for excuse is made in writing by the child's parents or guardian and approved by the principal or administrator of the school that the child attends;

(12) is being educated in the child's home by a parent or legal guardian. (§ 37-7-1 ACLA 1949; am § 36 ch 98 SLA 1966; am § 5 ch 71 SLA 1972; am § 5 ch 190 SLA 1975; am § 1 ch 30 SLA 1976; am § 1 ch 10 SLA 1977; am § 4 ch 126 SLA 1978; am § 3 ch 11 SLA 1984; am § 1 ch 78 SLA 1987; am § 4 ch 73 SLA 1988; am § 16 ch 32 SLA 1997; am § 1 ch 68 SLA 1997; am § 16 ch 113 SLA 1997)