

HB

190

<TARGET><BILL>HB 190</BILL><SUBJECT>HB
190</SUBJECT><COMM>HEDC28</COMM></TARGET>

Alaska State Legislature

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REPRESENTATIVE PAUL SEATON HOUSE DISTRICT 30

MEMORANDUM

TO: Representative Lynn Gattis, Chair
House Education Committee

FROM: Representative Paul Seaton

DATE: March 28, 2013

RE: HB 190

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul Seaton".

I respectfully request a hearing for HB 190 before the House Education Committee. HB 190 will provide the opportunity for students to receive course credit in secondary school based on demonstrated mastery of a subject.

Documents listed below have been submitted electronically with this request:

- HB 190
- Sponsor Statement
- Letters of Support (KPBSD letter to be submitted 4/1/13)

We also request an off-net number for the following witness(es) to provide testimony:

- Herb Schroeder, Chair, Alaska Native Science & Engineering Program (ANSEP)
- School districts available for questions

Thank you for your consideration.

Staff Contact: Heather Beggs at 465-2028

Alaska State Legislature

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REPRESENTATIVE Paul Seaton

District 30

HB 190

HB 190 allows students who demonstrate mastery of course material to challenge and test out of high school courses and receive academic credit. Currently there is no requirement that school districts provide an opportunity for students to challenge courses for academic credit. Though districts may have pre-approved tech prep plans for certain college courses, these are primarily focused on vocational coursework and are limited to established agreements between campuses. HB 190 would allow a student to test out of any high school course if they can demonstrate mastery of the subject matter. This bill leaves the criteria for demonstrating mastery to the discretion of the school district, but requires districts to provide an option for students to challenge courses.

With no unified approach to challenging courses across the state, students encounter different barriers in their districts, such as demonstrating mastery of a subject by taking a college course, but not accumulating enough seat time in the classroom to qualify for full high school credit. These students may receive partial or no high school credit for advanced courses they have mastered at the college level. This was a problem identified by the Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program. This bill does not attempt to establish credit for courses that may be a prerequisite for the challenged course. Furthermore, the credits would apply to fulfilling requirements for the Alaska Performance Scholarship, but not necessarily be factored in to the student's GPA if no letter grade is given.

HB 190 would provide a needed opportunity for course credit and further encouragement for students who are independently completing courses outside of their high school. Keeping students engaged in learning and challenged with rigorous coursework benefits both the individual student and the districts supporting their continued education. HB 190 will remove a barrier to students who wish to receive credit for their coursework and support a learning environment that continues to challenge and reward student initiative.

Staff Contact: Heather Beggs, 465-2028

Fiscal Note

State of Alaska
2013 Legislative Session

Bill Version: HB 190
Fiscal Note Number: _____
() Publish Date: _____

Identifier: HB190-EED-TLS-3-28-13
Title: CREDIT FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL COURSES
Sponsor: SEATON
Requester: House Education Committee

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: Les Morse, Deputy Commissioner
Division: Commissioner's Office
Approved By: Mike Hanley
Commissioner

Phone: (907)465-8691
Date: 03/28/2013 04:00 PM
Date: 03/28/13

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA
2013 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB190

Analysis

This bill will have no fiscal impact to the department.

Section 1

Requires school districts to provide the opportunity for students enrolled in secondary school to challenge courses provided by the district, and earn full credit for the course, if mastery is demonstrated. School districts must establish assessment tool for the student to demonstrate secondary school course mastery.

Section 2

Applies the requirements outlined in section 1 to the State Boarding Schools.



UNIVERSITY of ALASKA ANCHORAGE



Alaska Native Science & Engineering Program/ANSEP
3211 Providence Drive ANSEP 200D1
Anchorage, AK 99508



March 28, 2013

Legislature of the State of Alaska
Twenty-Eighth Legislature- First Session

Re: HB 190
By Representative Paul Seaton

Dear Members of the Twenty Eighth Legislature;

HB 190 will assure that our high school students receive appropriate credit for courses taken at our University.

The receipt of appropriate credit is currently a problem. For example, an ANSEP high school student has successfully completed all of the university courses required for a degree in mechanical engineering. This is no small accomplishment. It represents five courses and 2.5 years of effort at the University level. Yet, the same student was informed that he did not have enough math credits to graduate from high school. This happens across the state. This also means that advanced students will not qualify for the full Alaska Performance Scholarship.

The problem is, districts have established a policy where students successfully completing a 3 or 4 credit hour course at the university earn 1/2 of a high school credit for the same or similar course at the district level. For example, a student successfully completing the four credit calculus 1 course at the university will earn 1/2 of a credit toward calculus within the districts. This policy seems to be based solely on contact hours in the classroom, not on content of the course.

Passage of HB 190 will provide a mechanism for students to earn the full high school credit they deserve for successfully completing university courses.

Please contact me at 529-4918 or herb@uaa.alaska.edu if you have any questions or need additional information.

Very Truly Yours,

Herb *Ilisaurki* Schroeder, PhD
Vice Provost for ANSEP and Founder
Professor of Engineering



Presidential Award
for Excellence in Science, Mathematics,
and Engineering Mentoring



Reginald Jones Founder's Award



Alaska Federation of Natives
Denali Award

From: Bob Crumley [mailto:bcrumley@chugachschoools.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 28, 2013 5:46 PM
To: Heather Beggs
Subject: Re: HB 190 - student course credit

Hello Heather:

Thank you for the notice of this hearing. I wasn't aware of this bill, but my school district (Chugach) is certainly in support of the philosophy behind it. I can't fully explain our district system in an email, but will write a brief overview in case that is helpful.

In 1995, the Chugach School District initiated a community input process to reform the district. The input from all stakeholders led to the development of a system without grades (both kinds - grade levels or letter grades).

Continuums of standards were developed with levels from Kindergarten through graduation. Each level is considered a "Course". Students advance through these levels/courses based upon performance, not time. We essentially reversed the traditional system where time is the constant, and what each student learns in that amount of time varies.

The new system was based upon learning being the constant, and time the variable. Therefore, students can test through any level/course in our district (if they can actually perform the requirements of the level/course).

In 1996 or 1997, the Chugach District received a waiver from using the traditional Carnegie Unit (credit based) system. Years later we were informed by EED that the waiver wasn't really necessary.

Our system includes far more than this, but testing through a course based upon performance is a key component.

Our system continues to prove effective with our students, and we have many graduates who successfully end up in universities, trade schools, or employment situations upon graduation.

Again, I'm not sure this is useful or relevant to discussions about this bill, but I thought I'd send this information just in case.

All the best,
Bob

Robert Crumley, PhD.
Superintendent
Chugach School District



KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Office of Superintendent

Dr. Steve Atwater, Superintendent of Schools
148 North Binkley Street Soldotna, Alaska 99669-7553
Phone (907) 714-8888 Fax (907) 262-9132

April 1, 2013

Representative Paul Seaton
State Capitol, Room 102
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Seaton:

The Kenai Borough School District (KPBSD) supports House Bill 190; thank you for introducing it. KPBSD feels that the bill's proposed amendment to AS 14.03 to require a school district to provide high school students the option to challenge a course through a district constructed assessment is sound.

KPBSD has offered the option of a challenge test for credit to our secondary students for many years. I know that it is an established policy that works well for our students. I support this bill because I believe that all districts will benefit from this.

As we look ahead with education, it is imperative that we move away from the past practice of requiring seat time as one of the considered variables for issuing credit and instead, focus on performance as the sole variable for this purpose. In sum, if a student can demonstrate proficiency in meeting the requirements of the course through an assessment, then granting a credit for this performance is the right thing to do. I applaud you for offering this amendment to AS 14.03 that will require all districts to do this.

Please let me know if I can provide more information on why this proposed amendment to AS 14.03 is a positive change for Alaska's secondary students.

Sincerely,

Steve Atwater, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools