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Alaska State Legislature

SENATOR
GENE THERRIAULT

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Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
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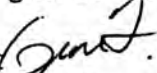
Senate

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

Senate Bill 179:

"An Act relating to criminal history records and background checks; allowing persons to teach in the public schools for up to five months without a teaching certificate if the person has applied for a certificate and the application has not been acted upon by the Department of Education and Early Development; allowing teacher certification for certain persons based on a criminal history background check without fingerprints; and providing for an effective date."

Sponsor:

Senator Gene Therriault 

Senate Bill 179 is a comprehensive package that accomplishes three important tasks related to performing background checks for licensing, certification and employment. It allows teachers to receive a name based background check in circumstances where their fingerprints are illegible or nonexistent. In addition, it gives the Department of Education the ability to grant a teaching certificate applicant a sixty-day extension on top of the three-month application period if their prints are backlogged and not processed in a timely manner. Finally, SB 179 conforms Alaska Statute to Federal Law, to maintain Alaska's access to federal background checks.

Senate Bill 179 will create an alternative for people who submit two separate sets of fingerprints that the state examiner determines to be illegible due to permanent skin condition. The measure also allows an alternative process if the applicant has a disability that prevents submittal all together. The applicant would then be allowed to have a background check performed based on their name, thus giving parents some assurance that a criminal background check is performed on all teachers relieving teachers who are unable to submit fingerprints from having to resubmit paperwork every three months.

The bill authorizes, but doesn't require, the Department of Education to grant an additional sixty-day extension on teacher applications if fingerprints are not returned within three months if the delay is due to processing rather than the tardiness of the applicant. The reason for this extension is that some teachers have been required to submit additional prints even though their prints were not denied but were still being processed. Some teachers who were not getting fingerprints processed within three months were being put on leave or were forced to be classified as a substitute teacher with lower pay and no benefits.

Finally, SB 179 fills current statutory gaps that the Department of Justice has determined have put the State of Alaska out of compliance with federal law regarding requesting and receiving federal background checks. If this legislation is not enacted, the State of Alaska risks losing its ability to get federal background checks performed after July 30, 2004.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2004 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 3
 Bill Version: CSSB 179 (FIN)
 (S) Publish Date: 3/8/04

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dept. Affected: EED
 Title "An Act relating to criminal history records
and background checks; allowing persons..." RDU Teaching and Learning Support
 Component Teacher Certification
 Sponsor Senator Theriault
 Requester Senate HESS Component No. 1240

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

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

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010
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						
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ()						
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FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

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

Estimate of any current year (FY2004) cost: 0.0

Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2005 budget proposal: ☐

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This is a zero fiscal note.

Prepared by: Barbara Thompson, Director
 Division Teaching and Learning Support
 Approved by: _____
 Agency Education & Early Development

Phone 907-465-8679
 Date/Time 3/8/04 8:41 AM
 Date 3/8/2004

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2004 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 2
 Bill Version: CSSB 179(FIN)
 (S) Publish Date: 3/8/04

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dept. Affected: DPS
 Title Teacher Certification: Fingerprints BRU Statewide Support
 Component Criminal Records & ID
 Sponsor Senator Therriault
 Requester Senate Finance Component No. 1190

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

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

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010
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						
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ()						
-------------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
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1004 GF						
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Other (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate)						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2004) cost: 0.0
 Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2005 budget proposal: ☐

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

The bill clarifies DPS' current practices for fingerprint-based criminal record checks in order to (1) ensure that DOE accepts a name-based criminal record check in lieu of a fingerprint-based check when an applicant for a teaching license is physically incapable of being fingerprinted; and (2) ensure that Alaska remains eligible to submit fingerprints to the FBI for national criminal record checks for persons applying for sensitive positions or licenses, by rewording certain statutes to meet requirements in federal law (Public Law 92-544). If the statutes are not reworded, the FBI will no longer accept fingerprints for national criminal record checks for certain licenses/positions after June 30, 2004. Since the bill preserves the status quo, there is no fiscal impact to DPS.

Prepared by: Diane Schenker, Criminal Justice Planner Phone 907-269-5092
 Division Statewide Services Date/Time 3/8/04 11:01 AM
 Approved by: William Tandeske, Commissioner Date 3/8/2004
 Agency Department of Public Safety



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Clarksburg, WV 26106

April 11, 2003

Ms. Diane Schenker
Manager
Criminal Records and Identification Bureau
Department of Public Safety
5700 East Tudor Road
Anchorage, AK 99507-1225

Dear Ms. Schenker:

Reference is made to your facsimile dated March 25, 2003, requesting an extension of the grace period to amend Alaska statutes, that were found defective during the comprehensive review conducted by the Access Integrity Unit (AIU).

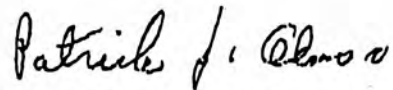
As requested we have changed the grace period from the original date of June 30, 2003, to June 30, 2004, to permit the amended statutes to be reviewed during the 2004 legislative cycle. However, should the defective statutes not be amended during your next legislative session, an additional grace period will not be granted and fingerprint submissions under the defective statutes will no longer be accepted.

Again, we appreciate your efforts to make the necessary changes to bring Alaska statutes into compliance with established Public Law 92-544 criteria. Please remember that the AIU stands ready to assist you by reviewing any proposed legislation.

Ms. Diane Schenker

Should you have further questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Sandra Layman of the AITW at (304) 625-2182.

Sincerely yours,



Patrick J. Adams
Chief
Programs Support Section
Criminal Justice Information
Services Division

Enclosure

- 1 - Ms. Kathryn M. Monfreda - Enclosure
Chief
Criminal Records and Identification Bureau
Department of Public Safety
5700 East Tudor Road
Anchorage, AK 99507-1225

STATE OF ALASKA

MEMORANDUM

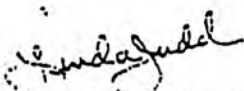
State of Alaska
Department of Education
& Early Development

To: Zach Warwick, Legislative Aide
For Senator Theriault

Date: March 13, 2003

Phone:

File:

From: Linda Judd 
Supervisor, Teacher Certification

Subject: Fingerprint Submissions

Per your request, Teacher Education & Certification has collected the following data for fiscal year 2003, to date.

Total number of applicants who submitted fingerprints:	1,567	
Applicants who were required to resubmit at least two times* for Alaska Department of Public Safety clearance	9	.6%
Applicants who were required to resubmit at least two times* for F.B.I. clearance	33	2.1%
Total number of applicants who were required to resubmit at least two times* (D.P.S. and F.B.I. combined)	42	2.7%

* "resubmit at least two times" means a total of at least three submissions (initial submission plus two resubmissions)