SCOMM

125:38

Bill Analysis
HB 239

Hearing April 18, 2001

Bill Title: "An Act establishing a pilot program for a regional learning center."

Sponsor: Representative Richard Foster

This bill is establishing a pilot program that would help create renewed interest in the possibility of a regional boarding school that would teach vocational skills and other job related skills that are not available in high schools of small isolated communities.

Information and Possible Questions:

1) This bill states that a learning center would benefit students with supplemental programs and training for a career. What type of programs and training are being considered for the learning center?

2) How would this center benefit the social service agencies, economic development organizations, and the community college in the area?

3) What type of fiscal impact will this have? (As no fiscal note is attached).

Available to Testify:

Representative Richard Foster
Dr. John Davis, Superintendent Bering Strait School District
Mary Knodle, City Council, from the Nome LIO
Laverene Smith, City Council, from the Nome LIO

Fiscal Note: This bill had no attached fiscal note.

Alaska House of Representatives

Richard Foster
P.O. Box 1630
Nome, AK 99762
907-443-5036
Fax 907-2162

During Session
State Capitol Rm. 410
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
907-465-3789
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Majority Whip

Put this on for next week

To: Rep. Con Bunde, Chair
House Special Committee on Education

From: Rep. Richard Foster

Re: Scheduling HB 239

Date: April 12, 2001

I respectfully request that the House special Committee on Education schedule HB 239 "An Act establishing a pilot program for a regional learning center."

I am attaching a letter of support from the Nome Common Council, a supporting resolution from the Bering Strait School District Board of Education, and a letter outlining the anticipated scope of the program from Dr. John Davis, Superintendent of the Bering Strait School District.

Thank you for your consideration.

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HB 239

An Act establishing a pilot program for a regional learning center

Sponsor's Statement

The Twenty-first Alaska Legislature through the Legislative Budget and Audit Committee (LB&A) hearings found indications of broad support for regional learning centers. Several communities have expressed interest in creating regional boarding programs focused on the special interests of their region.

The LB&A meeting in Nome helped create a renewed interest in the possibility of a regional boarding school that would teach vocational skills and other job related and living skills that are not available in the high schools of small isolated communities.

The Bering Strait School District and the Nome City School District have been exploring the feasibility of a cooperative program that would utilize the existing Nome Beltz School complex to develop and operate a pilot regional learning program.

The Bering Strait School Board and the Nome Common Council have both taken actions to support the creation of a pilot program and to seek federal funding to help cover program planning and initial operation costs.

A conceptional overview of the program is contained in the March 20, 2001 from, Dr. John Davis, Superintendent of the Bering Strait School District.

DISTRICT OFFICE
BERING STRAIT SCHOOL DISTRICT
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20 March, 2001

The Honorable Richard Foster
The House of Representatives
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau AK 99801-1182

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Dear Representative Foster:

Over the past two months, the Bering Strait School District and the Nome City School District have begun discussions about working together to better serve the students in the region. This letter is to serve as an introduction to our discussions.

The school districts have been talking about developing a regional learning center located in Nome. The learning center would use the available space at the Nome Beltz High School. It would be necessary to refurbish and rehabilitate the student housing and the vocational education facilities.

The two school districts will be seeking support to provide program development for a demonstration project, support to operate the program and funding to remodel living quarters and classroom space.

The primary goal of the center is to support and supplement the local high school programs by expanding the career awareness and skills of students. Eventually, we envision a program that would support the educational program for high school age students and young people looking to complete their high school program or begin training for a career.

The Bering Strait region has several career opportunities that now require significant importation of qualified staff from out of the region and even out of the state. These areas are education, health care, transportation (aviation) and government services (law enforcement). We believe that the development of a program to help introduce students to career opportunities will enhance the region's ability to fill these jobs with local students.

The second aspect of this program is the development of the residential component. Our goal will be to develop a program that will prepare young people to learn the needed skills to live and work independently. In addition, the program will help students earn the basic skills required of a person entering the work force or apprentice program. Currently most apprentice programs require a high school diploma and achievement of the age 18.

The center would expand the opportunity for the public school system, social service agencies (Kawerak), economic develop organizations (NSEDC) and the

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community college to coordinate and maximize services now being provided in the region.

I hope this gives you an overview of our early discussions. Your support and recommendations about how we might generate the required support would be appreciated.

Should you or your staff have any question, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Dr. John A. Davis
Superintendent

cc: C. Weyiouanna, Pres., BSSD Board
S. Swope, Supt., Nome CSD
Nome City Council

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Bering Strait School District

School Board Resolution
01-02-22-01

Whereas the Bering Strait School District Board has annually identified facility needs and,

Whereas the Board has expended the funds to comply with State requirements for needs, assessment, planning and design and,

Whereas the Board has submitted its request to be reviewed for compliance and need as evaluated by the State and,

Whereas the Bering Strait School District has not received State support for new construction or major maintenance to replace several State/BIA structures still occupied and in need of facility upgrades and,

Whereas the needs of the District are important to address life safety codes, unhoused student needs and facility access and,

Whereas the District is unable by law to raise funds by bond issue or direct taxation,

Therefore be it Resolved that the Bering Strait School District Board requests the support of the legislature to support funding of the Capital Improvement Project (CIP) as presented by Education & Early Development Department and,

Further be it Resolved that the Board asks the direct support of the legislative delegation to promote funding for both capital construction and major maintenance projects identified for the Bering Strait School District.

Signed on behalf of the Bering Strait School District Board by:

Clifford Weyiouanna, President — Date 2-23-01

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2001 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number:
Bill Version: HB 239
() Publish Date:

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction):
Dept. Affected: Education & Early Development
Title: An Act establishing a pilot program for a regional learning center.
BRU: K-12 Support
Component: Boarding Home Grants
Sponsor: Rep. Foster
Requester: House Special Committee on Education
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	75.0	311.0	311.0	311.0	0.0	0.0
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	**75.0**	**311.0**	**311.0**	**311.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
CHANGE IN REVENUES ( )						

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF	75.0	311.0	311.0	311.0	0.0	0.0
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type)						
TOTAL	**75.0**	**311.0**	**311.0**	**311.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**

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)*

This legislation would require the department to develop a pilot program for a regional learning center within the Bering Strait School District. The department would establish a contract with a school district to operate the pilot regional learning center. The contract would require the school district to provide the department with periodic reports as to the progress of the pilot project including an assessment of student performance as it relates to the implementation of the project.

Estimated cost include a planning grant of $75,000 in FY02.

Operational grants for FY03 through FY05 will be $311,000 annually.

See attached analysis.

Prepared by: Eddy Jeans, School Finance Manager
Phone 465-8679
Division: Education Support Services
Date/Time 4/24/01 12:00 AM
Approved by: Bruce Johnson, Deputy Commissioner of Education
Date 4/25/01
Agency: Education & Early Development

For distribution information, call the Governor's Legislative Office

(Rev 2/7/2001 OMB)

Fiscal Analysis of HB 239

1) Provides for 2 full time house parents.	**$120,000**
2) 1 Program Coordinator	**75,000**
3) Transportation for students **20 student X 40 units X $300**	**60,000**
4) Food **20students X 40 units X 7 days X $10**	**56,000** **$311,000**

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2-23-01
Date