

SCOMM

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ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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REPRESENTATIVE ELDON MULDER
DISTRICT 23 MULDOON-Ft. RICHARDSON



MEMORANDUM

DATE: 02 March, 1995

TO: Rep. Pete Kott, Co-Chair
Rep. Ivan Ivan, Co-Chair
House Special Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs

FROM: Rep. Eldon Mulder

RE: HB 166

I respectfully request that the House Special Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs schedule a hearing on HB 166, relating to special appropriations to D.O.E. for the construction and upgrade of schools on military installations. I have attached copies of the legislation, a sponsor statement and other backup information. The State Department of Education is also currently compiling a position statement which will be forwarded to your office upon completion. Please contact my office if you have any questions. Thank you.

Sponsor Statement HB 166

OVERVIEW

For several years, schools on Alaskan military facilities have been the subject of controversy between local school districts, the State Department of Education, the U. S. Department of Education (USDOE) and the Department of Defense (DOD). These schools are operated by local school districts, but are owned by the USDOE and have reached a point of serious deterioration. In 1990, General McInerney held a conference on military schools that established a memorandum of agreement between the USDOE and the state, by which USDOE would provide funding to upgrade the schools in question and then transfer ownership to the local districts.

Since this agreement, some funds have been provided from the federal government but, have been too little and subject to many conditions. Two schools, Taylor and Pennell Elementary Schools (Eielson AFB), received \$3.9 million for upgrades. The deterioration of these facilities was so severe however, the school district determined that building a new elementary school would be more cost-effective. Consequently, these funds are being held until the balance needed for new construction is received. The construction of this new school is number one on the priority list of military schools in Alaska. Ursa Major Elementary School (Ft. Richardson) received \$4.9 million for construction in 1992 and has since been transferred to the Anchorage School District.

In May of 1993, the Alaska Legislature established the Military Schools Task Force. In October of that year the Task Force met and reviewed maintenance requests, cost estimates and other pertinent information. After compiling an up-to-date list of projects and cost estimates, the Task Force determined that depending on the federal government to fund upgrades would be a lengthy process. During the waiting period, children attending these schools would continue to suffer and Alaska could damage its position in attempting to retain its bases during the ongoing Base Re-Alignment and Closure process. From this, the Task Force developed the idea of a matching fund program with the federal government. Under this plan, the state and federal government would each contribute 50% of the costs for upgrades and new construction. HB 166 is the result of these deliberations.

Finally, In October of 1993, Congress designated \$7.5 million of a \$10 million allocation to DOD for military schools in Alaska. This money was designated for upgrades only and could not be used to build the new school on Eielson AFB so was allocated for construction at Anderson Elementary (Eielson) and Mt. Iliamna Preschool (Elmendorf).

WHAT HB 166 DOES

In Section 1, HB 166 appropriates \$6,800,000 (or a lesser amount, contingent upon what the federal government agrees to match on a dollar for dollar basis) from the general fund to the Department of Education to fund the construction of a new elementary school at Eielson AFB. This school would replace Taylor and Pennell Elementaries, which are too deteriorated for upgrade.

Section 2 appropriates \$17,700,000 (or a lesser amount, contingent upon what the federal government agrees to match on a dollar for dollar basis) from the general fund to the Department of Education to fund upgrades on the six schools remaining on the Task Force construction list.

Brief Account of Quest to Transfer On-Base Military Schools to Local Districts

- In Jun 90, Alaskan Command hosted a conference during which the attendees developed plan to repair/renovate on-base schools and turn over ownership to the local school districts
 - Attended by representatives from DoD, USDOE, AK Board of Education, AK State Legislature, military commanders, staff and school superintendents
 - Goal: complete school transfers in 3-5 years
- Sep 90: ADOE provided prioritized list of 15 schools
 - Schools at Kodiak and Ft Greely were not included on list since they had been allocated funding earlier by USDOE; they were subsequently transferred
 - A joint effort between DOD and Alaska provided a new school at Ft Wainwright to replace Chena and Birch Elementaries (school opened Aug 93)
 - Mission change at Adak eliminated two schools from original list of 15
- Oct 92: USDOE allocated \$4.9M for Ursa Major (Ft Rich)
 - School was transferred last year
- May 93: AK Legislature established Military Schools Task Force which met in Sep/Oct
 - Estimated \$52.2M needed to build one school (to replace two elementaries) and upgrade 8 others
 - Recommended State Legislature pass special appropriations bill for up to 50% of cost
 - Recommended school districts accept title when 100% funds were obligated
- Oct 93: \$7.5M of \$10M DOD appropriations bill to "bring military schools to a condition of acceptance by local school districts for transfer of ownership" allocated to AK
 - Inherent restrictions due to O&M funding (new construction limited to \$300,000 per school)
 - Money being applied to Anderson Elementary (Eielson) and Mt Iliamna Preschool (Elmendorf) because they do not require major construction to meet transfer requirements
 - Design is in progress now on both schools, and work will be accomplished this summer by local contractors (American Mechanical for Anderson, and Nuna Contractors for Mt Iliamna) before start of new school year
 - USDOE lawyers are initiating transfer procedures
- Remaining requirement: \$49M to build replacement school and upgrade 6 others
 - Cost figure based on new surveys prepared by Anchorage School District and North Star Borough facilities offices in Sep 94
 - Includes \$3.9M previously allocated by DOE and earmarked for new school building to replace Taylor and Pennell (Eielson)

Estimated Cost of Upgrades Required to Transfer DOD Schools--As of Sep 94

New School to replace Taylor and Pennell (Eielson): \$13.6M (all new construction)

Upgrade Aurora Elem (Elmendorf): \$5.1M (\$3.1M is new construction)

Upgrade Ben Eielson Jr/Sr High (Eielson): \$8.1M (no new construction)

Upgrade Ursa Minor Elem (Ft Rich): \$6.2M (\$2.2M is new construction)

Upgrade Orion Elem (Elmendorf): \$4.3M (\$2.9M is new construction)

Upgrade J F Kennedy Elem (Ft Rich): \$5.3M (\$3.1M is new construction)

Upgrade Mt Spurr Elem (Elmendorf): \$6.4M (\$5.2M is new construction)

TOTAL: \$49.0M (\$30.1M is new construction)

School Populations

Aurora Elementary (Elmendorf): 548

Ben Eielson Jr/Sr High (Eielson): 249/347, for total of 596

J F Kennedy Elementary (Ft Rich): 178

Mt Spurr Elementary (Elmendorf): 368

Orion Elementary (Elmendorf): 533

Pennell Elementary (Eielson): 271

Taylor Elementary (Eielson): 243

Ursa Minor Elementary (Ft Rich): 228

Notes: Elmendorf and Ft Rich numbers are the population counts on 31 Jan 95.
Eielson numbers are the official enrollment 20-day averages.

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

(7)

Date Referred: February 8, 1995

FURTHER REFERRALS:

HESS
Finance

Date of Committee Action: 3-13-95

The HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON MILITARY & VETERANS' AFFAIRS Committee considered:
HB 166

HOUSE BILL NO. 166

APPROP: CONSTRUCT/UPGRADE ON-BASE SCHOOLS

"An Act making special appropriations to the Department of Education for construction or upgrade of schools on military installations; and providing for an effective date."

recommends it be replaced ☐ the same title
with the following committee substitute ☐ a new title

☐ additional referral to _____ Committee
☐ attached amendment(s)

ADOPTS: _____ Letter of Intent

ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(s): (Dept)

APPROVES PREVIOUS: (Dept/Date)

☐ fiscal note(s) _____ ☐ fiscal note(s) _____

☐ zero fiscal note(s) _____ ☐ zero fiscal note(s) _____

SIGNING WITH RECOMMENDATIONS	DP	DNP	NR	AM
<i>Pete Lott</i>	✓			
<i>Ed Willis</i>			✓	
<i>Ed Willis</i>	✓			
<i>Ed Willis</i>	✓			

CHAIR'S SIGNATURE

Pete Lott *Ed Willis*



Official Business

COMMITTEE:

House Special Committee on
Military & Veterans Affairs

DATE: 2-13-95

Subject of meeting:

HB 166: Approp: Construct / Upgrade On-Bus Schools

SIGN - IN

PLEASE PRINT!

NAME

ADDRESS

(MAILING) & (ZIP)

PHONE

REPRESENTING

DO YOU WANT TO TESTIFY?

[illegible]