

HB

138

<TARGET><BILL>HB 138</BILL><SUBJECT>HB
138</SUBJECT><COMM>HEDC28</COMM></TARGET>

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



SESSION ADDRESS:
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau Alaska 99801
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Rep.Shelley.Hughes@akleg.gov

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600 E Railroad Avenue
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Representative Shelley Hughes
House District 8 ~ Greater Palmer

February 22, 2013

Honorable Representative Gattis, Chair
Education Committee
State Capitol Room 420
Juneau, AK 99801

SPONSOR STATEMENT **HB138 Education Pink Slips**

HB138 addresses a long-time issue known to many as “pink slips for teachers.” Under existing law, school districts are required to issue notices of non-retention for tenured teachers by March 15 if a district believes it may have to lay off a tenured teacher for the subsequent school year.

A school district generally doesn’t know the level of funding it will receive from the legislature until sometime between the end of the legislative session and when the governor approves the operating budget. When school districts issue these “pink slips” it causes unnecessary tension between the teachers and the school district administration. This bill moves the notice date from March 15 to May 15, approximately one month after the legislative session has ended. This timing change will give the school districts the time and information they need to make these important decisions.

HB138 changes the date of layoff/non-retention notice to May 15 to allow educators to focus on the quality of teaching through the end of the school year rather than focus on pending employment status.

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Representative Shelley Hughes
House District 8 ~ Greater Palmer

April 5, 2013

Honorable Senator Stevens, Chair
Education Committee
State Capitol Room 429
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Stevens,

I respectfully request a hearing date for HB138 Layoff or Non-retention notices to Tenured Teachers in the Senate Education committee at your earliest convenience.

HB138 addresses a long-time issue known to many as "pink slips for teachers." Under existing law, school districts are required to issue notices of non-retention for tenured teachers by March 16 if a district believes it may have to lay off a tenured teacher for the subsequent school year. HB138 changes the date of layoff/non-retention notice to May 15 to allow educators to focus on the quality of teaching through the end of the school year rather than focus on pending employment status.

If you have any questions with regard to scheduling the bill, please contact Ginger Blaisdell at 465-5265.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Shelley Hughes".

Shelley Hughes
Representative
District 8 ~ Greater Palmer

Fiscal Note

State of Alaska
2013 Legislative Session

Bill Version: HB 138
Fiscal Note Number: 1
(H) Publish Date: 3/1/13

Identifier: HB138-EED-TLS-2-22-13
Title: LAYOFF NOTICES FOR TENURED TEACHERS
Sponsor: HUGHES
Requester: House Education

Department: Department of Education and Early Development
Appropriation: Teaching and Learning Support
Allocation: Student and School Achievement
OMB Component Number: 2796

Expenditures/Revenues

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below. (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY2014 Appropriation Requested	Included in Governor's FY2014 Request	Out-Year Cost Estimates					
			FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	
OPERATING EXPENDITURES								
Personal Services								
Travel								
Services								
Commodities								
Capital Outlay								
Grants & Benefits								
Miscellaneous								
Total Operating	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Fund Source (Operating Only)

None								
Total	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Positions

Full-time								
Part-time								
Temporary								

Change in Revenues								
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Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY2013) cost: 0.0

Estimated CAPITAL (FY2014) cost: 0.0

ASSOCIATED REGULATIONS

Does the bill direct, or will the bill result in, regulation changes adopted by your agency? No
If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed?

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version:

Initial Version

Prepared By: Paul R. Prussing, Deputy Director
Division: Teaching and Learning Support
Approved By: Mike Hanley
Commissioner

Phone: (907)465-8721
Date: 02/22/2013 11:39 AM
Date: 02/22/13

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS #1

STATE OF ALASKA
2013 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB 138

Analysis

Section 1 amends AS14.20.140 (a) (Notification of lay off or non-retention) by changing the termination or non-retention date of a teacher from by March 16 to May 15. There is no anticipated cost to the department.

Section 2 amends AS 14.20.140(a) to reflect contract or collective bargaining agreements that are legally binding on or after the bills effective date.

NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Munamiut Wolves Amaqut

Munamiut School
P.O. Box 21029
Anaktuvuk Pass, Alaska 99721
(907) 661-3226
FAX (907) 661-6215

Atqasuk Eagles Tinmiaapait/ch

Meade River School
P.O. Box 91030
Atqasuk, Alaska 99791
(907) 633-6315
FAX (907) 633-6215

Barrow Whalers Aqviqsuqtit

Barrow High School
P.O. Box 960
Barrow, Alaska 99723
(907) 852-8950
FAX (907) 852-8969

HMS Wolves Amaqut

Eben Hopson, Sr., Memorial Middle School
P.O. Box 509
Barrow, Alaska 99723
(907) 852-3880
FAX (907) 852-7794

Arctic Foxes Tigiqanniit

Fred Ipalook Elementary School
P.O. Box 450
Barrow, Alaska 99723
(907) 852-4711
FAX (907) 852-4713

Niita Snowy Owls Ukpitiit/ch

Niita Learning Community
P.O. Box 169
Barrow, Alaska 99723
(907) 852-9677
FAX (907) 852-4334

Kaveolook Rams Imnait/ch

Harold Kaveolook School
P.O. Box 20
Kaktovik, Alaska 99747
(907) 640-6626
FAX (907) 640-6718

Nuiqsut Trappers Naniqiaqtuqtit

Trapper School
P.O. Box 89167
Nuiqsut, Alaska 99789
(907) 480-6712
FAX (907) 480-6621

Tikigaaq Harpooners Kapuqtit

Tikigaaq School
P.O. Box 148
Point Hope, Alaska 99766
(907) 368-2662/2663
FAX (907) 368-2770

Kali Qavvitiit/ch

Kali School
P.O. Box 59077
Point Lay, Alaska 99759
(907) 833-2311
FAX (907) 833-2315

Alak Huskies Qimuktit

Alak School
P.O. Box 10
Wainwright, Alaska 99782
(907) 763-2541
FAX (907) 763-2565



February 28, 2013

Representative Shelley Hughes
State Capitol Room 409
Juneau AK, 99801

Dear Representative Hughes:

Thank you for sponsoring House Bill 138. Your sponsorship of this bill indicates your understanding of the difficult position the current deadline for non-retention notices places on school districts. Schools are people businesses. The talent and morale of our teachers is a significant factor in our success with students.

In the North Slope Borough School District, as in other districts in the state, the personnel budget is far and away the largest portion of the district's budget. Again, the largest share of the personnel budget is for teachers as our district prioritizes classroom instruction. In times of flat or declining revenues and increasing costs, districts will need to reduce personnel. In the NSBSD our Board has given us the direction that they do not want to cut teachers if they don't have to. Therefore, ideally we should wait until the end of the budget cycle for decisions on personnel reductions.

The timeline of determining the district's revenue and the current requirement for teacher non-retention are out of order. The current deadline for notice to teachers is March 16. The North Slope Borough Assembly will vote on fiscal allocation to our district on March 28. The Legislature will set the state revenue to all districts in mid-April. In terms of good fiscal management, we presently have to determine our budget for personnel before we know our revenues. This puts our Board and other Board's in a difficult situation. The May 15 date is a more reasonable deadline to have a budget decision done to make informed decisions about teacher non-retention. This provides the district about a month to prepare a recommendation for the Board and for the Board to meet and act. In our district, because of the distances, Board materials are prepared and distributed two weeks before a Board meeting. So, the May 15 date gives the district staff about two weeks to prepare a budget recommendation once revenues are known.

Thank you for your leadership in sponsoring House Bill 138. This approach will help us prepare our budget in a more efficient and responsible manner.

Sincerely,

Peggy Cowan
Superintendent



Anchorage School District

5530 E. Northern Lights Blvd.
Anchorage, Alaska 99504-3135
(907) 742-4000

SCHOOL BOARD

Jeannie Mackie
President

Tam Agosti-Gisler
Vice President

Kathleen Plunkett
Treasurer

Natasha Von Imhof
Clerk

Gretchen Guess

Pat Higgins

Don Smith

SUPERINTENDENT

Carol Comeau

February 26, 2013

Representative Shelley Hughes
State Capitol Room 409
Juneau AK, 99801-1182

Dear Representative Hughes:

The Anchorage School District appreciates the opportunity to comment on HB 138. The District strongly supports language which would move the notice of non-retention of tenured employees from March 16th to May 15th.

The District develops a balanced budget every year by matching staffing levels and expenditures to projected revenues. Projected revenues are developed based on highly likely revenues which typically include the state K-12 education foundation formula. The district has not built its budget on what might be forthcoming from the Legislative process that typically concludes in April. As a result, the district has had to issue notices of non-retention in March based on early revenue projections only to rescind them in May based on the incremental funding that finally emerges from the Legislative process.

The District believes that employees are better served by limiting notice of non-retention to those employees who are highly likely to not be retained – a determination made much more certain after revenues from the Legislative process can be reliably taken into account by the middle of May.

Sincerely,

Jim Browder, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools