

SCOMM

137:19

Alaska State Legislature

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Chair, Judiciary Committee
Vice-Chair, House Committee on
Economic Development,
Trade and Tourism

Member
Oil & Gas Committee

Representative Lesil McGuire *House District 28*

MEMORANDUM

To: Representative Neuman, Special Committee on Education Chair

From: Representative Lesil McGuire

A handwritten signature, likely of Lesil McGuire, is written over the "From:" line. The signature is stylized and appears to be "LM".

Date: February 17, 2005

Re: Request for hearing, HB 140 – *"An Act establishing tuition waiver and voucher program for eligible students who were placed in foster care by the state; and providing for an effective date."*

I respectfully request that HB 140, *"An Act establishing tuition waiver and voucher program for eligible students who were placed in foster care by the state; and providing for an effective date"* be scheduled for a hearing at your earliest convenience. Attached you will find the bill packet containing the most current version of the bill, sponsor statement, background information and letters of the support.

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me personally, or my staff, Shalon Szymanski at (907) 465-6841. Thank you for your time and consideration.

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Chair, Judiciary Committee
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Trade and Tourism

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Oil & Gas Committee

Representative Lesil McGuire *House District 28*

SPONSOR STATEMENT HB 140

"An Act establishing a tuition waiver and voucher program for eligible students who were placed in foster care by the state; and providing for an effective date."

The purpose of HB 140 is to provide up to fifteen annual college and vocational training tuition waivers to young people who were in Alaska Office of Children's Services "OCS" custody on or after their 16th birthday.

This program will be of no cost to the State of Alaska. The Alaska Office of Children Services will utilize funds received pursuant to the Chafee Foster Care Independence Act and collaborate with the University of Alaska and vocational training programs to provide scholarships to eligible students. Funding for this program has been available to the State of Alaska since August of 2003.

Currently, more than 500,000 American children live in foster care. The most current federal data indicates that more than 19,000 youth between the ages of 18 and 21 "aged out" of the foster care system in fiscal 2001 (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services March 2003). These young people often leave the foster care system with few resources and very little support. By providing these college and vocational training waivers, we can help them navigate the transition to adulthood. Investing in their transition to independent living can enable them to achieve self-sufficiency and avoid many of the pitfalls for which they are at risk.

**Chafee Foster Care Independence and Education and Training Vouchers
Programs**

Chafee Foster Care Independence and Education and Training Vouchers Programs Plan of Work

The State of Alaska, Office of Children's Services provides administration, supervision and oversight for the Chafee Foster Care Independence Program and Education and Training Voucher Program. The State of Alaska will cooperate in national evaluations of the effects of the programs in achieving the purposes of the Chafee Foster Care Independence Program.

1. Education or Vocational Training Voucher Program Plan of Work.

Based on the program accomplishments, identified needs and new information, the following work plan is proposed to identify program objectives and activities to establish, expand and strengthen Alaska's Education and Training Voucher Program over the next grant period.

Objective 1: To prepare youth to enter post-secondary education or vocational training programs.

Activities:

1. Beginning at age 16 include education/career goals in youth's transition plan
2. By age 17, develop exit plan that includes a specific education plan and career development plan.
3. Through transition/exit planning process, inform youth of supports available to them for post-secondary education or vocational training.
4. Establish primary contacts between Regional IL specialists and high school administrators/counselors to develop in-school teacher and peer mentor supports for foster youth.
5. Establish regional foster youth advisory boards to help identify educational barriers and activities to eliminate barriers.
6. Develop resource list of tutors and other supports available, including specific Alaska Native supports, for youth in their community.
7. Include training for foster parents and residential care providers on home to school supports for academic success.

Objective 2: To increase enrollment of foster youth and former foster youth in post-secondary education or vocational training programs.

Activities:

1. Complete inventory of programs in the state that meet qualifying criteria for institutions of higher education.
2. Establish primary contacts with institutions and develop formal agreements between OCS and the institution that identifies services, finding including match funding available from the institution, specialized supports for youth, progress reporting requirements.
3. Establish primary contacts with Alaska Native organizations with established youth and job development programs and develop formal agreements to identify services,

finding including match funding available from the institution, specialized supports for youth, progress reporting requirements.

4. Provide individual consultation and help with application process for post-secondary education or vocational training.
5. Include contact information in exit packets for all youth leaving custody identifying OCS staff available to help with applying for education or vocational training programs in the future.
6. Establish primary contacts between Regional IL specialists and high school administrators/counselors to link foster youth to scholarship opportunities.
7. Request federal review of eligibility criteria to allow ETV supports for youth who exited custody prior to their 16th birthday or for youth who have not completed their high school education.
8. Identify eligible former foster youth and develop mailing lists with current contact information through Alaska Permanent Fund application mailing lists. Provide information on ETV funding and supports.
9. Establish opportunities for youth to visit college campuses, job shadow and volunteer when they identify career and education goals in their transition or exit plans.

Objective 3: To increase completion and/or graduation rates of youth enrolled in post-secondary programs.

Activities:

1. Establish a mentoring program for youth entering a post-secondary education or vocational training program that will provide individual mentors for each youth approved for ETV funding. Link Alaska Native mentors/mentees. Mentors will on a regular and periodic basis, contact the youth to check on progress, provide support and, if needed, referrals for services. Youth will be required to participate in the mentoring program for a minimum of one year.
2. Require progress reports for youth receiving ETV funds
3. For youth with multi-year funding programs, require application renewal at the end of each academic year.
4. Develop resource list of tutors and other supports available for youth in their community or school to support post-secondary academic success.
5. Conduct exit interview with all youth who complete their program of study and with all youth who drop out to identify challenges, supports and improvements to the ETV program.
6. Revise application documents and interview process to include financial/budget plans, housing, reference specifically addressing their readiness for post secondary education and vocational training.

Objective 4: To establish and expand scholarship opportunities for foster youth

Activities:

1. Conduct review of University of Alaska Presidential Tuition Waiver Scholarship for Foster Youth with University Financial Aid Office
2. Develop formal MOU with University of Alaska for continuation of scholarship opportunity
3. Develop resource list of scholarship opportunities through Alaska Native organizations
4. Establish Alaska corporate scholarship program for foster youth

2. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program.

Based on program accomplishments, identified needs and new information, the following work plan is proposed to identify program goals, objectives and activities to expand, and strengthen Alaska's Independent Living Program over the next grant period.

Goal (a) – To help youth transition to self-sufficiency.

Objective 1 – Establish staffing and supports for management of the IL program.

Activities:

1. Establish four Regional IL specialists in FY 05.
2. Develop job description and get approval to hire from Department of Administration, Division of Personnel
3. Recruit and hire staff for Anchorage Regional Office, South Central Regional Office, Southeast Regional Office and Northern Regional Office.
4. Identify training requirements
5. Delegated authority for budget, funding and procurement and case management for youth

Objective 2 – Develop state and regional strategic plans to guide IL program.

Activities:

1. Review final reports and resource guides produced by IL Task Force grantees
2. Request updates on outcomes realized as result of planning efforts
3. Building on task force efforts establish regional/community based IL partnerships for IL services, referrals and supports for youth
4. Using five-year plan as a guide, develop specific work plans for each year with timelines, staff responsibility and outcome measures.

Objective 3 – Develop capacity for data collection and evaluation for IL program.

Activities:

1. Schedule training on Online Resources for Children of Alaska (ORCA) for Regional IL Specialists

2. Review national data and outcome requirements when published in the federal register and;
3. Work with ORCA staff to include National data evaluation requirements in system.
4. Using data from the Child Welfare Evaluation Project develop proposal for Alaska Supplement to the ACLSA; evaluate need for specific life skills training or development of life skills curriculum modules for use by state and Alaska Natives and training curriculum for caregivers, SW and others.

Objective 4 – Develop systematic procedures to implement program.

Activities:

On-going, update and review procedures as program changes are made

Objective 5 – To provide necessary training and supports for Social Workers, Supervisors, foster parents, residential care providers and non-state program staff on Independent Living policy/procedures, assessment, transition planning, best practices, youth and adolescent development and behaviors.

Activities:

1. Develop training curriculum and schedule regional "road show" training schedule
2. Develop resource guides/handbooks to for Regional trainings
3. Review "Understanding Adolescents" and new SW curriculum to shift focus from behaviors to practice
4. Provide specific training to SW, foster parents, residential care providers on "youth center" case planning to ensue youth are actively involved in the case planning process
5. Provide supports for Transitional Resource Specialist network
6. Develop conference agenda for Statewide fall 2004 convening
7. Review annually the Alaska Foster Parent Training Center contract to update IL training needs for foster parents
8. Review annually contracts with residential care providers to ensure IL case management needs for youth in residential care are met. Participate in program reviews.

Objective 6 – To authorize a range of transitional housing/living options for youth through licensing policy and procedures.

Activities:

1. Set augmented rates for IL licensing specialization
2. Develop regulations to implement Supervised Apartment Living license
3. Develop placement criteria for youth who would benefit from Transitional Living programs
4. Develop program for graduated Transitional Living Program for youth 16 to 21
5. Develop formal partnerships with federal Transitional Living grantees for placement and community supports for foster youth

Objective 7 – To develop a statewide assessment for youth as a component of the case planning process.

Activities:

1. Review active case files to determine frequency of ACLSA completion
2. Review active case files to determine use in developing case plans
3. Identify barriers to ACLSA use
4. Set schedule for regular ACLSA training

Objective 8 – To Provide individual funds for youth to support their transition from foster care to self-sufficiency.

Activities:

1. Develop separate "Request for Funds" form for IL funds
2. Delegate approval for expenditure of funds to Regional IL Specialists
3. Develop guidelines for purchase of goods/services
4. Audit procurement process to ensure funds are disburse to youth in a timely manner
5. Develop Regional resource lists of service providers with expertise in counseling, tutoring etc., for foster youth ages 14 and older.
6. Conduct periodic review of "benefits charts" to make sure they meet the needs of youth
7. Inform SW, foster parents, residential care providers about available services and supports through the IL program on a regular basis.

Objective 9 – To provide opportunities for youth and alumni to influence system improvements.

Activities:

1. Provide on-going supports to establish Youth Advisory Board through recruitment of youth as needed, setting yearly schedule for retreats, implementation supports for YAB work plans
2. Develop process to incorporate YAB system improvements recommendations into IL program planning
3. Define and support YAB advocacy role and activities

Goal (b) – To help youth receive the training education and services necessary to obtain employment

Objective 1 – To provide youth with a variety of opportunities to explore career and employment opportunities.

Activities:

1. Complete cost benefit analysis of Independent Living Institute and Computer camp, including evaluations from youth who have attended the events.
2. Develop regional and community-based life skills training opportunities for youth in care

3. Through Regional IL specialists, establish partnerships with local high schools for youth to explore "career" opportunities

Objective 2 – To identify career goals, outcomes and necessary supports for each youth in foster care.

Activities:

1. Regional IL Specialist review of individual case plans with foster youth to ensure career goals and learning plans are developed
2. Provide training and supports to youth on "youth centered" case planning to ensure youth are actively involved in developing their transition and exit plans.
3. Provide opportunities for youth to explore career goals through apprenticeships, job shadowing and employment opportunities.
4. Develop training and supports for SW, care providers and others on transition and exit planning process that highlights career goal identification and learning plans to support goals.

Goal (c) – To help youth prepare for and enter post secondary training and educational institutions.

Objective 1 – To identify education goals and needs in case planning.

Activities:

1. Regional IL Specialist review of individual case plans with foster youth to ensure education goals and learning plans are developed
2. Develop training and supports for SW, care providers and others on transition and exit planning process that highlights education goals and learning plans to support goals.
3. Provide training and supports to youth on "youth centered" case planning to ensure youth are actively involved in developing their transition and exit plans.

Objective 2 – To increase the number of foster youth who complete high school.

Activities:

1. Through Regional IL specialists, establish partnerships with schools to provide in-school teacher and adult/peer mentoring supports for foster youth.
2. Review policy for youth to "require" high school graduation as a condition of self-emancipation
3. Provide individual tutoring, school based study sessions for foster youth to meet and pass requirements for high school exit exam.
4. See also Education and Training Voucher work plan

Goal (d) – To provide personal and emotional support to youth through mentors and the promotion of interactions with dedicated adults.

Objective 1 – To provide mentors for youth in school settings to promote educational success

Activities:

1. Establish partnerships with local school districts to provide on-site school adult mentors for foster youth
2. Establish community or school base peer support groups for foster youth

Objective 2 – To provide mentors for youth to help them acquire and strengthen daily living skills

Activities:

1. Monitor current mentoring grants awarded in FY 04 with continuation options in FY 05 and 06 to ensure grantees meet special grant conditions.
2. Review and renew continuation grants in 05 and 06 with changes to grant conditions as needed.

Objective 3 – To provide mentors for youth enrolled in post-secondary education and vocational training programs.

Activities

1. Explore contract with Orphan Foundation to provide mentoring services for youth receiving ETV funds
2. Establish a mentoring program for youth entering post-secondary education or vocational training (see ETV Work Plan – Objective 3).

Goal (e) – To provide financial, housing, counseling, employment, education and other appropriate support and services to former foster care recipients between the age of 18 and 21 years of age.

Objective 1 – To extend IL funds, services and supports to youth age 18 to 21.

Activities:

1. Audit procurement process to ensure funds are disbursed to youth in a timely manner
2. Conduct periodic review of “benefits charts” to make sure they meet the needs of youth
3. Develop procedures and authority to shift approval and procurement process for out-of-custody funds from Central office IL coordinator to Regional IL Specialists.

Objective 2: To provide case management for youth no longer in custody.

1. Continue case management grant with Covenant House through 05, develop new grant Request for Proposal for case management services for FY 06 – 08.
2. Develop procedures and authority to shift case management services from Central Office IL coordinator to Regional IL staff.

Objective 3 – To provide transitional housing options for youth who need housing and supports when the leave custody.

See Goal (a), Objective 6.

Goal (f) – To make available vouchers for education and training, including postsecondary education to youth who have aged out of foster care

See ETV work plan, Objectives 1 and 2

Services to Youth Ages 18 – 21

Please refer to Goal (e) Objectives 1 and 2

Room and Board:

Alaska defined "room and board" in the first five year plan as 1st months rent and security/damage deposit for youth who age out of custody at 18 and have not yet reached age of 21. During the next four years, the definition was expanded to allow for: (1) crises housing assistance (up to \$850) for youth who have lost their job and need assistance with rent until another job is secured; and (2) housing assistance (up to \$1,500 maximum) where up to three months rental assistance is provided at 100% of 1st months rent, 50% of 2nd months rent and 25% of 3rd months rent. Youth must have in been in care for at least six months and on their 18th birthday to be eligible for housing assistance and provide verification of employment, pending employment or other financial support. This housing support has assisted youth who have obtained some stability through employment, pending employment or other financial support, it does not address needs of youth who need housing for longer periods of time, while they are finishing high school or need a more structured living environment after they leave foster care.

3.Services for youth. Description of how the sate will serve youth of various ages and at various stages of achieving independence.

Youth under age 16. Child Protection Services Policy requires that beginning at age 14 youth in custody are required to have a case plan that includes completion of the Ansell-Casey Life Skills assessment. At age 14 the focus of the ACLSA is on basic life skills that include areas such as personal and self-care, cooking and cleaning, time management. The case plan must also consider objectives that address transition from foster care to self-sufficiency. Youth age 14 and older are eligible to access Independent Living funds for goods and services to support acquisition or improvement of life skills. Additionally, case plans must address school progress, achievements and needed improvements. Independent Living funds can also be request for tutoring and other school supports not provided through the school district or not identified in the youth's Individual Education Plan. IL case management and services are provided by the primary social worker in partnership with foster or residential care providers. Youth who live in the Anchorage area can also receive case management services through a

grant with the youth and job development program at Covenant House. Authority to access IL funds and develop and review IL objectives for individual case plans will be delegated to the Regional IL Specialist when the hiring and placement process is complete.

Youth age 16 to 18. Youth at age 16 are required to take the Ansell-Casey Life Skills Assessment and OCS recommends that youth take the assessment every six months. New OCS policy requires that youth have a transition plan at age 16 and an exit plan at age 17. Youth can access Independent Living funds to support the activities identified in their transition and exit plans and can apply for ETV funds if they have completed high school or obtained a GED. Youth are also eligible to attend the Independent Living Institute and Computer Camp. IL case management and services are provided by the primary social worker in partnership with foster or residential care providers. Youth who live in the Anchorage area can also receive case management services through a grant with the youth and job development program at Covenant House. Authority to access IL funds and develop and review individual transition and exit plans will be delegated to the Regional IL Specialist when the hiring and placement process is complete.

Youth age 18 through 20. With the passage and signing of legislation allowing the state to provide services to youth over age 18, this age group is eligible to apply for IL funds and is also eligible for the new ETV funds. Currently youth who are accessing IL funds left custody before the policy change requiring youth have an exit plan that identifies and plans for how IL and ETV funding will be used. Case management and planning for services and supports is currently provided directly by the IL program coordinator and for youth who live in the Anchorage area through a grant with the youth and job development program at Covenant House. Authority to access out of custody IL funds and develop and review individual transition and exit plans will be delegated to the Regional IL Specialist when the hiring and placement process is complete.

Youth likely to remain in foster care. For youth who enter OCS custody at age 16 or who reach age 16 while in custody, the SW and permanency evaluation team would consider the youth's goals, the families' progress towards regaining custody and pending proceedings regarding permanency, such as adoption or self-emancipation. SW may identify the permanency goal as independent living. Youth who are likely to have the goal of independent living are youth who have entered OCS custody on or after age 16.

4. Involvement of the public and private sector. Description of how the State involves the public and private sectors in helping adolescents in foster care achieve self-sufficient independence;

and

5. Consultation with Stakeholders. Description of how the State involves Alaska Native Tribes, public and private organizations in development of the plan.

In July 2000, a statewide planning meeting for key stakeholders – including Tribes and public/private organizations providing services to youth was held. The meeting resulted in the development of a strategic plan to guide program development. In 2001, grants were provided to support five regional Community Task Forces in the communities of Fairbanks, Anchorage, Juneau, Barrow and Mat-Su. These community efforts focused on serving youth both within their respective communities and outlying regions, allowing consideration of the diverse needs in the state, which can vary greatly from region to region. Each task force was required to actively solicit input and membership of Alaska Native organizations. One task force grantee was the Fairbanks Native Association. The FY 05-09 draft plan will be distributed to the original task force grantees so that the regional priorities identified through their efforts can be included in the statewide plan.

An important partnership between Casey Family Programs and the state has developed over the past four years. Casey has provided funds, in-kind support and collaborative planning that has been critical for implementation of the IL program. OCS and Casey have developed a joint work plan and the goals and objectives of that plan have been incorporated into the state plan.

In FY 04, the State in partnership with Casey Family Programs established the Alaska Youth Advisory Board. The Board has held two retreats and two more are scheduled in June and August of 2004. One of the goals of the Board is to advocate for systems change for foster youth. Youth will have an opportunity to comment on the plan at the June retreat and as the Board becomes more active they can request that the plan be updated to include their recommendations.

The IL Program Coordinator participates in the annual statewide ICWA conference and is scheduled on the agenda each year for presentations and updates on the IL program. A draft of the five-year plan is sent directly to Tribal ICWA coordinators for review and comment.

OCS grantees are asked directly to comment on the five-year plan. The IL program has 5 active grants – four mentoring and one case management grant. Comments on the draft plan are also solicited from foster parents through the Alaska Foster Parent Training Academy and from residential facilities that have residential care contracts with OCS.

6. Service Coordination. Description of how the State coordinates with “other Federal and State programs for youth; consults and coordinates with Alaska Native Tribes and ensures benefits are made available to Alaska Native youth.

(i) Alaska does not contract out specific IL services, but uses a system of referrals for services. Primary referrals are to state, federal or community providers. Referrals may include mental health assessment and services, counseling, health care through community health centers or Native Health Corporations, housing assistance through the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation (HUD, Section 8, public housing authority for Alaska), drug and

substance abuse treatment programs, employment services and vocational training programs. The IL coordinator has participated in two task forces focused on youth sponsored by the Division of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities and the Department of Education and Early Development.

(2) IL benefits are made available to all Native youth in OCS foster care through their primary caseworker, foster or residential care provider. There are 262 federally recognized tribes in Alaska. Alaska Natives are 16 percent of the population, but compromise a much higher percentage of the population in rural Alaska. Natives are a majority in approximately 176 villages and small cities and are a substantial part of the population in over 200 communities. Only one of these cities is located within a "reservation" common to the lower 48. Organized municipal governments may govern native communities and have Native Councils with federally approved Indian Reorganization Act councils. Almost all of the villages have village corporations formed pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act and may also be served by one or more regional non-profit organizations, which provide services to Alaska Natives.

Consulting with Native Tribes is no small task in Alaska. Primary contact for purposes of providing services to foster youth is through the Indian Child Welfare workers and coordinators; and through direct contact with youth services providers in Native Corporations, Councils or Indian Health Organizations. An example of this is the recent partnerships between Case Family Programs, OCS and the Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (CCTHITA). Working together funds and supports were pooled between the ETV funding, CCTHITA youth development program and Casey Family Programs to send a former foster Native youth to a college in Colorado. As a result of this contact, the group has gone on to provide team IL presentations, joint case management for youth; and planning for community supports for housing, job training and development. Service coordination through the Regional OCS offices is primarily sustained through worker-to-worker contact. Service coordination could be enhanced through establishing primary partnerships.

Identified Needs: Establishing primary contacts between each of the Native organizations, corporations or village councils and corresponding OCS Regional IL specialists.

IL funds may be used to purchase services that are not available through community or other public providers. If SW identifies services that are not available in a community, or gaps in services, the IL coordinator will work with agencies to build service capacity.

7. Medicaid Services. Description of how the State has used Medicaid to provide services to youth ages 18 to 21.

Through an existing State Medicaid program, Denali KidCare any youth who reaches age 18 in the foster care system may continue Medicaid coverage until age 20 if they meet income

eligibility guidelines. Another program, under 21 Medicaid, is available for youth age 20; however income limits are more stringent. As part of the transition/exit planning process, youth are informed about health insurance programs and are walked through the eligibility determination and application process. Discussions with youth about the importance of preventive health care, regular and periodic checkups and treatment of illness and injury are included in the agenda for the Independent Living Conference.

8. Determining Eligibility. Discussion of the criteria the State uses for determining eligibility for benefits and services under the IL and ETV programs, including the process for developing the criteria.

Through Child Protective Services Policy and Procedures, any youth in OCS custody beginning at age 14 is eligible for IL services and supports. Need for services is established through the case planning process beginning with the administration of the Ansell-Casey Life Skills assessment, development of a transition and/or exit plan that identifies goals and outcomes to be achieved, develops a learning plan and authorizes the procurement of needed services and supports. Social workers have primary responsibility for this process in partnership with the youth and caregiver and if appropriate the youth's birth family. This criterion was developed through review and approval process for policy and procedures.

The State has authorized IL and ETV supports can be extended to youth who are no longer in custody. The law states that youth ages 16 to 21 are can apply for benefits. The State has refined eligibility criteria to stipulate that youth must have been in custody for at least six months. Room and Board supports are allowed only for youth who left OCS custody at age 18 as per federal guidelines. These criteria were developed through legislative hearings and through passage of a bill and signature into law by the Governor in June 2002.

IL and ETV funds are directly available for youth to purchase goods and services. Criteria and limits on the use of these funds are established through published "Benefits Charts." The benefits charts are continually reviewed to make sure they are reasonable and meet the needs of youth. Benefits are based primarily on the federal guidelines for IL and ETV funds.

9. Fair and Equitable Services. Discussion of how the state ensures fair and equitable treatment of benefit recipients.

Alaska has established policy and procedures to direct the Alaska IL Program. Funds are assigned to each Regional office to support procurement of goods and services for youth in custody and funds for youth no longer in custody are distributed through the Central Office IL coordinator. SW staff in each Regional Office have assigned responsibility for implementing IL program policy and procedure if they have youth age 14 and above in their caseload. Training and supports are provided to staff through a statewide training system and to foster parents through the Alaska Foster Parent Training Center. Staff for residential care facilities are included in training opportunities.

Technical support and training on an as needed basis is available through the IL Program Coordinator for staff, residential care providers, and foster parents. Grants to private and non-profit organizations for mentoring, case management and other services are used to extend services directly to youth. The IL Program Coordinator is responsible for program oversight, service coordination, grant management and planning, and program development. In FY 05, the program will be expanded to place a Regional IL Specialist in each Regional Office. These staff will report directly to the IL Program Coordinator. This system of staffing, training, supports and program coordination ensures all eligible youth are identified, assessment and case planning is accomplished, and IL services are identified and provided to youth.

10. Public Comment. Description of how comments from the public, (both written and oral) influenced the content of the plan.

A draft plan was made available to all service providers, state staff, public and private program partners, Alaska Native Tribal organizations, the Alaska Foster Youth Advisory Board and the general public for comment. Comments, both written and oral, were accepted, reviewed and incorporated into the plan if appropriate. Comments were also solicited on an on-going basis on barriers to services, program improvements and identified needs. During FY 04, the following meetings, trainings and conferences were used as a forum to offer the opportunity to comment on the pending five year plan: Tribal/State meetings, Residential Care Providers annual meeting, Licensing staff annual meeting, IL program grantee RFP process, Casey Family Programs/OCS work plan development, Ansell-Casey Life Skills Certification Training.

Individual conversations with foster parents, youth, staff, public school teachers, counselors, services providers and others were also used as opportunities to gather information on program improvements.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2006 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: _____
 Bill Version: HB140-DHSS-OCS-02-06-06

() Publish Date: _____

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): 02/06/2006

Dept. Affected: Health & Social Services

Title TUITION WAIVERS AND VOUCHERS FOR
FOSTER CHILDREN

RDU Children's Services

Component Foster Care Special Need

Sponsor MCGUIRE

Requester HOUSE (EDU)

Component No. 2238

Expenditures/Revenues

(Thousands of Dollars)

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

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
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CHANGE IN REVENUES (0)						
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FUND SOURCE

(Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other(Specify Type-do not abbreviate)						
Other(Specify Type-do not abbreviate)						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2006) cost: _____

Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2007 budget proposal: ☐

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS:

(Attach a separate page if necessary)

Currently the University of Alaska provides on a year-to-year basis, five tuition waiver scholarships for youth who were in the care and custody of the Office of Children's Services (OCS). Scholarship applications are reviewed and awarded through OCS. Youth must meet the eligibility criteria for participation in the state's Foster Care Transition Program (AS.47.18.300-390); and be accepted for admission to the University of Alaska. These scholarships cover the cost of tuition only and are awarded for eight semesters of study or completion of a degree/certificate program, whichever comes first. (cont. on page 2)

Prepared by: Sherry Hill, Special Assistant

Division Office of the Commissioner

Approved by: Karleen Jackson, Commissioner

Agency Department of Health and Social Services

Phone (907) 465-1618

Date/Time 02/06/2006

Date 02/06/2006

FISCAL NOTE
FN #

STATE OF ALASKA
2006 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB140-DHSS-OCS-02-06-06

ANALYSIS CONTINUATION

(cont. from page 1)

In addition to expanding the scholarship program, HB 140 establishes an Education Voucher program designed to pay for undergraduate fees, housing, meals and other education related expenses. Since the funding for this program is determined by federal allocation, there is no fiscal impact for the Office of Children's Services.

HB 140 would (1) increase the number of scholarships available from 5 to 15; (2) establish a tuition waiver scholarship program as a permanent opportunity for youth in foster care; and extend the scholarship opportunity to include other state-supported post-secondary and vocational education programs. HB 140 would also extend the scholarship program to youth who were or are in custody of the Division of Juvenile Justice. The fiscal cost of providing these scholarships does not affect the department.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2005 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: _____
Bill Version: HB140-DHSS-OCS-04-12-05

() Publish Date: _____

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____

Dept. Affected: Health & Social Services

Title TUITION WAIVERS AND VOUCHERS FOR
FOSTER CHILDREN

RDU Children's Services

Component Foster Care Special Need

Sponsor MCGUIRE

Requester HOUSE (EDU)

Component No. 2238

Expenditures/Revenues

(Thousands of Dollars)

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

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
-----------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

CHANGE IN REVENUES (0)						
-------------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

FUND SOURCE

(Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other(Specify Type-do not abbreviate)						
Other(Specify Type-do not abbreviate)						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2005) cost: _____

Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2006 budget proposal: ☐

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Currently the University of Alaska provides on a year-to-year basis, five tuition waiver scholarships for youth who were in the care and custody of the Office of Children's Services (OCS). Scholarship applications are reviewed and awarded through OCS. Youth must meet the eligibility criteria for participation in the state's Foster Care Transition Program (AS.47.18.300-390); and be accepted for admission to the University of Alaska. These scholarships cover the cost of tuition only and are awarded for eight semesters of study or completion of a degree/certificate program, whichever comes first. (cont. on page 2)

Prepared by: Sherry Hill, Special Assistant
Division: Office of the Commissioner
Approved by: Joel S. Gilbertson, Commissioner
Agency: Department of Health and Social Services

Phone (907) 465-1618
Date/Time 04/12/2005
Date 04/12/2005

FISCAL NOTE
FN #

STATE OF ALASKA
2005 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB140-DHSS-OCS-04-12-05

ANALYSIS CONTINUATION

(cont. from page 1)

In addition to expanding the scholarship program, HB 140 establishes an Education Voucher program designed to pay for undergraduate fees, housing, meals and other education related expenses. Since the funding for this program is determined by federal allocation, there is no fiscal impact for the Office of Children's Services.

HB 140 would (1) increase the number of scholarships available from 5 to 15; (2) establish a tuition waiver scholarship program as a permanent opportunity for youth in foster care; and extend the scholarship opportunity to include other state-supported post-secondary and vocational education programs. HB 140 would also extend the scholarship program to youth who were or are in custody of the Division of Juvenile Justice. The fiscal cost of providing these scholarships does not affect the department.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2005 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number:

Bill Version:

HB140-EED-ESS-04-12-05

() Publish Date:

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction):

Title "An Act establishing a tuition waiver and voucher-
ing, and intervention program related to the hearing of newborns"

Dept. Affected: Education & Early Development

RDU

TLS

Component Student and School Achievement

Sponsor House Special Committee of Education

Requester Education Special Committee

Component No.

2796

Expenditures/Revenues

(Thousands of Dollars)

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

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011
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	*	*	*	*	*
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate)						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2005) cost: 0.0

Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2006 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

The Department of Education & Early Development identifies no costs at this time.

Prepared by: Barbara Thompson, Director

Division: Teaching & Learning Support

Approved by: Karen Rehfeld, Deputy Commissioner

Agency: Education & Early Development

Phone: 465-8727

Date/Time: 4/12/05 9:46 AM

Date: 04/12/2005



HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 106

MEMORANDUM

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Rep. Mark Neuman,
Chairman
Room 432
465-3820

Rep. Carl Gatto
Vice-Chair
Room 411
465-3743

Rep. Bob Lynn
Room 415
465-4931

Rep. Bill Thomas
Room 428
465-3732

Rep. Peggy Wilson
Room 108
465-3824

Rep. Les Gara
Room 418
465-2647

Rep. Woodie Salmon
Room 114
465-4527

Date: February 2, 2006

To: Members of House Special Committee on Education

From: Representative Mark Neuman, Chairman *BN*
House Special Committee on Education

Re: Scheduled bills in Education Committee

Thursday, February 9, 2006, at 11:00 a.m. in Room 106

HB 140 TUITION WAIVERS FOR FOSTER CHILDREN
Representative McGuire

HB 345 RAISE COMP SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AGE TO 17
Representative Weyhrauch

** Committee will be taking public testimony **

** Meetings will be teleconferenced **

Committee hearings may be postponed to 5:30 p.m.
depending on length of floor session.

Beth Schneider

From: Chris Wyatt [chris_wyatt@gov.state.ak.us]
Sent: Tuesday, February 07, 2006 1:46 PM
To: Beth Schneider
Subject: Re: Fiscal Notes requested - HB 140; HB 345
Attachments: HB140-DHSS-OCS-02-06-06.pdf

Here is one from HSS. I am still waiting for the University.....

Beth Schneider wrote:

Hi Chris,
Any luck with HB 140 I need to have copies to the committee by tomorrow morning.

Thanks,
Beth

From: Chris Wyatt [mailto:chris_wyatt@gov.state.ak.us]
Sent: Thursday, February 02, 2006 9:56 AM
To: Beth Schneider
Subject: Re: Fiscal Notes requested - HB 140; HB 345

Here is HB 345.... I will find out where 140 is.....Chris

Beth Schneider wrote:

RE: HB 140; HB 345 - scheduled for February 9