

HB

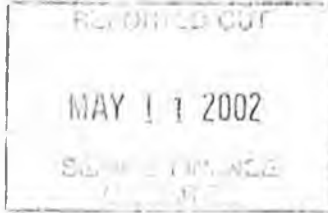
239

SFIN

FILE

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

DATE: 4/18/02



FURTHER:

DATE TURNED IN TO OFFICE: 5/11/02

Finance Committee considered

HOUSE BILL NO. 239

HB 239 VOCATIONAL EDUCATION PILOT PROGRAM

"An Act establishing a pilot program for a regional learning center."

and recommends:

- be replaced with _____ CS _____ (_____)
- adopt previous S CS HB 239 (HES)
- attached amendment(s)
- adopt Letter of Intent by _____ Committee
- further referral to _____ Committee

Senate Bill:

- same title
- new title

House Bill:

- same title
- technical title
- new: SCR # _____

NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):

Department	Date	Fiscal	Zero	FN#

PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S):

Department	Date	Fiscal	Zero	FN#
DEED	4/16/02	150.0		2

APPROPRIATION - no fiscal note

SIGNATURES AND RECOMMENDATIONS:		DO PASS	DO NOT PASS	NO REC	AMEND
<i>Linda Green</i>					
<i>John Custer</i>					
<i>[Signature]</i>					
<i>[Signature]</i>					
<i>Gary Wilbur</i>					
<i>[Signature]</i>					
COCHAIR:	<i>[Signature]</i>				
COCHAIR:	<i>[Signature]</i>				

FISCAL NOTE

MAY 11 2002

**STATE OF ALASKA
2002 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

Fiscal Note Number: 2
 Bill Version: HB 239
 (S) Publish Date: 4/18/02

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dept. Affected: Education & Early Development
 Title: An Act establishing a pilot program for a regional learning center. BRU: K-12 Support
 Sponsor: Rep. Foster Component: Boarding Home Grants
 Requester: House Special Committee on Education Component Number: 148

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	150.0	236.0	311.0	311.0	0.0	0.0
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	150.0	236.0	311.0	311.0	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 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008
1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF	150.0	236.0	311.0	311.0	0.0	0.0
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type)						
TOTAL	150.0	236.0	311.0	311.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2002) cost: 0.0

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)

This legislation would require the department to develop a pilot program for a regional learning center within the Bering Strait School District. The department would establish a contract with a school district to operate the pilot regional learning center. The contract would require the school district to provide the department with periodic reports as to the progress of the pilot project including an assessment of student performance as it relates to the implementation of the project.
 Estimated cost include a planning grant of \$150,000 in FY03.
 While transitioning into full operation FY04 costs estimate at \$236,000.
 Operational grants for FY05 through FY06 will be \$311,000 annually.
 See attached analysis.

Prepared by: Eddy Jeans, School Finance Manager Phone 465-8679
 Division: Education & Early Development Date/Time 04/16/02
 Approved by: Ed McLain, Deputy Commissioner of Education Date 4/16/2002
 Agency: Education & Early Development

For distribution information, call the Governor's Legislative Office

Fiscal Analysis of HB 239 #2

YEAR 1

1.) 1 Program Coordinator	75,000
2.) Travel & Community Meetings Airfare - 16,000; Hotels - 5,040; Per Diem - 3,960	25,000
3.) Engineers Report for renovating housing units	50,000
	<u>150,000</u>

YEAR 2

1.) Provides for boarding home coordinator	\$ 45,000
2.) 1 Program Coordinator	75,000
3.) Transportation for students 20 students X 10 units X \$300	60,000
4.) Food 20 students X 40 Units X 7 days X \$10	56,000
	<u>\$ 236,000</u>

YEAR 3 & 4

1.) Provides for 2 full time house parents	\$ 120,000
2.) 1 Program Coordinator	75,000
3.) Transportation for students 20 students X 10 units X \$300	60,000
4.) Food 20 students X 40 Units X 7 days X \$10	56,000
	<u>\$ 311,000</u>

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE
5/11/2002 COMMITTEE ACTION

Bill Number	HB 239		
Amendment			
Motion	Report Bill from Committee		
<u>Motion by</u>	Olson		
<u>Objection by</u>	Wilken		
<u>Removed</u>			
<u>Second Objection by</u>			
<u>Committee Member</u>	Y	Vote	N
Senator Green			✓
Senator Hoffman	✓		
Senator Leman			
Senator Olson	✓		
Senator Ward	✓		
Senator Wilken			✓
Senator Austerman	✓		
Co-Chair Donley			
Co-Chair Kelly			
<u>Tally</u>			
Yea	4		
Nay	2		
Absent			
<u>MOTION</u>	PASSED		

Report Bill from Committee

Alaska House of Representatives

Richard Foster
P.O. Box 1630
Nome, AK 99762
907-443-5036
Fax 907-2162



During Session
State Capitol Rm. 410
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
907-465 3789
Fax 907-465-3242

Majority Whip

HB 239

"An Act establishing a pilot program for a regional learning center"

Sponsor's Statement

The Twenty-first Alaska Legislature through the Legislative Budget and Audit Committee (LB&A) hearings found indications of broad support for regional learning centers. Several communities have expressed interest in creating regional boarding programs focused on the special interests of their region.

The LB&A meeting in Nome helped create a renewed interest in the possibility of a regional boarding school that would teach vocational skills and other job related and living skills that are not available in the high schools of small isolated communities.

The Bering Strait School District and the Nome City School District have been exploring the feasibility of a cooperative program that would utilize the existing Nome Beltz School complex to develop and operate a pilot regional learning program.

The Bering Strait School District and the Nome Common Council have both taken actions to support the creation of a pilot program and to seek federal funding to help cover program planning and initial operation costs.

A conceptional overview of the program is contained in the March 20, 2001 letter from, Dr. John Davis, Superintendent of the Bering Strait School District. The April 26, 2001 letter from Mary Knodel, Nome Common Council Member also helps to define and support the concept.

The initial program being discussed is not a traditional yearlong boarding program. Courses would be taught in short concentrated blocks, some as short as one or two weeks in length. Students, as part of their urban survival skill training would be responsible for meal planning, shopping and preparing their breakfast and evening meals in a cooperative home-style kitchen. It is anticipated that about 200 juniors and seniors from small rural high schools would participate in the program each year. Some students might be brought in for more than one program during the course of the school year.

The discipline problems that have been associated with past boarding programs should be minimal since students will have to compete to be in the program and can be sent home at any time. It is anticipated that classes will be scheduled for at least six days a week. Classes such as driver training and water safety can easily be taught on weekends.

Work-Study opportunities would allow students to become familiar with a variety of occupations that are available in a regional hub such as Nome. They could work with a full range of retail and transportation businesses, State and Federal agencies, State and City police departments, broadcasting, Hospital and Health Care programs, programs operated by the area nonprofit native corporation and the University of Alaska regional center.

Students from Nome would also benefit from the learning center. Nome students have many of the opportunities already enumerated, but by pooling the resources of the two school districts; additional programs that neither district could afford independently can be cooperatively developed. If the pilot program is successful, the possibilities are almost limitless.

The districts have expressed a willingness to report their progress to the Department of Education and to the Legislature during the Pilot Program and have consented to contract for a third-party evaluation before the program sunsets. If the concept is successful it could serve as a model for other interested school districts.

DISTRICT OFFICE

BERING STRAIT SCHOOL DISTRICT

P.O. BOX 225
UNALAKLEET, ALASKA 99684-0225
(907) 624-3611

20 March, 2001

The Honorable Richard Foster
The House of Representatives
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau AK 99801-1182

BREVIQ MISSION

COUNCIL Dear Representative Foster:

DIOMEDE

ELIM

GAMBELL

GOLOVIN

KOYUK

SAINT MICHAEL

SAVOONGA

SHAKTOOLIK

SHISHMAREF

STEBBINS

TELLER

UNALAKLEET

WALES

WHITE MOUNTAIN

Over the past two months, the Bering Strait School District and the Nome City School District have begun discussions about working together to better serve the students in the region. This letter is to serve as an introduction to our discussions.

The school districts have been talking about developing a regional learning center located in Nome. The learning center would use the available space at the Nome Beltz High School. It would be necessary to refurbish and rehabilitate the student housing and the vocational education facilities.

The two school districts will be seeking support to provide program development for a demonstration project, support to operate the program and funding to remodel living quarters and classroom space.

The primary goal of the center is to support and supplement the local high school programs by expanding the career awareness and skills of students. Eventually, we envision a program that would support the educational program for high school age students and young people looking to complete their high school program or begin training for a career.

The Bering Strait region has several career opportunities that now require significant importation of qualified staff from out of the region and even out of the state. These areas are education, health care, transportation (aviation) and government services (law enforcement). We believe that the development of a program to help introduce students to career opportunities will enhance the region's ability to fill these jobs with local students.

The second aspect of this program is the development of the residential component. Our goal will be to develop a program that will prepare young people to learn the needed skills to live and work independently. In addition, the program will help students earn the basic skills required of a person entering the work force or apprentice program. Currently most apprentice programs require a high school diploma and achievement of the age 18.

The center would expand the opportunity for the public school system, social service agencies (Kawerak), economic develop organizations (NSEDC) and the

DISTRICT OFFICE

BERING STRAIT SCHOOL DISTRICT

P.O. BOX 225
UNALAKLEET, ALASKA 99684-0225
(907) 624-3611

community college to coordinate and maximize services now being provided in the region.

I hope this gives you an overview of our early discussions. Your support and recommendations about how we might generate the required support would be appreciated.

Should you or your staff have any question, please let me know.

BREVIG MISSION

COUNCIL

DIOMEDE

ELIM

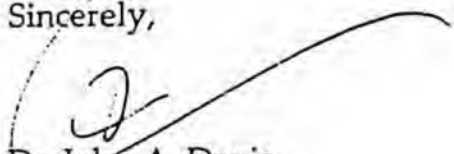
GAMBELL

GOLOVIN

KOYUK

SAINT MICHAEL

Sincerely,


Dr. John A. Davis
Superintendent

cc: C. Weyiouanna, Pres., B&SD Board
S. Swope, Supt., Nome CSD
Nome City Council

SAVOONGA

SHAKTOOLIK

SHISHMAREF

STEBBINS

TELLER

UNALAKLEET

WALES

WHITE MOUNTAIN



CITY OF NOME

Celebrating 100 Years of Gold Rush History

Incorporated April 9, 1901

April 26, 2001

The Honorable Richard Foster
State House of Representatives
State Capital, Room 410
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Foster,

We are writing in response to a letter dated April 23, 2001, from Ms. Loretta Bullard concerning House Bill 239. It is often hard to realize that we are all working for the same goal; the betterment of life in rural Alaska. We would like to clarify and spell out the original intentions of the development of a **Regional Learning Center** located in Nome.

A large group of concerned citizens and parents met with the Legislative Budget and Audit Committee when they were in Nome. The opinion expressed by the citizens and parents was that improved education in rural Alaska is crucial to the development of our children. The group expressed the need to explore any alternative educational opportunities.

The Bering Straits School District in a progressive move directed their administration to meet with representatives of Nome Public Schools. Dr. John Davis, the Superintendent of Schools for Bering Straits met with the Nome School District and representatives of the City of Nome. At this meeting a unanimous decision was voiced that the development of a Regional Learning Center in Nome would be beneficial to all citizens of the Bering Straits Region for the following reasons:

1. Enhance vocational education career awareness and other specialized classes for grades 10-12 and young adults ages 17-20 years (grades 13-14).
2. Support and supplement local high school programs by expanding vocational skills and career awareness of students.
3. Support young people who are looking to complete high school or begin training for a career or profession.

4. Introduce and train students for career opportunities that will enhance the Region's ability to fill jobs, which are currently being filled by qualified staff who are imported from outside the Region or the state.
5. Create an emphasis on the areas of career preparation for education (teaching and administration), health care (health aides, nurses, Physician Assistants, Doctors), transportation (aviation including pilots and aircraft mechanics), skilled craft persons (office workers, water plant operators, sewage treatment plant operators, carpenters, electricians, small engine repairmen) and governmental services (law enforcement, including VPSO's city policemen, State Troopers). These are areas that the members of the Bering Straits School Board have identified and the Nome School District agrees with.
6. Develop a program that will help students learn the basic skills needed to live and work independently in a larger setting other than the village. This type of development is essential to further career enhancement.
7. Allow Regional agencies a forum to coordinate and maximize services now being provided in the region.

It has always been the intent of this group to implement this project on a small scale and work forward. The initial programs being discussed are driver education and swimming lessons.

The idea of a traditional "Regional Board School" was discussed only to indicate that it did not work and would not be the direction to take. It was the intent to use the apartment facility at Nome-Beltz to house the students and house parents for short durations of three to nine weeks. This arrangement will provide instruction on the necessary living skills to make the transition easier for village students to move on to further career development.

The use of the large trade shops at the Nome-Beltz High School would help introduce all students to different types of trades. It also intends to offer students who are interested in a specific subject that is not or cannot be taught in their current high school, the opportunity to receive the specific instruction.

House Bill 239 is needed to assist in sending the State portion of school funding with the students as they attend school in the Bering Straits School District or in the Nome Public Schools. In addition, it will assist in the establishment of funding for transportation and housing needs of the students. This is a fiscal hurdle that neither Bering Straits School District or the Nome Public School can absorb financially.

Even though the partners in the Bering Straits Region and the Legislature may not voice the need in the same manner, we are all envisioning the same program.

Honorable Richard Foster

April 26, 2001

We find it very encouraging that the Bering Straits School District School Board initiated these discussions. The parents and citizens of this region want and deserve improvement to the educational system.

We thank you for your support and continued efforts in helping to improve rural Alaska and especially appreciate your efforts to improve the educational opportunities of this region.

Respectfully,
CITY OF NOME



Mary Knodel
Nome Common Council Member

Cc: Senator Donny Olson
Mayor & Nome Common Council
John Davis, Superintendent, Bering Strait School District
Gloria Karmun, President, Nome Public School Board
Mike Babb, Director, Northwest Campus
Eugene Asicksik, President, Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation
Tim Towarak, Bering Strait Native Corporation
Loretta Bullard, President, Kawerak, Inc.
IRA & Traditional Councils



CITY OF NOME

Celebrating 100 Years of Gold Rush History

Incorporated April 9, 1901

March 15, 2001

The Honorable Richard Foster
Alaska State Legislature
State Capital, Room 410
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Representative Foster:

On behalf of the City of Nome, Alaska, I wish to state our strong support for a Regional Learning Center in Nome.

A Regional Learning Center would be a new type of residential educational institution that will provide both college preparatory, college level, and vocational training to students in grades 11 through 14. The Learning Center will expose junior and senior high school students to college level expectations and allow those who desire a university education a longer transition from rural villages to education in urban Alaska.

Our regional education leaders who are closely acquainted with the career educational needs of our students are highly excited about the proposal and opportunity to improve and enhance the quality of education at the secondary and post-secondary levels. Being fully aware that a great majority of Nome students do not progress on to college (due to the high costs of tuition, boarding and travel to Anchorage, Juneau or Fairbanks and the impracticalities of leaving in their families for great lengths of time), educators see the program offerings at the Nome-Beltz complex as attractive options for individuals to acquire career skills and become qualified, credible members of the Alaskan job force.

Nome already has an institutional advantage on which we can build at our Nome-Beltz school complex and a University of Alaska-Fairbanks campus site. Siting such a program in Nome makes sense due to the size of the population in our region, the transportation hub and municipal infrastructure resources in place, as well as the fact the City provides tax-generated fiscal support to education programs.

The City of Nome has prepared a concept document which provides information on renovation costs, student projections, curriculum and conceptual operations budget to convert and utilize the William E. Beltz facility as a regional learning/vocational education center.

We are working closely with the Bering Straits School District to develop a Regional Learning Center pilot project for the benefit of all students in our region. We stand by prepared to assemble additional information at your request.

Sincerely,
CITY OF NOME

Leo B. Rasmussen
Mayor



KAWERAK, INC.

PO BOX 948 • NOME ALASKA 99762

TELEPHONE: (907) 443-5231 • FAX: (907) 443-3708

SERVING THE
VILLAGES OF:

BREVIG MISSION
COUNCIL
DIOMEDE
ELIM
GAMBELL
GOLOVIN
KING ISLAND
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MARYS IGLOO
NOME
SAVOONGA
SHAKTOOLIK
SHISHMAPEF
SOLOMON
STEBBINS
ST. MICHAEL
TELLER
UNALAKLEET
WALES
WHITE MOUNTAIN

February 8, 2002

Stan Lujan, Superintendent
Mike Murphy, Nome School Board
PO Box 133
Nome, Alaska 99762

Gentlemen:

The Kawerak Board of Directors, at their December 5-6, 2001 meeting made and passed the following motion:

To support HB 239 which would establish a pilot program for high school students in the Bering Straits Region, which would:

- 1) expand career awareness and vocational education opportunities; and**
- 2) provide classes that increase independent living and working skills.**

The Kawerak Board requests Nome Public Schools to establish a steering committee consisting of parent representatives from Bering Strait and Nome Public School Districts, Kawerak, Northwest Campus, and Norton Sound Health Corporation which would provide regional input into the scope and design of the ongoing program.

Thank you for your presentation. Please call if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

KAWERAK INCORPORATED

Loretta Bullard
Loretta Bullard
President

cc: Representative Richard Foster
Representative Reggie Joule
Senator Donny Olson

Dr. John Davis, BSSD Superintendent
Clifford Weyiouanna, BSSD Board Chair

DISTRICT OFFICE

BERING STRAIT SCHOOL DISTRICT

P.O. BOX 225
UNALAKLEET, ALASKA 99684-0225
(907) 624-3611

21 March, 2002

Senator Lyda Green
State Capitol Bldg.
Juneau, AK 99811

Re: HB 239

BREVIG MISSION

Dear Senator Green:

DIOMEDE

ELIM

GAMBELL

GOLOVIN

KOYUK

SAINT MICHAEL

SAVOONGA

SHAKTOOLIK

SHISHMAREF

STEBBINS

TELLER

UNALAKLEET

WALES

WHITE MOUNTAIN

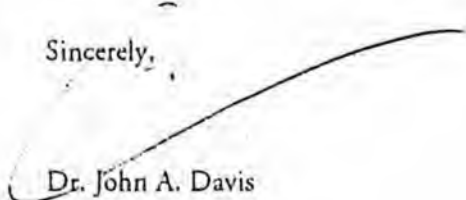
The funds being requested in the fiscal note to HB239 are intended to assist in the planning and development of a regional learning center (RLC) for the Norton Sound Region. The idea behind the effort is to create a learning center to facilitate additional educational opportunities that are not currently available in the region.

The regional boarding school program as delivered many years ago was not viewed as a successful model. I believe that a variation of that model in combination with the local community school could offer a viable alternative. Students would remain enrolled in their current school but would spend shorter periods of time working on specific goals at the RLC. One skill we would focus on is that of independent living, a critical skill our young people need to be successful

I understand that you have requested additional information about how this program would be funded? Following the initial planning & program development effort, I see the program operating as an extension of our current program and would be funded through the foundation formula and additional private & federal grants the District could attract.

I look forward to discussing this project further during my visit with you next week in Juneau.

Sincerely,


Dr. John A. Davis

Superintendent

cc: Senator Olsen, Rep. Foster, Rep. Joule, J.M. Walsh and S. Lujan, Supt Nome Public Schools

Alaska House of Representatives

Richard Foster
P.O. Box 1630
Nome, AK 99762
907-443-5036
Fax 907-2162



During Session
State Capitol Rm. 410
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
907-465-3789
Fax 907-465-3242

Majority Whip

May 11, 2002

To: Senate Finance Committee Members
From: Rep. Richard Foster
Re: HB 239

Nome City School District and Bering Strait School Superintendents Response for funding the proposed cooperative learning center beyond the fourth year of operation is attached.

If you have questions or need more information, please contact Larry in my office 465-3789.

DISTRICT OFFICE

BERING STRAIT SCHOOL DISTRICTP.O. BOX 425
UNALAKLEET, ALASKA 99684-0225
(907) 624-3611

10 May 2002

The Honorable Senator Pete Kelly
The Honorable Senator Dave Donley
Co-Chair, Senate Finance Committee
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801

BREVIG MISSION

DIOMEDE

ELIM

GAMUELL

GOLOVIN

KOYUK

SAINT MICHAEL

SAVOONQA

SHAKTOOLIK

SPISHMAREF

STEBBINS

TELLER

UNALAKLEET

WALES

WHITE MOUNTAIN

RE: HB239: Vocational Education Pilot Program

Gentlemen:

During the Senate Finance Committee hearing yesterday, May 9, 2002, questions were raised regarding:

- 1) need for legislation,
- 2) long-term funding viability of the pilot program between Bering Strait School District and Nome City Schools.

I appreciate the opportunity to clarify this concern.

Need for the Legislation:

The purpose for requesting support from the Alaska legislature is two-fold. First, it is to demonstrate support and commitment at the state level in order to leverage federal funding. In discussions with our Congressional delegation we believe state support is essential to securing federal aid.

The second reason for requesting state legislative support is for planning purposes and for piloting a demonstration model. The requested state support is not for long-term operational support. The cooperating school districts will need to generate support from local agencies as well as reallocating current budget resources. The Bering Strait School District will be able to direct teacher and administrative support to the program, as will the Nome City Schools.

The request from the state is a portion of the support needed. This request however is critical for the project to get off the ground. It represents the funding from which most other funds can be leveraged.

Long Term Funding Viability:

There are several sources of anticipated funding to be secured over the next five years. The two districts will be making applications for federal funding under the following Discretionary Grants Programs - Federal resources by grant titles:

- *Strengthening Institutions and Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian Programs*
- *Smaller learning communities*
- *Vocational Rehabilitation Services Projects for American Indians with Disabilities*
- *High School Equivalency Program and College Assistance Migrant Program*

Access to these federal grants will be greatly enhanced with demonstrated support of the program from the state and local level. State support is essential and a key component to winning federal support.

Other local resources the Districts will access:

- Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation - CDQ grants
- Kawerak, Inc. - employment training grants
- Norton Sound Health Corporation - employment training grants
- Title I funds - Bering Strait School District
- Northwest Campus, University of Alaska, Nome
- Carl Perkins Vocational Funds
- General funding from the Bering Strait School District and Nome Public School

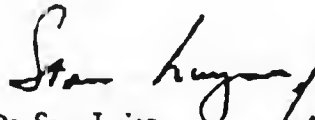
The Bering Strait School District is able to commit staff resources of potentially up to three teachers during the course of a school year by diverting the current itinerate vocational education teacher schedule. Nome Public Schools will also be able to restructure its use of staff and facilities to support the regional learning center. We are hopeful that through these various funding sources, the regional learning center will continue to grow and to expand the cooperation between our two local school districts, for the benefit of our students. Your support is critical for the initial planning effort.

Additional letters of future funding commitment are being requested at this time.

Sincerely,



Dr. John A. Davis
Superintendent
Bering Strait School District



Dr. Stan Lujan
Superintendent
Nome City Schools

cc: J M Walsh, J. Hayes

DISTRICT OFFICE

BERING STRAIT SCHOOL DISTRICT

P.O. BOX 225
UNALAKLEET, ALASKA 99684-0225
(907) 624-3611

1 May, 2002

Senator Dave Donley, Co-Chair
Senator Pete Kelly, Co-Chair
Senate Finance
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol Building
Juneau, AK 99811-1182

BREVIK MISSION

DIOMEDE

ELIM

GAMBELL

Re: HB239 – Regional Learning Center

GOLOVIN

Dear Senators Donnelly & Kelly:

KOYUK

We are writing in support of HB239. This proposed legislation has a direct impact on the education of high school students that we serve in the Norton Sound and Seward Peninsula region. The intention of HB238 is to provide seed money for the Bering Strait School District and the Nome Public School District to develop a regional learning for the benefit of students in both school districts. The funding is to help facilitate the planning of the program, complete a facilities needs assessment, complete an engineer study and establish a demonstration model program.

SAINT MICHAEL

SAVOONGA

SHAKTOOLIK

SHISHMAREF

STEBBINS

As a result of earlier discussions and Senate HESS hearing on HB239, we have been asked to respond to additional questions. Please distribute to members of the Senate Finance Committee as appropriate.

TELLER

UNALAKLEET

WALES

What percentage of state support is represented by this proposed legislation?

WHITE MOUNTAIN

The percentage of direct support from the state will diminish each of the four years. The level of anticipated federal support and local support will increase each year until the program was fully supported by local, federal and other grant sources. It is expected that during the first year state support would approximate 70% and the Bering Strait School District and Nome Public School District would provide the additional 30% through in-kind and direct support.

How does this proposed program differ from AVTEC or Kotzebue Tech Center?

The proposed program differs significantly from the two mentioned program in that the proposed regional learning center will be geared to current high school students who will utilize the center while remaining enrolled in the current sending school. Students would participate in short term programs. This is not intended to be a residential boarding school lasting a semester or year.

Title I monies were mentioned in testimony. How will these monies be used in this effort?

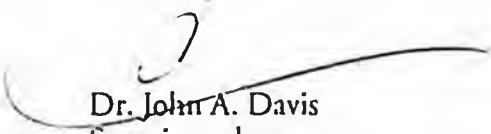
The new ESEA reauthorization is still something of a mystery to everyone. The implications to education and to Alaskan education are still unclear. However, as we learn more we are beginning to imagine various possibilities.

One such possibility is using funds created under Title I program. These monies are dedicated to help send students to a neighboring school. It is a form of school choice that was included in the legislation. However, the practical result may be that the monies revert to the federal government because there is not real way for many rural communities to take advantage of this option. Currently this money is not useable by most rural Alaskan school districts yet the money must be set aside in a contingency account. Our fear is that the money will lapse because of regulation inflexibility.

The idea is that possibly a regional learning center may be a place where funds could be spent. This all remains speculative as we learn more about the new requirements of ESEA.

We are available to answer other questions and willing testify before the Senate Finance committee as is needed. We look forward to an opportunity to speak on behalf of this effort.

Sincerely,



Dr. John A. Davis
Superintendent



Dr. Stan Lujon
Superintendent-Nome Public Schools

cc: Rep. Foster, Sen. Olson, JM Walsh

SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT

DATE: 4/30/01

FURTHER: Finance

DATE TURNED IN TO OFFICE: 4/17/02

Health, Education and Social Services Committee considered

HOUSE BILL NO. 239

"An Act establishing a pilot program for a regional learning center."

and recommends:

- be replaced with S CS HB 239 (HES)
- adopt previous _____ CS _____ (_____)
- attached amendment(s)
- adopt Letter of Intent by _____ Committee
- further referral to _____ Committee

Senate Bill:

- same title
- new title

House Bill:

- same title
- technical title
- new: SCR # _____

NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):

Department	Date	Fiscal	Zero	FN#
DEED	4/16/02	\$		2

PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S):

Department	Date	Fiscal	Zero	FN#

APPROPRIATION - no fiscal note

SIGNATURES AND RECOMMENDATIONS:	Do PASS	Do NOT PASS	NO REC	AMEND
<i>Chris D. Kluwe</i>	✓			
<i>Sam Wells</i>			✓	
<i>Bob Damm</i>	✓			
<i>Lyda Green</i>			✓	
CHAIR: <i>Lyda Green</i>			✓	

HB 239-VOCATIONAL EDUCATION PILOT PROGRAM
SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

SIGN-IN

NAME: John Handeland Subject/Bill No: 239
Co./Dept./Title: City of Nune Phone: 443-6663
Address: PO B 295 Nune Zip: 99762
Do you wish to testify? Yes No Respond To Questions

NAME: _____ Subject/Bill No: _____
Co./Dept./Title: _____ Phone: _____
Address: _____ Zip: _____
Do you wish to testify? Yes No Respond To Questions

NAME: _____ Subject/Bill No: _____
Co./Dept./Title: _____ Phone: _____
Address: _____ Zip: _____
Do you wish to testify? Yes No Respond To Questions

NAME: _____ Subject/Bill No: _____
Co./Dept./Title: _____ Phone: _____
Address: _____ Zip: _____
Do you wish to testify? Yes No Respond To Questions

