

SCOMM

125:37

Bill Analysis HB 218

Hearing April 18, 2001

Bill Title: "An Act relating to funding for school districts operating secondary school boarding programs."

Sponsor: Representative John Coghill

This bill broadens present law to allow secondary boarding school programs the opportunity to obtain reimbursement for costs that are currently unavailable. This bill does not replace any existing boarding school programs, it allows the Dept. of Education to pay a regional stipend to school districts which offer dormitory facilities, it expands the opportunity for existing and new boarding schools in Alaska.

Information and Possible Questions:

- 1) It is said these additional costs are beneficial for the following reasons: This bill offers rural students a greater availability in specialized subject matters, and helps "non-traditional" students options if they are failing or dropping out of traditional school settings. This allows rural students to travel from their area to a school that can provide them this specialized education.
- 2) Is this much of a financial impact that beneficial for these groups if they are currently failing or dropping out? Do you think that these two student groups (non-traditional students and rural students) will actually attend if the boarding schools gave them the option to travel to the schools?
- 3) What is currently being done for the students that will be affected by this bill? Are there no alternatives available?

Available to Testify:

Representative John Coghill
Terry Bently, Superintendent of Nennana School District
Bob Medinger, Bethel Alternative Boarding School Administrator

Fiscal Note: This bill impacts the Department of Education and Early Development with a fiscal note of \$1,455,720.00. These costs include stipends and travel in Bethel, Nenana, Galena and Iditarod.

Alaska State Legislature

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Representative John Coghill

SPONSOR STATEMENT House Bill 218

"Relating to funding for school districts operating secondary school boarding programs"

HB 218 broadens present law to allow secondary boarding programs the opportunity to obtain reimbursement for particular costs that currently are unavailable.

Conversations with people throughout Alaska indicate that we have a growing problem with unavailable classes and restricted educational opportunities in Alaska's isolated rural regions. Many people have indicated that regional secondary boarding schools are a good solution.

In addition to offering rural students a greater availability of expertise in specialized subject matter, boarding schools are also a viable option for non-traditional students who are failing or dropping out of traditional school settings from urban areas as well.

Under the current law, school districts that operate a boarding facility are able to obtain a per student room and board stipend rate from the Department of Education and certain incurred costs are able to be reimbursed.

However, this cost ease is only available for students who do not have the opportunity to attend school in their own district, and instead travel to a boarding school to continue their education.

For students who desire to attend a boarding school, but already have an available school in their own district, they are still eligible to attend a boarding school, but do not qualify for the school to be able to obtain the room and board stipend or cost reimbursements from the Department.

HB 218 would not replace any existing boarding programs. By allowing the Department of Education to pay a regional stipend to school districts which offer dormitory facilities, it would expand the opportunities for existing as well as new boarding schools in Alaska.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2001 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number:

Bill Version:

HB 218

() Publish Date:

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction):

Title: "An Act relating to funding for school districts
operating secondary school boarding programs; and ..."

Sponsor: Representatives Coghill

Requester: House Special Committee on Education

Dept. Affected: Education & Early Development

BRU: K-12 Support

Component: Boarding Home Grants

Component Number: 148

Expenditures/Revenues

(Thousands of Dollars)

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

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims	1,455.7	1,455.7	1,455.7	1,455.7	1,455.7	1,455.7
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	1,455.7	1,455.7	1,455.7	1,455.7	1,455.7	1,455.7

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES

CHANGE IN REVENUES ()

FUND SOURCE

(Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF	1,455.7	1,455.7	1,455.7	1,455.7	1,455.7	1,455.7
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type)						
TOTAL	1,455.7	1,455.7	1,455.7	1,455.7	1,455.7	1,455.7

Estimate of any current year (FY2001) cost: 0.0

Check this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2002 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

The bill would establish a grant program that would provide monthly stipends for residential cost to school districts that operate a regional boarding school. A monthly stipend and one round trip ticket would be reimbursed for any secondary student attending a district operated boarding school.

Prepared by: Eddy Jeans, School Finance Manager

Division: Education Support Services

Approved by: Bruce Johnson, Deputy Commissioner of Education

Agency: Department of Education & Early Development

Phone: 465-8679

Date/Time: April 13, 2001

Date: 4/16/01

For distribution information, call the Governor's Legislative Office

Department of Education & Early Development
District Operated Residential Boarding Home Information
HB 218
April 12, 2001

District	# of Students	Stipend Rate	Stipend	Comments
Lower Kuskokwim:				
Bethel	30	\$448 / mo	\$ 120,960	Lease a facility
Nenana	96	430 / mo	371,520	Will be owned and operated
Galena	150	528 / mo	712,800	Leased from Air Force
Iditarod	20	448 / mo	80,640	Rent Houses in Takotna
Totals	296		\$ 1,285,920	

District	# of Students	Avg. Travel	Total	Comments
Lower Kuskokwim:				
Bethel	30	200	\$ 6,000	
Nenana	96	400	38,400	
Galena	150	800	120,000	
Iditarod	20	270	5,400	
Totals	296		\$ 169,800	

\$ 1,455,720

Estimated total cost of district operated residential boarding schools