SCOMM

125:41

Alaska State Legislature

SESSION ADDRESS:
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
(907) 465-4925
Fax: (907) 465-3517
Toll Free: 1-800-821-4925

INTERIM ADDRESS:
112 Mill Bay Road
Kodiak, Alaska 99615
(907) 486-4925
Fax: (907) 486-5264

Representative Gary Stevens

SPONSOR STATEMENT – HB 342
An Act Relating to Appropriations for Operating Expenses for Primary and Secondary Public Education

HB 342 would let school districts know the amount of state aide they will be receiving for the succeeding school year by April 1st of each calendar year.

By state statue, school districts are required to submit funding requests to their municipal governments by May 1st of each year. In many instances, the legislature and the governor have not passed the operating budget until well after the first of May. This situation makes it difficult for school districts to prepare an actual financial plan and puts an added burden on local government officials developing their budgets. Over the years, the uncertainty has also caused school districts to layoff educators only to attempt to hire them again once the final budget has been approved.

HB 342 solves this dilemma in two ways. Section one of the bill requires the governor to submit a separate appropriation bill to the legislature for public elementary and secondary schools before the fourth day of each regular session. It also requires the legislature to pass and transmit to the governor a bill to fund education for the succeeding fiscal year. Section two amends a provision in the Executive Budget Act to reflect that a separate appropriation bill to fund education must be submitted by the governor as part of the budget package.

School districts throughout Alaska are dealing with many issues including recruiting and retaining teachers, meeting new pupil performance standards and inflationary costs. The legislature can assist school districts by giving them early notice of their state funding. Please join me in supporting this bill.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2002 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number:
Bill Version: HB 342
() Publish Date:

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction):
Dept. Affected: Education & Early Development
Title: "An Act relating to appropriations for operating expenses for primary and secondary public education; and ..."
BRU: K-12 Support
Component: Foundation Program
Sponsor: Representative Stevens
Requester: House Special Committee on Education
Component Number: 141

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

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

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
CHANGE IN REVENUES ( )						

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

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

Estimate of any current year (FY2002) cost: 0.0

Check this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2003 budget proposal: [ ]

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: *(Attach a separate page if necessary)*

This bill would require the legislature to make an appropriation for the Public School Funding Program (Foundation Program), by April 1, each year. An early appropriation for the succeeding fiscal year will help school districts as they prepare to submit their budgets to the local municipalities by May 1, as outlined in AS 14.14.060(c).

Prepared by: Eddy Jeans, School Finance Manager
Phone 465-8679
Division: Education & Early Development
Date/Time 02/04/02
Approved by: Ed McLain, Deputy Commissioner
Date 2/5/02
Agency: Education & Early Development

For distribution information, call the Governor's Legislative Office

(Rev 2/7/2001 OMB)

FISCAL NOTE

Bill Analysis:
HB 342

Bill Title: **"Education Funding"**

Sponsor: **Rep. Stevens**

Bill Would:

1) Amends the Executive Budget Act to require the governor to submit a separate appropriation bill to fund education before the fourth day of every legislative session.

2) Requires the Legislature to pass and transmit to the governor a bill to fund education for the next fiscal year by April 1.

3) Rationale for this is that state law requires districts to submit their budgets to their municipal governments by May 1 each year and the current legislative budget cycle makes that difficult.

Possible Questions:

1)

2)

3)

Available to Testify:

1) Bruce Johnson, Association of Alaska School Boards

2) Vern Marshall, NEA

3) Maybe Darroll Hargraves for the Alaska Council of School Administrators

They all have expressed concern that education funding would be better off if it remained in the budget "end game."

Teleconference Sites:

Wrangell, Kotzebue, Kodiak and Anchorage.

1) Dave Jones, Finance Director for the Kodiak School District

2) Betty Walters, Superintendent of the Kodiak School District

3) Eddy Jeans, DEED, will be available

2/12/02: distributed to cmte & House Records ✓

TO: Representative Con Bunde
Chair: House Special Committee on Education
FROM: Rich Kronberg
President: NEA-Alaska
RE: Forward funding of education
DATE: February 12, 2002

NEA-Alaska supports HB 342 that provides for the forward funding of education. Our resolution P-48, adopted by our Delegate Assembly in 1995, says in part:

"NEA-Alaska supports full forward funding of education..."

Our delegates adopted this position for three reasons that I will share in this memorandum.

- Full forward funding of education would be a concrete demonstration that education is a priority of the legislature. By adopting the education budget in the prior year's session, legislators would, in essence, be saying, "We are fulfilling our Constitutional responsibility first, before we deal with other budgetary requests"
- Full forward funding of education will give school districts and their communities the knowledge they need to best utilize the resources they will receive. Planning is an important component in the design of a district's educational delivery model. The current system does not build in such time for planning. School districts have been preparing their budgets for next year since October, but they will not have certainty around their funding until May. The fiscal year for our districts begins in July. Under the current system districts have had only two months to finalize their plans and begin implementation.
- Full forward funding will allow serious bargaining to begin earlier than is currently the case. This will provide more time to work out differences and come to win-win resolutions at the bargaining table.

While we are very much in support of HB 342, we must add that forward funding is not a substitute for adequate funding. We strongly support looking at the legislation presently proposed (SB1, HB 211, HB 312, HB 379) as the bare minimum necessary to move forward with our very ambitious statewide education program. If we are serious about creating the opportunity for all students to meet or exceed standards, then we need to invest significantly more resources in their education.

Appeals Processes for the Alaska Department of Education & Early Development

Under Administrative Procedures Act (APA)	Not Under Administrative Procedures Act (APA)
Teacher Certification Licensing	School funding decisions
Child Care Facility Licensing	Capital improvement project priority decisions
	Special Education placement, identification & evaluation (School district decisions appealed to a state appointed hearing officer)
	Special Education complaint review and investigation (no hearing)
	Preschool Certification
	District bid procedures for school transportation
	Child care assistance eligibility determinations
	*High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Waivers
	*School Designators

*These areas will each have specialized appeal procedures set out in regulation.

LEGAL SERVICES

DIVISION OF LEGAL AND RESEARCH SERVICES
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY
STATE OF ALASKA

(907) 465-3867 or 465-2450
FAX (907) 465-2029
Mail Stop 3101

State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
Deliveries to: 129 6th St., Rm. 329

MEMORANDUM January 22, 2002

SUBJECT: Sectional Summary (HB 342)

TO: Representative Gary Stevens
Attn: Doug Letch

FROM: Tamara Brandt Cook
Director TBC

Sec. 1. Requires the governor before the fourth legislative day to submit a separate appropriation bill to the legislature limited to appropriations for operations of public elementary and secondary schools. Requires the legislature to pass and transmit to the governor by April 1 a bill to fund education for the succeeding fiscal year.

Sec. 2. Amends a provision in the Executive Budget Act to reflect that a separate appropriation bill to fund education must be submitted by the governor as part of the budget package.

TBC:med
02-041.med

SECTIONAL ANALYSIS