

SB

192

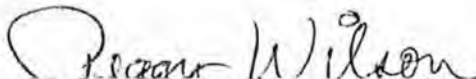


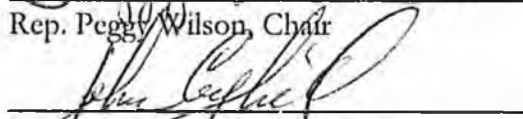
Health, Education, and Social Services Committee
Alaska State Legislature
House of Representatives
Representative Peggy Wilson - Chair

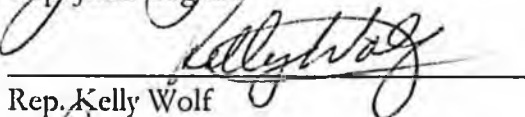
MEMORANDUM

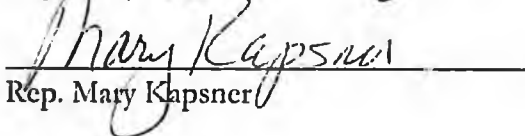
Date: May 15, 2003
To: Representative Pete Kott
Speaker of the House
From: Representative Peggy Wilson, Chair
House Health Education and Social Services Committee
Re: Waive CS SB 192 (L&C) 23-LS00944/H from Committee

The below signed members of the House Health, Education & Social Services Committee request waiving SB 192 "DOL Teachers & Training Programs" from committee and that the bill be moved to the next committee of referral.

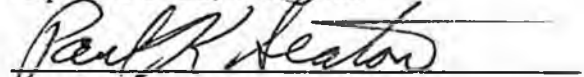

Rep. Peggy Wilson, Chair



Rep. John Coghill


Rep. Kelly Wolf


Rep. Mary Kapsner


Rep. Carl Gatto, Vice Chair


Rep. Paul Seaton


Rep. Sharon Cissna

SB192 - Amendment

Add a new section to 39.25.110 Exempt Service

(39) the Executive Director and staff of the Alaska
Workforce Investment Board established under AS 23.15.550.

Pg 4 - line 31

SESSION ADDRESS:
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
(907) 465-4925
Fax: (907) 465-3517
Toll Free: 1-800-821-4925

Senator Gary Stevens
Alaska State Legislature

INTERIM ADDRESS:
112 Mill Bay Road
Kodiak, Alaska 99615
(907) 486-4925
Fax: (907) 486-5264

Memorandum

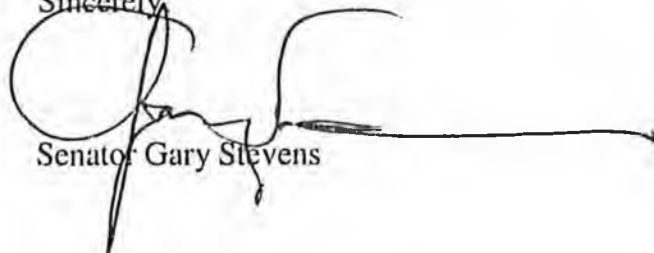
To: Representative Peggy Wilson
Chair, House HESS Committee
Fr: Senator Gary Stevens
Re: CSSB 192
Dt: May 12, 2003

I respectfully request a HESS Committee hearing be scheduled at your earliest convenience for CSSB 192 (L&C) "An Act relating to teachers and training programs in the Department of Labor and Workforce Development, to the placement in the exempt service of certified teachers employed by the Department of Labor and Workforce Development, to their eligibility to participate in the Teachers' Retirement System of Alaska, and to the functions of the Alaska Workforce Investment Board regarding the Kotzebue Technical Center and the Alaska Vocational Technical Center; relating to local workforce investment areas and boards; repealing the business incentive training program; and providing for an effective date".

This legislation is critical to ensure AVTEC teachers are protected in the TRS system when the school is transferred to the Department of Labor and Workforce Development this year.

Thank you for consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Senator Gary Stevens

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SPONSOR STATEMENT-CSSB 192 (L&C)
(Updated May 8, 2003)

This year, Governor Murkowski has proposed transferring the Alaska Vocational Technical Center (AVTEC) from the Department of Education and Early Development to the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development. While the transfer of the school will be accomplished through the FY 2004 budget process, Senate Bill 192 will allow the transfer to occur with minimal disruption to the staff and operation of the school.

SB 192 would specifically grant statutory authority to the Department of Labor and Workforce Development to employ teachers who are members of the Teachers Retirement System (TRS) and would enable current AVTEC instructional staff to remain members of the TRS after AVTEC transfers to the Department of Labor and Workforce Development. It also would allow future AVTEC instructional staff to become TRS members. Without this bill, the current teachers at AVTEC would need to transfer to the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS). This would not only be unfair to employees who were originally hired under the TRS system, but it would hamstring AVTEC management in their teacher recruitment efforts. The management of AVTEC has found it advantageous to offer a TRS retirement benefit as an incentive to attract experienced teachers to accept employment at AVTEC. It would be a disincentive to experienced teachers who have accrued years of TRS membership at other educational institutions in the state to consider employment at AVTEC under PERS.

SB 192 also would make amendments to clarify that AVTEC and the Kotzebue Technical Center will continue to be under the oversight, planning, and coordination responsibilities of the Alaska Workforce Investment Board (AWIB) through the Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

At the request of the Department of Labor and Workforce Development, the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee passed a committee substitute that also amends AS 23.15.550(a) relating to the local workforce investment area and boards. This action will consolidate the workforce investment area and boards to one, allowing for the more efficient operation of the Alaska Workforce Investment Board and enable the State of Alaska to better meet the goals of the federal Workforce Investment Act.

The committee substitute also makes changes to AS 23.15.645(b) and repeals the business incentive program which has not been funded for many years

In summary, this bill would implement good public policy by facilitating the transfer of AVTEC from one agency to another, allowing employees to remain in TRS, by giving management a tool to attract quality employees, and by clarifying the authorities and responsibilities of AWIB.

I urge your prompt consideration and passage of this important bill.

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Sectional Analysis for CSSB 192

Section 1 AS 14.25.220 (42) Amends language so that teachers in the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development will be Teachers Retirement System (TRS) eligible (Important that since AVTEC teachers are currently in TRS they stay in TRS even though they are moving to the Department of Labor)

Section 2 Conforming language for Workforce Investment Board so that there is one Workforce Investment Board.

Section 3 Adds Kotzebue Technical Center and AVTEC as programs within the Department of Labor and not the Department of Education any longer.

Section 4 Conforming language for one Workforce Investment Board.

Section 5 Amends language to so that existing teachers at AVTEC and skill centers that are exempt positions remain exempt positions.

Section 6 Repeals statutory language so that there is one Workforce Investment Board. Also repeals the Business Incentive Training Program, which has not been funded for many years.



Letter in
Support

Great careers for Alaska's future

April 24, 2003

Senator Fred Dyson
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator Dyson,

I am writing to you today in support of SB 192. Senate Bill 192 is an important part of the overall effort needed to insure an effective transition of the Alaska Vocational Technical Center (AVTEC) from the Department of Education & Early Development to the Department of Labor and Workforce Development (DOLWD). This legislation will allow certificated instructional staff currently employed at AVTEC to remain in the Teacher Retirement System (TRS) after the transition to DOLWD. AVTEC employs some of the highest quality and technically competent instructors in Alaska. Many of these are mid-career professionals who have earned ten or more years of TRS member service. These instructors should be held harmless and allowed to remain in the TRS as AVTEC transitions to DOLWD. I appreciate your serious consideration of this bill and would be happy to answer any questions you might have on the impact it will have for AVTEC.

Sincerely,

Fred W. Esposito
Director