

**HB**

**352**

<TARGET><BILL>HB 352</BILL><SUBJECT>HB  
352</SUBJECT><COMM>HEDC27</COMM></TARGET>

# Alaska State Legislature

## **Juneau**

State Capitol Bldg., Rm. 104  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182  
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## **Interim**

1292 Sadler Way, Ste 328  
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## **Representative Alan Dick**

*House District 6*

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### **Explanation of Changes between HB 352 and CS HB 352(EDC) – Resource Education**

*“An Act relating to public school curriculum and textbook restrictions based on science, resource development, and sustained yield principles.”*

#### Page 1, Line 6:

Deleted reference to textbook selection leaving the requirement that curriculum development of environmental education shall be based on constitutional principles.

#### Page 2, Lines 3-24 – New Section 2:

The bill amends the statutes governing the University of Alaska Board of Regents. CS HB 352 recognizes the Board of Regents has a constitutional responsibility regarding the University and in its role of regulating courses of instruction, should base a course of instruction for environmental education on Alaska’s constitutional principles.

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*House District 6*

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### **Sponsor Statement CS HB 352(EDC) – Resource Education**

*“An Act relating to public school curriculum and textbook restrictions based on science, resource development, and sustained yield principles.”*

#### **Alaska State Constitution Section 2. General Authority**

*“The legislature shall provide for the utilization, development, and conservation of all natural resources belonging to the State, including land and waters, for the maximum benefit of its people”.*

Like many other states, Alaska has educators who come from various backgrounds who may be unfamiliar with Alaska’s constitutional directives regarding State resources. The purpose of this bill is to clearly state that the curriculum in local, public schools supports the intent of the Constitution. The bill also amends the statutes governing the University of Alaska Board of Regents. CS HB 352 recognizes the Board of Regents has a constitutional responsibility regarding the University and in its role of regulating courses of instruction, should base a course of instruction for environmental education on Alaska’s constitutional principles.

When building a curriculum addressing environmental and resource education, materials must give parity to the viewpoint of use and development as well as conservation of all natural resources. Educational materials should recognize that the economic well-being of the State is totally dependent upon careful, sustainable resource development.

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Mischel  
3/30/12

**CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 352(EDC)**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Offered:  
Referred:

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES DICK, Feige, Peggy Wilson

**A BILL**

**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1 "An Act establishing curriculum restrictions based on science, resource development,  
2 and sustained yield principles for public school districts and for the University of  
3 Alaska."

4 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

5 \* **Section 1.** AS 14.30.380 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

6 (b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the governing body of each  
7 public school in the state shall base curriculum development on

8 (1) the constitutional principles of

9 (A) utilization, maintenance, and sustained yield of all natural  
10 resources belonging to the state, including fish, forests, wildlife, land, water,  
11 and other renewable resources; and

12 (B) utilization and development of all nonrenewable resources  
13 in addition to encouragement of balancing resource development and  
14 conservation under (a) of this section;

1 (2) scientific principles, without bias and without regard to personal  
2 opinion.

3 \* Sec. 2. AS 14.40.170(b) is amended to read:

4 (b) The Board of Regents may

5 (1) adopt reasonable rules, orders, and plans with reasonable penalties  
6 for the good government of the university and for the regulation of the Board of  
7 Regents;

8 (2) determine and regulate the course of instruction in the university  
9 with the advice of the president; a course of instruction for environmental  
10 education must be based on

11 (A) the constitutional principles of

12 (i) utilization, maintenance, and sustained yield of all  
13 natural resources belonging to the state, including fish, forests,  
14 wildlife, land, water, and other renewable resources; and

15 (ii) utilization and development of all nonrenewable  
16 resources in addition to encouragement of balancing resource  
17 development and conservation under (a) of this section;

18 (B) scientific principles, without bias and without regard to  
19 personal opinion;

20 (3) set student tuition and fees;

21 (4) receive university receipts and, subject to legislative appropriation,  
22 expend university receipts in accordance with AS 37.07 (Executive Budget Act);

23 (5) apply for and use the proceeds of a loan from the Alaska energy  
24 efficiency revolving loan fund (AS 18.56.855).

## HB 352: Resource Education

Current Statute:

**Sec. 14.30.380.** Environmental education.

The board shall encourage each school board to initiate and conduct a program of environmental education for kindergarten through grade 12. The program should include, but is not limited to, education regarding the need to balance resource development with environmental safeguards, the dependence of the state on resource development, and the opportunity for pollution prevention, waste reduction, and recycling. A school board may implement environmental education as a part of regular classroom studies.

*HB 352 amends both K-12 public schools and University of Alaska such that if an environmental curriculum is adopted it must meet the following requirements.*

**\* Section 1. AS 14.30.380 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:**

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the governing body of each public school in the state shall base curriculum development on

- (1) the constitutional principles of
  - (A) utilization, maintenance, and sustained yield of all natural resources belonging to the state, including fish, forests, wildlife, land, water, and other renewable resources; and
  - (B) utilization and development of all nonrenewable resources in addition to encouragement of balancing resource development and conservation under (a) of this section;
- (2) scientific principles, without bias and without regard to personal opinion

**\*Section 2. AS 14.40.170(b)** amends the Board of Regents responsibilities with regard to environmental education. It replicates the language above for K-12 public curriculum development.

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## Representative Alan Dick

*House District 6*

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### **Sponsor Statement**

### **HB 352 – Resource Education**

*“An Act relating to public school curriculum and textbook restrictions based on science, resource development, and sustained yield principles.”*

#### **Alaska State Constitution Section 2. General Authority**

*“The legislature shall provide for the utilization, development, and conservation of all natural resources belonging to the State, including land and waters, for the maximum benefit of its people”.*

Like many other states, Alaska has educators who come from various backgrounds who may be unfamiliar with Alaska’s constitutional directives regarding State resources. The purpose of this bill is to clearly state that the curriculum in local schools supports the intent of the Constitution.

Educational materials must give parity to the viewpoint of use and development as well as conservation of all natural resources. Educational materials should recognize that the economic well-being of the State is totally dependent upon careful, sustainable resource development.

# FISCAL NOTE

**STATE OF ALASKA**  
**2012 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

Bill Version HB 352  
 Fiscal Note Number \_\_\_\_\_  
 () Publish Date \_\_\_\_\_

Identifier (file name) HB352-EED-TLS-3-23-12 Dept. Affected Education & Early Development  
 Title "An Act related to public school curriculum and textbooks restrictions based on science ..." Appropriation Teaching and Learning Support  
 Allocation Student and School Achievement  
 Sponsor Representative Dick  
 Requester House Education OMB Component Number 2796

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

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

	FY13 Appropriation Requested	Included in Governor's FY13 Request	Out-Year Cost Estimates					
			FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18
<b>OPERATING EXPENDITURES</b>								
Personal Services								
Travel								
Services								
Commodities								
Capital Outlay								
Grants, Benefits								
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>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

**FUND SOURCE** (Thousands of Dollars)

1002	Federal Receipts							
1003	GF Match							
1004	GF							
1005	GF/Prgm (DGF)							
1037	GF/MH (UGF)							
1178	temp code (UGF)							
<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>	<b>0.0</b>

**POSITIONS**

Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							

**CHANGE IN REVENUES**

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Estimated **SUPPLEMENTAL (FY12) operating costs** \_\_\_\_\_ (separate supplemental appropriation required)  
 (discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

Estimated **CAPITAL (FY13) costs** \_\_\_\_\_ (separate capital appropriation required)  
 (discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

**Why this fiscal note differs from previous version (if initial version, please note as such)**

Initial version.

Prepared by Cynthia Curran Phone 465-2857  
 Division Teaching and Learning Support Date/Time 3/23/12 5:30 PM  
 Approved by Mike Hanley Date 3/23/2012  
Commissioner

**FISCAL NOTE**

**STATE OF ALASKA  
2012 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

**BILL NO.** HB 352

**Analysis**

This is a zero fiscal note. Districts are responsible for their curriculum and textbook selection processes.

March 30, 2012

Fred Parady, Executive Director

Alaska Miners Association

Senate Resources Committee

Good morning members of the committee, it is good to be with you today. For the record, my name is Fred Parady, and I am honored to serve as the Executive Director of the Alaska Miners Association (AMA). The Alaska Miners Association is a non-profit membership organization established in 1939 to represent the mining industry in Alaska, making us one of the oldest trade associations in the state.

The AMA is composed of more than 1400 individual prospectors, geologists and engineers, vendors, suction dredge miners, small family mines, junior mining companies, and major mining companies. Our members look for and produce gold, silver, platinum, diamonds, lead, zinc, copper, coal, limestone, sand and gravel, crushed stone, armor rock, and other materials. Our members live and work throughout the state.

Let's turn to the bill before you, HB352, which is **relates to public school curriculum and textbook restrictions based on science, resource development, and sustained yield principles.**

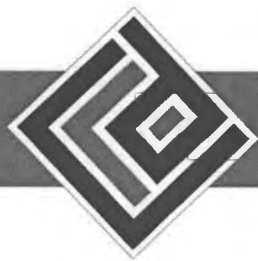
**Alaska State Constitution Section 2. General Authority**

**“The legislature shall provide for the utilization, development, and conservation of all natural resources belonging to the State, including land and waters, for the maximum benefit of its people”.**

More than most other states, Alaska has educators who come from various backgrounds who may be unfamiliar with Alaska's constitutional directives regarding State resources. The purpose of this bill is to clearly state that the curriculum in local schools supports the intent of the Constitution.

Educational materials must give parity to the viewpoint of use and development as well as conservation of all natural resources. Educational materials should recognize that the economic well-being of the State is totally dependent upon careful, sustainable resource development.

The Alaska Miners Association firmly supports the sponsors efforts to bring balance to the teaching of natural resource issues in the context of Alaska's founding fathers and our constitution.



# RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Growing Alaska Through Responsible Resource Development

April 2, 2012

Chairman Alan Dick  
House Education Committee  
Alaska State Legislature  
State Capitol Building  
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: House Education Hearing on HB 352 – Resource Development Curriculum

Dear Chairman Dick and Members of House Education:

The Resource Development Council (RDC) writes to express support for HB 352, an Act regarding Resource Development Curriculum in Alaska's schools.

RDC is a statewide business association comprised of individuals and companies from Alaska's oil and gas, mining, forest products, tourism and fisheries industries. RDC's membership includes Alaska Native Corporations, local communities, organized labor, and industry support firms. RDC's purpose is to encourage a strong, diversified private sector in Alaska and expand the state's economic base through the responsible development of our natural resources.

RDC recognizes Section 8.1 of the Alaska State Constitution, reading, "It is the policy of the State to encourage the settlement of its land and the development of its resources by making them available for maximum use consistent with the public interest."

RDC supports programs educating students on Alaska's natural resources, and specifically on the responsible development of our resources. It is a policy of RDC to support programs, including Alaska Resource Education, to educate students and the general public on responsible resource development activities in Alaska.

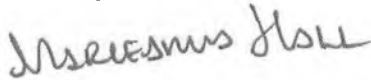
The State of Alaska partners with Alaska Resource Education, formerly AMEREF, an education non-profit whose mission is to educate students about Alaska's natural resources. ARE offers educators across the state Resource Education Kits containing nearly \$300 worth of materials to help provide students and teachers with balanced information about Alaska's rich heritage of mineral, energy, and forest resources. These non-biased kits have been accepted by all 53 school districts, and are available at no cost to teachers. In addition, a free training is offered, when available, so that teachers are able to correctly utilize the materials in the kits.

Founded 1975  
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2011-2012 Executive Committee  
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Phil Cochrane, Sr. Vice President  
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Dan Sullivan  
Peter Taylor  
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Senator Mark Begich  
Senator Lisa Murkowski  
Congressman Don Young  
Governor Sean Parnell

Further, it is somewhat appalling that incorporating resource development in the curriculum isn't mandated while conservation education is. Alaska's education curriculum should include educating our students on activities related to and the responsible development of our natural resources. Future generations of Alaskans should have access to a firm foundation of our constitutional principals that guide our state, including multiple-use of resources and land along side conservation education.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marleanna Hall".

Marleanna Hall  
Projects Coordinator  
Resource Development Council

Good morning Mr. Chairman and members of the House Education Committee. For the record my name is Michelle Brunner, Executive Director of Alaska Resource Education.

I'm here to testify today with regards to HB 352. Alaska Resource Education (formerly AMEREF) is a partnership between the State of Alaska Department of Education and private industry. We are a non-profit organization that focuses on educating students and teachers about Alaska's natural resources using our Alaska Resource Kit and Curriculum.

The Alaska Resource Kit contains a standards-based, science focused interdisciplinary set of curriculum, activities, and support materials providing K-12 students with information about Alaska's mineral, energy, oil & gas, and forest resources. We deliver our curriculum to educators through our "Rock & Roll around Alaska" course - a 500 level, 1 credit course offered through the University system. We also educate students through our Minor Miner and Energy Einstein programs. Our kit materials include:

A 40 sample Alaska rocks and minerals set complete with oil and gold, DVD's, cd's, posters, maps, books, a Sitka spruce cross-section and other educational materials on Alaska's resources.

In the last 3 years we have had 333 teachers take our Rock & Roll around Alaska course, we've distributed 640 Alaska Resource Kits to school districts across Alaska, our education director has visited 116 classrooms and 172 students have participated in our Minor Miner and Energy Einstein programs statewide. I would invite you to visit our website [www.akresource.org](http://www.akresource.org) to see firsthand a video from students about "what minerals mean to me".

We are interested in this legislation because ARE is consistently providing resource education on a daily basis throughout Alaska. The strength of ARE's program is that it is a partnership between the private and public sectors. Our experience in the classroom is that our educational system is saturated with environmental and conservation education that does not follow Alaska's constitutional principles. The idea of HB352 would assist in adding balance to the classroom and to Alaska's future employees and policymakers.

With regard to HB352, our board has not had time to review the legislation and has not taken official action specifically regarding HB352, but the overall concept I believe ARE would support. We would suggest that as you think about how to provide a science based curriculum based on Alaska's constitutional principles that you consider utilization of existing curriculum that meets this criteria. This concludes my prepared remarks and I'm happy to answer questions.



## **RDC Testimony: HB 352 - an Act regarding Resource Development Curriculum**

**Before House Education (via teleconference)  
Testimony provided by Marleanna Hall**

**April 2, 2012**

My name is Marleanna Hall, I am a projects coordinator at the Resource Development Council. Good morning Chairman Dick and Members of the House Education Committee. In brief, RDC is a statewide business association with members in forestry, oil and gas, mining, tourism, fishing, all 12 Native regional corporations, and many others. Our mission is to grow Alaska through responsible resource development.

First, thank you to Representative Dick for introducing HB 352 – an Act regarding Resource Development Curriculum in Alaska’s schools.

RDC recognizes Section 8.1 of the Alaska State Constitution, [reading, “It is the policy of the State to encourage the settlement of its land and the development of its resources by making them available for maximum use consistent with the public interest.”]

RDC supports programs educating students on Alaska’s natural resources, and specifically on the responsible development of our resources. It is a policy of RDC to support programs, including Alaska Resource Education, to educate students and the general public on responsible resource development activities in Alaska.

You've already heard about ARE this morning, so I will not repeat details about their mission to educate students about Alaska's natural resources.

[The State of Alaska partners with Alaska Resource Education, formerly AMEREF, an education non-profit whose mission is to educate students about Alaska's natural resources. ARE offers educators across the state Resource Education Kits containing nearly \$300 worth of materials to help provide students and teachers with balanced information about Alaska’s rich heritage of mineral, energy, and forest resources. These non-biased kits have been accepted by all 53 school districts, and are available at no cost to teachers. In addition, a free training is offered, when available, so that teachers are able to correctly utilize the materials in the kits.]

I would like to note, it is somewhat appalling that incorporating resource development in the curriculum isn’t mandated while conservation education is. Alaska’s education curriculum should include educating our students on activities related to and the responsible development of our natural resources. Future generations of Alaskans should have access to a firm foundation of our constitutional principals that guide our state, including multiple-use of resources and land along side conservation education. Thank you again Representative Dick for recognizing this shortcoming in Alaska’s curriculum, and for proposing HB 352, which will help provide more balance in educational curriculum in our public schools. In addition to my comments today, RDC will submit a formal letter of support. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

[ ] bracketed portions of testimony omitted to reduce redundancy of testimony

[Return to Testimony List](#)