

ALASKA LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE FILES 1991-1992 8672

6872 HOUSE HEALTH EDUCATION & SOCIAL SERVICES

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NEA-ALASKA

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April 21, 1992

TO: Rep. Pat Carney & Rep. Georgianna Lincoln, Co-Chairs and members of the House HES Committee.

FROM: Don Oberg *Don*

RE: HB 581 & HB 582

NEA-Alaska is supportive of HB 581 & HB 582, establishing and appropriating needed funds for an education facilities financing authority as a public corporation of the State of Alaska within the Department of Education.

It is well known that there are many school districts facing serious building needs, including overdue and necessary building repairs to meet student housing needs.

HB 581 provides a viable and responsible mechanism to assist school districts to meet those needs.

NEA-AK believes Sec. 44.27.140(b)(1), which provides for reimbursements of up to 70 percent of net payments for retirement of principal and interest on bonds, should be raised to a higher level so that more districts will be able to make the needed commitment.

In summary, this is a positive step toward meeting the financial obligations of Alaska toward providing adequate public school for Alaska students.

Thank you for your consideration of our position.

SUMMARY

Alaska Education Facilities Financing Program - HB581/582

OBJECTIVES:

1. Provide for the funding of critical projects from DOE's school construction priority list that otherwise could not occur in this year's capital budget.
2. Resume funding of net debt service for school bonds of organized municipalities at the 70% level, so that these communities (which are generally not at the top of the priority list) can receive necessary State assistance in school construction. Create a mechanism so that this funding is "credited" to the municipality's bond rating as it was not in the past.
3. Keep this funding off the budget, which can't accommodate it in any event (hence the talk of G.O. bonding).
4. Continue the policy that municipalities not be allowed to utilize the State's credit for future debt service at will, but only for school facilities that have been expressly approved by the DOE and the Legislature.
5. Fund necessary school construction by means other than G.O. bonds.
6. Protect the Permanent Fund Earnings Reserve Account from growing pressure to dissipate it on operating budget shortfalls.

The legislation meets all these goals. Similar mechanisms are used in other States (Texas) and in many municipal situations in the Midwest.

SUMMARY

1. Establish the Education Facilities Finance Authority (EFFA) within the Department of Education, and the Education Facilities Fund ("EF Fund") as an asset of the authority, subject to reappropriation. The EFFA would:
 - a. Sell EFFA revenue bonds (which could carry the State's Moral Obligation) to finance construction of rural schools upon approval of specific projects by the State Board of Education and by the Legislature.
 - b. Pay up to 70% of net debt service on municipal bonds issued to finance municipal school facilities and up to 100% of net debt service on University of Alaska bonds, provided that each specific facility has been approved by the Legislature for a specified level of reimbursement, and by the State Board of Education (in the case of municipal projects).
 - c. Receive appropriated funds from the Legislature annually and apply these proceeds to debt service on EFFA bonds and to the specified percentage of net debt service on authorized municipal school bonds and University bonds.

NEWS RELEASE

STATE OF ALASKA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
P.O. BOX 110001
JUNEAU, AK 99811-0001

WALTER J. HICKEL
GOVERNOR



FOR INFORMATION CONTACT

JOHN MANLY
PRESS SECRETARY

JOHN HENDRICKSON
ASSISTANT PRESS SECRETARY

(907) 465-3500
FAX (907) 586-8369

FOR RELEASE: April 9, 1992
No. 92-060

MOODY'S AFFIRMS ALASKA BOND RATING

JUNEAU--Moody's Investors Service (Moody's), a nationally-recognized credit rating firm, has informed the State of Alaska that the rating of Aa assigned to the general obligation debt of the state has been affirmed.

"We are pleased with the end result of this rating process," said Governor Walter J. Hickel. "We made a strong case for a rating upgrade by emphasizing our financial reserves, our prudent debt management, and the state's huge, untapped natural resource potential."

* In a Municipal Credit Report of April 8, 1992, Moody's said, "Strong security is provided by conservative fiscal policies and the availability of substantial reserves." Reserves discussed in the report are the \$13 billion Permanent Fund and a recently-adopted constitutional budget reserve fund.

* Also cited, however, is the state's heavy reliance on petroleum revenues and the ongoing decline in petroleum production and revenues. Moody's describes the Alaskan economy as "at a crossroads with the impending depletion of North Slope oil reserves." The report continues, "the looming decline in the petroleum sector could subject the state to long-term economic dislocation."

The rapid retirement of outstanding debt is cited throughout the report as a key factor in the rating.

"Ratings are a single determining factor in the cost we must pay on borrowed funds," said Revenue Commissioner Darrel Rexwinkel. "While the state does not have any voter authorized general obligation debt to issue, many everyday financial needs are financed using public debt--buildings, public enterprise projects, home mortgages, and student loans, to name a few." Rexwinkel is Secretary to the State Bond Committee.

- more -

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

(7)
 Date Referred: April 10, 1992 FURTHER REFERRALS: Finance

Date of Committee Action: 4/21/92

The HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES Committee considered: HB 581

HOUSE BILL NO. 581 EDUCATION BOND AUTHORITY

"An Act relating to the Education Facilities Financing Authority; and providing for an effective date."

- RECOMMENDATIONS: the same title
 be replaced with _____ a new title
- have attached amendments(s)
 - do pass
 - do not pass
 - no recommendations
 - individual recommendations
 - additional referral to the _____ Committee

ADOPTS: _____ letter of Intent

ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(S): (Dept) APPROVES PREVIOUS: (Dept/Date)

fiscal impact _____ fiscal note(s) _____

zero fiscal note _____ zero fiscal note(s) _____

SIGNING <u>DO</u> PASS	DP	OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS	DNP	NR	AM
		<i>Mark Starkey</i>			X
		<i>Cheri Davis</i>		✓	
		<i>J. D. Sowers</i>			X
		<i>John H. Lee</i>		✓	
		<i>Mary Miller</i>			✓

[Signature]
 CHAIRMAN'S SIGNATURE

CORRECTION

**THIS DOCUMENT
HAS BEEN REPHOTOGRAPHED
TO ASSURE LEGIBILITY**

SUMMARY

Alaska Education Facilities Financing Program - HB581/582

OBJECTIVES:

1. Provide for the funding of critical projects from DOE's school construction priority list that otherwise could not occur in this year's capital budget.
2. Resume funding of net debt service for school bonds of organized municipalities at the 70% level, so that these communities (which are generally not at the top of the priority list) can receive necessary State assistance in school construction. Create a mechanism so that this funding is "credited" to the municipality's bond rating as it was not in the past.
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The legislation meets all these goals. Similar mechanisms are used in other States (Texas) and in many municipal situations in the Midwest.

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 - c. Receive appropriated funds from the Legislature annually and apply these proceeds to debt service on EFFA bonds and to the specified percentage of net debt service on authorized municipal school bonds and University bonds.

d. Pledge EF Fund earnings (only) as for EFFA bonds and for the EFFA's obligation to pay the specified percentage of municipal school bond and University bond debt service, to be invoked only in the event that Legislative appropriations are insufficient to meet these obligations.

2. The EF Fund will be managed by the Permanent Fund Corporation. Its initial capitalization would come from the Permanent Fund Earnings Reserve Account, with possible additional deposits at any time in the future from other sources.

3. Legislative intent would be to annually enact school debt service appropriations sufficient to cover the Authority's obligations. If such debt service were ever shortfunded, the EFFA would apply earnings (only) of the EF Fund to make up the shortfall.

4. The appropriation of the PF Earnings Reserve Account to the Fund will not become effective until the Lt. Governor certifies that an advisory vote in the November, 1992 general election has expressed a preference for the deposit. The authority could neither issue bonds nor agree to pay debt service on municipal or university bonds until the balance in the Fund is at least \$700 million which would occur only after the positive advisory vote.

5. The bill could authorize specific projects from the existing DOE priority list for EFFA bonds and municipal debt service reimbursement, and for university debt service reimbursement. The EFFA could not act on these authorizations until the Fund balance reaches \$700 million after the advisory vote. The draft bill presently contains all DOE priority I and Priority II projects, and additional University projects

Municipalities (70% reimbursement)	40 projects	\$216 million
REAA's (EFFA Bonds)	32 projects	\$120 million
University Bonds	<u>16 projects</u>	<u>\$71 million</u>
	88 projects	<u>\$407 million</u>

Future legislatures could authorize more bonds and reimbursement agreements within the financial capabilities of the education facilities fund.

REL:jlc

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR RELEASE: April 9, 1992
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- more -

April 9, 1992

The general obligation debt rating is the underlying rating for state and state agency debt. The borrowing cost to the state and its agencies, and to some extent political subdivisions, relies on the underlying general obligation rating. Likewise, the value of outstanding bonds, many held by Alaskans, relies upon the maintenance of a high rating. The last rating change was an upgrade to Aa in 1980.

"People think that because we have the Permanent Fund, we'll have a good credit rating," Rexwinkel said. "The Permanent Fund is one important factor, but what it really tells the credit analysts is that Alaskans realize our oil revenues will not always support the current level of state government spending."

"Credit analysts know that no bond issuer can ever save itself into prosperity," Rexwinkel said. "Alaska needs to diversify its economic base and develop its natural resource potential in order to offset the depletion of petroleum reserves currently in production."

In assessing credit worthiness, analysts look to those economic strengths which are reflected in positive financial assessment factors: debt management and an effective program for capital improvements, the administration of government and the ability to implement plans and fulfill obligations, and fiscal performance.

Moody's says debt which qualifies for the rating assigned to Alaska general obligation bonds is judged to be of high quality by all standards, differing from debt rated Aaa, the highest rating, by the margin of protection, the degree of long-term risk or the extent of fluctuations in protective elements.

Nine states are rated Aaa. No states have been upgraded by Moody's since 1990, although two states have been downgraded since then. Massachusetts has the lowest state rating at Baa, just above speculative or "junk bonds."

Bonds issued by the State of Alaska, agencies, and municipalities can be purchased from many commercial and investment banks which do business in the state. The Treasury Division of the Department of Revenue can provide a schedule of upcoming state and municipal issues to interested investors.

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HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

(7)
 Date Referred: April 10, 1992 FURTHER REFERRALS: Finance

Date of Committee Action: 4/21/92

The HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES Committee considered: HB 581

HOUSE BILL NO. 581 EDUCATION BOND AUTHORITY

"An Act relating to the Education Facilities Financing Authority; and providing for an effective date."

- RECOMMENDATIONS: the same title
 be replaced with _____ a new title
- have attached amendments(s)
 do pass
 do not pass
 no recommendations
 individual recommendations
 additional referral to the _____ Committee

ADOPTS: _____ letter of Intent

ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(s): (Dept) APPROVES PREVIOUS: (Dept/Date)

fiscal impact _____ fiscal note(s) _____

zero fiscal note _____ zero fiscal note(s) _____

SIGNING <u>DO</u> PASS	DP	OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS	DNP	NR	AM
		<i>Mark Penley</i>			X
		<i>Cheri Davis</i>		✓	
		<i>J. J. Gonzalez</i>			X
		<i>John Lee</i>		✓	
		<i>Mary Miller</i>			✓

[Signature]
 CHAIRMAN'S SIGNATURE

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
1992 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB 581

Revision Date: _____
Title: An Act relating to education facilities financing authority.
Sponsor: House State Affairs
Requestor: (H) HESS

Department Affected: Education
BRU: School Debt Reimbursement
Component: School Debt Reimbursement

COMPONENT SERIAL NO.

	1	5	3
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Expenditures/Revenues: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 93	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96	FY 97	FY 98
PERSONAL SERVICES	219.8	227.0	234.5	242.2	250.1	258.4
TRAVEL	46.0	46.0	46.0	46.0	46.0	46.0
CONTRACTUAL	207.0	207.0	207.0	207.0	207.0	207.0
SUPPLIES	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
EQUIPMENT	24.0	0	0	0	0	0
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	499.8	483.0	490.5	498.2	506.1	514.4

CAPITAL						
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REVENUE FUND SOURCE:						
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FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND						
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER FUND SOURCE: PFD Earnings Reserve Account - 1041	499.8	483.0	490.5	498.2	506.1	514.4
TOTAL	499.8	483.0	490.5	498.2	506.1	514.4

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME	4	4	4	4	4	4
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

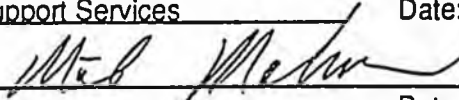
Estimate of current year impact: _____

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary.)

Assumes the GFFA will become effective July 1, 1992.

See attached

Prepared by: Duane Guiley Phone: 465-2865
Division: Educational Finance and Support Services Date: 4-20-92

Approved by Commissioner:  Jerry Covey
Agency: Education Date: 4-20-92

FISCAL NOTE - HB 581

EDUCATION FACILITIES FINANCING AUTHORITY

Personal Services: \$219.8

Executive Director (26A)	\$90.1
Secretary I (10B)	\$36.3
Project Assistant (16B)	\$53.0
Accounting Technician II (12A)	\$40.4

Travel: \$46.0

Executive Director	\$12.0
Authority (4 meetings/year)	\$12.0
Project Manager	\$22.0

Contractual: \$207.0

Bond Council/Investment experts	\$50.0
Engineering	\$25.0
Actuarial/Audit	\$50.0
Legal Services	\$50.0
Office Space (10,000 ft @ \$2.00/ft)	\$24.0
Utilities/Phones	\$ 8.0

Supplies: \$3.0

Office Supplies	\$3.0
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Equipment: \$24.0

Telecopier	\$3.0
Computer/PCS wordprocessing	\$15.0
Furniture	\$7.0

FY 93 Total: \$499.8

FORUM

Education may be best way to protect fund

Sen. Rick Halford and columnist Mike Doogan no doubt consider themselves poles apart politically. Yet both agree any effort to cap, reduce or abolish dividends before cutting budgets or imposing taxes and user fees would be stupid, stupid, Stupid!

Rick Halford asserts any reduction of dividends has precisely the same effect as would imposition of a regressive head tax on all Alaskans and *only* Alaskans. Doogan puts it a bit more tersely: Dumb! He recognizes dividends as means of creating a healthy citizen awareness of constraint upon runaway government spending by requiring politicians to recoup enough dividend dollars through user fees and taxes to fund programs people want badly enough to pay for.

Regrettably, such common sense seems all too uncommon in Juneau's cloistered halls.

Long before either cutting budgets or passing taxes some legislators would cap dividends and/or spend the \$700,000,000 now lodged in the Permanent Fund's Earnings Reserve. How asinine to



**JAY
HAMMOND**

prematurely limit the one means by which Alaska residents can legally be granted special dispensations not granted non-residents.

For example, we can't tax Alaskans at a lesser rate, compel local hire or charge user fees to only folks from elsewhere. But, we can give dividends to Alaskans only and thereby help offset the inevitable user fee and tax increases which are thundering down upon us. How foolish to squander that advantage for short-term political gratification.

Some say their designs upon that \$700 million will not reduce dividends at all

since these funds are not required for dividends or inflation-proofing. In the short term that may be true. However, if that \$700 million is reinvested in the fund, as Sen. Halford wisely proposes, your future dividends will grow larger.

To exhaust the earnings reserves now to defer the moment of truth will simply make truth's impact less bearable for all Alaskans when it does arrive. But, alas, this is an election year. Stupidity may prevail over the Halford/Doogan wisdom.

Some sharing my concerns suggest an interesting alternative to at least protect the earnings reserve from total dissipation.

Three of Juneau's sharpest minds — Kent Dawson, Bob LeResche and John Sackett — recently asked to meet with me to test my reaction. Since these gentlemen are all top-gun lobbyists, my first knee-jerk response was to hunker down defensively and clutch my wallet. However, this proved not an effort to stick me with the dinner check or boost some rapacious developmental scheme which

might offend my posey-sniffing soul. Instead, they made a pretty good case that unless that \$700 million was removed from the legislative smorgasborg it would be devoured.

To foreclose that likelihood they proposed what may be the best on a list of lousy alternatives to depositing the \$700 million into the permanent fund.

Their proposal is embodied in a bill making its way through the legislature. This bill would establish an Education Facilities Fund into which, only upon an affirmative public vote, would be deposited the \$700 million.

This principal would be managed by the Permanent Fund Corp. and could not be spent. Instead it would be used to create an Education Facilities Financing Authority. The authority could sell bonds for rural schools and pay a portion of debt service on municipal and university bonds issued to build facilities specifically authorized by the legislature — but only after review by the state board of education in the case of rural and municipal schools. The money to

pay off bonds would come from annual legislative appropriations.

Should future legislatures not appropriate bond payments, the authority could use a portion of the fund's earnings only to meet its obligations. Before any bonds could be issued, the fund must be large enough to continue growing, even if the legislature ducked its responsibility and fund earnings were forced to cover obligations.

Proponents assert this approach has none of the inbred infirmities of the Cowper "Sacred Horse/Trojan Cow" Educational Endowment. Admittedly, future permanent fund dividends would be less than they otherwise would have been had the \$700 million been deposited into the fund itself ala the Halford approach (which they, as well as I would much prefer).

However, the likelihood of this occurring seems about on par with Alaska achieving independence.

The greatest frailty of this approach is the possibility the legislature will not — or

perhaps cannot — meet its commitment and thereby quickly exhausts earnings from this fund. To offset this, I propose a companion bill for a school tax, to be imposed only when and at the level required to help the legislature keep its word.

Such a program could protect the original \$700 million, provide badly needed school funding and capture 25 percent of its cost from non-resident transients, fishermen and workers who now pay virtually nothing for the price of admission.

Unfortunately, 100 percent protection of the permanent fund earnings reserve can never be assured. However, under the above approach, proponents feel the apple of temptation would no longer dangle within easy reach.

Rather it would require those who lusted after what should be forbidden fruit to climb precariously out upon a shaky limb.

□ Jay Hammond was governor of Alaska from 1974 to 1982.

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HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

(7)
 Date Referred: April 10, 1992 FURTHER REFERRALS: Finance

Date of Committee Action: 4/21/92

The HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES Committee considered: HB 582

HOUSE BILL NO. 582 APPROP: EARNINGS RES. TO EDUCATION FUND

"An Act making an appropriation from the earnings reserve account of the Permanent Fund to the Education Facilities Financing Authority; and providing for an effective date."

- RECOMMENDATIONS: the same title
 be replaced with _____ a new title
- have attached amendments(s)
 do pass
 do not pass
 no recommendations
 individual recommendations
 additional referral to the _____ Committee

ADOPTS: _____ letter of Intent

- ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(S): (Dept) APPROVES PREVIOUS: (Dept/Date)
- fiscal impact _____ fiscal note(s) _____
- zero fiscal note _____ zero fiscal note(s) _____

SIGNING <u>DO</u> PASS	DP	OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS	DNP	NR	AM
		<i>Mark Rindley</i>		X	
		<i>Chris Darius</i>		—	
		<i>Joe Douglas</i>		✓	
		<i>Kathy My</i>		✓	
		<i>Mary Miller</i>		✓	

Kathy My

 CO-CHAIRMAN'S SIGNATURE

HCR

4

Table of Contents

HCR 3 - Proposing an amendment to the Uniform Rules of the Alaska State Legislature creating and relating to the jurisdiction of the Education standing committees, and relating to the jurisdiction of the Health and Social Services standing committees; and providing that the amendment will take effect on the convening of the First Session of the Eighteenth Alaska State Legislature.

1. HCR 3
2. NEA Alaska support letter
3. Zero Fiscal Note, Legislative Affairs Agency
4. Sponsor Statement
5. State Legislative Leadership, Committees and Staff, 89-90



NEA-ALASKA

AFFILIATED WITH THE NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

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FAX: (907) 456-2159

March 25, 1991

**To: Representatives Carney and Lincoln, Co-Chairs
Members, House HESS Committee**

**Re: HCR 3; "Proposing an amendment to the Uniform Rules of Alaska State
Legislature creating and relating to the jurisdiction of the Education standing
committees, and relating to the jurisdiction of the Health and Social Services
standing committees; and providing that the amendment will take effect on the
convening of the First Session of the Eighteenth Alaska State Legislature."**

NEA-Alaska supports and encourages the creation of a separate standing committee for public education and the university system.

The current HESS Committees have policy responsibility for two of the most comprehensive agencies in state government. The magnitude of load which is always before the HESS committees is substantial and may periodically preclude adequate consideration of critical policy issues.

Public Education and Health and Social Services are also a substantial part of the operating budget of the State and must effectively monitor entitlement formula funding and many federal programs as well.

It is our opinion that the changes proposed by HCR 3 would result in better and more timely policy decisions, continuity in appropriate legislative oversight, and the ability to be more responsive to the increasing and ever changing needs in public education.

The opportunity and potential need for interim work by a standing Education committee would permit legislators to more closely focus on specific programs, services, and needs in our public schools and university system.

Thank you for your consideration of our position and recommendation.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Manners
Executive Director

Don Oberg
President

cc: Representative Carney

Co-Chair
Health, Education and
Social Services Committee

Resources Committee

Legislative Budget and Audit

Special Committee
on Oil and Gas

Alaska State Legislature



Representative Patrick J. Carney

During Session:
State Capitol
P.O. Box V
Juneau, Alaska 99811
(907) 465-2186

During Interim:
P.O. Box 87-1746
Wasilla, Alaska 99687
(907) 373-2516

SPONSOR STATEMENT

House Concurrent Resolution 3 would create a committee on education separate from health and social services.

As you know, the HESS Committee is one of the busiest committees in the House. As of April 4, we have had a total of 110 bills referred to us this session. Thirty-six have been education bills or resolutions, while 74 have been health and social service issues. Because of the large number of bills, we cannot always give due consideration to every issue or every bill that comes before us, and these are important issues affecting the lives of many citizens of our state.

There would be no extra costs involved and no additional staff would be required.

We already have separate finance subcommittees for education and for health and social services. Education and health and social services are separate state agencies. Almost every other state has separate standing committees for education and for health and social services. In fact, Maryland and Rhode Island are the only two states besides Alaska without a separate standing committee on education.

There is not much overlap between the two. There have been only one or two bills dealing with both education and health and social services issues at the same time. Therefore splitting the committees would not require an additional committee referral in most cases.

The number of bills referred to our committee continues to grow every year. The issues that come before us are complex. Splitting the committee will provide a more efficient process and ultimately serve our constituents more efficiently and effectively, with no additional costs to the State.



ALASKA ASSOCIATION OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPALS
ALASKA ASSOCIATION OF SECONDARY SCHOOL PRINCIPALS
ALASKA ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS

• ALASKA COUNCIL OF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS •
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POSITION PAPER

HCR 3

CREATING THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

The Alaska Council of School Administrators supports HCR 3.

Education issues have become of such importance both as state-wide and national issues that we must allow concentrated and deliberate time to explore all issues before action is taken through the legislative process.

The past five years have proven that there are growing concerns regarding social services and health issues which demand more time for review. Therefore, the current committee is having to spread themselves over three very significant issues viewed on the state level as responsibilities of the state.

Therefore, we believe by creating the Education Committee, the legislature would be serving more effectively the social services, health and education related issues in Alaska.

The Council of State Governments

State Legislative Leadership, Committees & Staff

1989-90

The
Council of
State
Governments



REFERENCE
OTHER STATES
006547

EDUCATION

Committees that consider matters concerning education.

ALABAMA
 Sen. Chip Bailey
 Chairman
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 State Capitol
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Rep. Stephen A.
 McMillan
 Chairman
 House Education Cmte.
 State Capitol
 Montgomery, AL 36130
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ALASKA
 Sen. Paul A. Fischer
 Chairman
 Senate Health, Education
 & Social Services Cmte.
 P.O. Box V
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 (907) 465-2111

Rep. Johnny Ellis
 Chairman
 House Health, Education
 & Social Services Cmte.
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 Senate Wing, State
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 Phoenix, AZ 85007
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Rep. Bev Hermon
 Chairman
 House Education Cmte.
 House Wing, State
 Capitol
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ARKANSAS
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Rep. G. W. Turner Jr.
 Chairman
 House Education Cmte.
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Asmblmyn. Teresa
 Hughes
 Chairman
 Assembly Education
 Cmte.
 Rm. 3111, State Capitol
 Sacramento, CA 95814
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Sen. Diane Watson
 Chairman
 Jt. Oversight Cmte. on
 GAIN Implementation
 Rm. 210, 1127 11th St.
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Sen. Leroy Greene
 Chairman
 Jt. Cmte. On School
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 House Education K-12
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Rep. Walter Young
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 House Higher Education
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Bldg.
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Pago Pago, AS 96799
(684) 633-4459

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
1991 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO: HCR 3

Revision Date: _____
Title: Proposing an amendment to... Uniform
Rules... relating to Education comm... & H&SS comm...
Sponsor: Representative Carney
Requestor: House HESS

Department Affected: Legislative Affairs Agency
BRU: Legislative Council
Component: Session Expenses

COMPONENT SERIAL NO: 782

Expenditures/Revenues: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 92	FY 93	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96	FY 97
PERSONAL SERVICES	0	0	0	0	0	0
TRAVEL	0	0	0	0	0	0
CONTRACTUAL	0	0	0	0	0	0
SUPPLIES	0	0	0	0	0	0
EQUIPMENT	0	0	0	0	0	0
LAND & STRUCTURES	0	0	0	0	0	0
GRANTS, CLAIMS	0	0	0	0	0	0
MISCELLANEOUS	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL OPERATING	0	0	0	0	0	0

CAPITAL	0	0	0	0	0	0
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REVENUE	0	0	0	0	0	0
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FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND	0	0	0	0	0	0
FEDERAL FUNDS	0	0	0	0	0	0
OTHER	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	0	0	0	0	0	0

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
PART-TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
TEMPORARY	0	0	0	0	0	0

Estimate of current year impact: _____

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Zero fiscal impact.

Prepared By: Pamela A. Stoops, Director
Division: Administrative Services

Pamela A. Stoops

Phone: 465-3850
Date: 3/7/91

Approved By: Warren W. Endicott, Executive Director
Agency: Legislative Affairs Agency

Warren W. Endicott

Date: 3/7/91

Distribution (by preparer): Legislative Finance, Legislative Sponsor, Requestor, OMB, & Impacted Agency(ies).



Alaska State Legislature
LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH AGENCY

P.O. Box Y, Juneau, Alaska 99811-3100
907-465-3991 Fax 907-463-3351

TO: Caroline Lombard

DATE: 2/28/91

FROM:

Faura d. Scavera.

Any more questions - give a call!

Maryland &
Rhode Island
are ^{the} only two
w/out separate
committees on
education.

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Rep. Eileen Panigeo MacLean
Co-Chair
Rep. Cheri Davis
Rep. Niilo Koponen
Rep. Johnny Ellis
Ex Officio



Sen. Lloyd Jones
Co-Chair
Sen. Al Adams
Sen. Jack Coghill
Sen. John Binkley
Ex Officio

Alaska State Legislature

Joint Committee on School Performance

February 11, 1991

MEMORANDUM

To: Members, Joint Committee on School Performance

From: Senator Lloyd Jones, Co-Chair
Representative Eileen MacLean, Co-chair

Subj: Introduction of Legislation for Joint Committee

As you know, recommendations to the Legislature, contained in the Joint Committee's second report, call for several pieces of legislation to be introduced. To expedite matters and because the Committee no longer formally exists, we have assigned each member the task of drafting legislation key to a specific recommendation. The assignments are as follows (the page numbers are from the January 25 draft of the report):

Rep. Ellis: *Incentive Grants and Local Participation (p. 13-16)*

Recommends that no less than \$3 million be appropriated annually to the Fund for the Improvement of School Performance over the next five years.

Rep. MacLean: *Health and Family Services Programs (p. 16-17)*

Recommends that a resolution calling for better coordinated services among the departments of health and social services, labor, community and regional affairs, and education, similar to the resolution calling for this effort passed by the 16th Legislature, be enacted by the 17th Legislature.

Sen. Jones: *Early Childhood and Parenting Education (p. 17-21)*

Establish a committee to address the issues and questions on early childhood education that pertain to the education of Alaska's young children, with particular attention given to those children with environmental handicaps. Included among the committee's responsibility shall be the development of a plan for a statewide program of early childhood education and preparation of a report on its findings with recommendations to the legislature no later than May, 1992.

Rep. MacLean: *School Finance and Governance (p. 29-84)*

Recommends that the Legislature, in recognition of the urgency of the need for improved school performance, initiate a thorough investigation of the school finance and governance systems of Alaska public education. It is further recommended that this work be conducted as a legislative "in-house study" (utilizing the resources of the Department of Education when required) and that it be carried out under the auspices of a newly created joint committee on school performance. (This will be included in the duties of the Joint Committee on School Improvement.)

Rep. Koponen: *Professional Development of School Personnel (p. 84-104)*

Recommends: (1) that a BA or BS degree in a subject matter discipline be a prerequisite for admission to a professional teacher education program at all campuses of the University of Alaska; (2) that teacher training programs that prepare new teachers and upgrade in-service teachers for assignment in village schools be standard offerings of the University of Alaska's system and routinely available as a means to qualify candidates for teacher certificate endorsements appropriate to recommendation number (3) below; (3) that funding for the significant changes that will be required as a result of the prior two recommendations be determined by means of requesting detailed estimates of the University of Alaska, to be made available to the legislature no later than January 15, 1992.

Sen. Adams & Rep. MacLean: *(a) Teacher Certification (p. 84-104)*

Recommends (1) legislation be enacted relating to requirements for limited teacher certificates for the purpose of providing teachers in certain limited fields where baccalaureate degree training is not sufficiently available, so long as the person demonstrates both subject matter expertise and teaching competency; (2) that the legislature, by resolution, instruct the State Board of Education to investigate the feasibility and desirability of setting into place alternative certification routes for candidates entering teaching from other fields not covered in recommendation number (1) under this heading; (3) that the legislature by resolution, urge the State Board of Education to adopt a tiered system of certification that distinguishes between

competencies necessary to teach in rural, multi-cultural communities (Alaska villages) and traditional, urban teaching assignments.

Sen Adams & Rep. Davis: *(B) Tenure (p. 84-104)*

Recommends that the existing tenure law be changed. Sec. 14.20.150(2) presently requires teachers to be "employed as a teacher in the same district continuously for two full school years and is reemployed for the school year immediately following the two full years." The Committee proposes the following amendment: "employed as a teacher in the same district continuously for five full school years and is reemployed for the school year immediately following the five full years."

Sen Jones: *Program Definition and Curricula (p. 104-108)*

Recommends that the legislature, by statute require that the scope and sequence of schedule developed by the State Department of Education in its Alaska studies program be incorporated into the curriculum of each school district of the state.

Rep. Koponen: *Research, Evaluation, and Dissemination (p. 109-112)*

Recommends that the legislature support the University's "Alaska School Research Fund" as it could enable Alaska's research capability to become sufficient to meet the state's educational research needs.

Sen. Jones & Rep. MacLean: *Establishment of Joint Committee on School Improvement (p. 124)*

Recommends that the 17th Alaska Legislature establish a House-Senate Joint Committee on School Improvement. The Committee shall continue the work of the Joint Committee on School Performance, make additional recommendations as conditions warrant, and oversee the legislature's initiatives in school improvement.

We have not set a timeline on the introduction of the above legislation, but, as you know, the sooner the bills are introduced, the sooner they can be reviewed. We will set a meeting time soon to go over the final draft of the report and to discuss pending individual legislation. If you have questions, don't hesitate to call.

Sponsor Sectional

The **Joint Committee on School Improvement** is established by the 17th Alaska Legislature to continue the work of the Joint Committee on School Performance.

The new committee will consist of three members of the House of Representatives and three members of the State Senate.

The **Joint Committee on School Improvement** will:

- Review the work on the Joint Committee on School Performance, using the past Committee's reports to the Legislature as guidelines for further work;
- Identify subjects for priority legislative attention;
- Monitor school improvement mechanisms previously established by legislation introduced by the Joint Committee on School Performance. Specifically: the school report card and Alaska Native studies curriculum.
- Monitor on-going legislation, introduced by members of the Joint Committee on School Performance. These measures directly correlate to recommendations contained in the Joint Committee on School Performance's second report to the legislature: *New Directives in School Performance: The Legislature as Advocate and Guarantor, January 1991*.
- Address policy issues needing further examination such as school finance and governance systems, school accreditation, administrative consolidation, equitable calculation of instructional units; equitable area cost differential; definition of basic need. Further policy questions are contained in the Joint Committee on School Performance's second report to the legislature: *New Directives in School Performance: The Legislature as Advocate and Guarantor, January 1991*. It is recommended that this be a legislative study and that it be done "in house," utilizing the resources of the Department of Education when required.

The **Joint Committee on School Improvement** will require the expertise and support of a research consultant, who, at the direction of the Committee, will:

- Examine the state education delivery system, with emphasis on school governance and finance;
- Recommend reforms leading to enhanced school performance

- Coordinate **Joint Committee on School Improvement** meetings;
- Arrange for on-site school facility tours, if needed;
- Arrange for expert testimony regarding specific school performance issues to be presented to the Joint Committee on School Improvement;
- Write and edit two reports to be presented to the legislature

The Research Consultant will serve part-time through the Seventeenth Alaska State Legislature and the first session of the Eighteenth Alaska State Legislature.

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Representative Eileen Panigeo MacLean
Co-Chair House Finance Committee
P.O. Box 830
Barrow, Alaska 99723



WHILE IN JUNEAU
Box V
Juneau, Alaska 99811
465-4525
465-4833

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

District 22

North Slope
Borough

Anaktuvuk Pass
Atkasuk
Barrow
Kaktovik
Nuiqsut
Point Hope
Point Lay
Wainwright

Northwest Arctic
Borough

Ambler
Buckland
Deering
Kiana
Kivalina
Kobuk
Kotzebue
Noatak
Noorvik
Selawik
Shungnak

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 15, 1991

TO: Representative Pat Carney, Co-Chair
HESS Committee

Representative Georgianna Lincoln, Co-Chair
HESS Committee

FR: Representative Eileen P. MacLean *EPM*
Co-Chair of House Finance Committee

SUBJ: Scheduling Request: HCR 4 Establishing the
Joint Committee on School Improvement

I sincerely would appreciate your consideration in scheduling HCR 4 establishing the Joint Committee on School Improvement in the HESS committee on February 25, 1991. Attached is a sectional analysis with a fiscal note for the committee's review.

This committee will continue the work of the Joint Committee on School Performance, make additional recommendations as warranted and oversee the legislature's initiatives in school improvement.

Should you need further information, please contact my office at 465-3862. Thank you.



NEA-ALASKA

AFFILIATED WITH THE NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

ANCHORAGE REGIONAL OFFICE

1411 W. 33RD AVENUE
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99503
(907) 274-0536
FAX: (907) 274-0551

JUNEAU OFFICE

105 MUNICIPAL WAY, SUITE 302
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801
(907) 586-3090
FAX: (907) 586-2744

FAIRBANKS REGIONAL OFFICE

2118 CUSHMAN STREET
FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99701
(907) 456-4435
FAX: (907) 456-2159

February 26, 1991

To: Reps. Carney & Lincoln, Co-Chairs, and Members of House HESS Committee

**FROM: Don Oberg, President
NEA-Alaska**

RE: Joint Committee on School Performance

NEA-Alaska supports the concepts addressed in HCR 4; establishing a legislative committee that functions throughout the year to study our educational system, to identify the most effective school districts, and to recommend means to improve the quality of Alaska public schools. The Joint Committee on School Performance did serve that purpose to a limited extent during the past legislative session but was hampered by limited resources, staff, and time.

NEA-Alaska believes there are better options to provide for more direct and effective public input into the deliberations of such a committee.

We recommend that there be established a standing committee for Education in both the Senate and the House. The standing committee would seek input from the public and members of the education community such as the Association of Alaska School Boards, the Department of Education, the Alaska Parent Teacher Association, and NEA-Alaska as to means to improve our public schools as well as recognize the exceptional schools that we currently enjoy. We also suggest the standing committee have appropriate staff to focus on educational issues.

An intermediate step would be to have a Joint education sub-committee composed of three members each of the House and Senate HESS Committees--appointed by the Chair(s) of the respective committees with the appropriate staff. Such a committee would, we believe, provide for greater continuity with the Health, Education, and Social Services legislative committee(s) and thus be more effective.

NEA-Alaska believes the "committee", irrespective of the composition, should focus on specific topics in order to gather the most recent and highest quality data. We believe that the more the committee focuses on a specific topic the greater the chance for significant effect--topics established by the House and Senate HESS committees in consultation with members of the educational community as listed above. The members of the educational community should be provided travel costs when necessary in order to provide input into the deliberations.

NEA-Alaska encourages the legislature to continue its focus on education within Alaska. We believe that the current legislation before you is a mechanism that with slight amendments can help provide that focus.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
1991 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO: HCR #4

Revision Date: _____
Title: Establishing the Joint Committee
on School Improvement.
Sponsor: Representative MacLean
Requestor: Representative MacLean

Department Affected: Legislative Affairs Agency
BRU: Legislative Council

Component: Council & Subcommittees

COMPONENT SERIAL NO: 733

Expenditures/Revenues: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 92	FY 93	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96	FY 97
PERSONAL SERVICES	30.3					
TRAVEL	17.7					
CONTRACTUAL	2.0					
SUPPLIES	0					
EQUIPMENT	0					
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	50.0	0	0	0	0	0

CAPITAL	0	0	0	0	0	0
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REVENUE	0	0	0	0	0	0
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UNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND	50.0	0	0	0	0	0
FEDERAL FUNDS	0	0	0	0	0	0
OTHER	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	50.0	0	0	0	0	0

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
PART-TIME	1	0	0	0	0	0
TEMPORARY	0	0	0	0	0	0

Estimate of current year impact: _____

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

See attached page for detail.

Prepared By: Pamela A. Stoops, Director
Division: Administrative Services

Pamela A. Stoops

Phone: 465-3850
Date: 2/12/91

Approved By: Warren W. Endicott, Executive Director
Agency: Legislative Affairs Agency

Warren W. Endicott

Date: 2/12/91

Distribution (by preparer): Legislative Finance, Legislative Sponsor, Requestor, OMB, & Impacted Agency(ies).

CONTINUATION OF FISCAL NOTE:

HCR

PERSONAL SERVICES

It is anticipated the Joint Committee on School Improvement will require the following staff assistance:

Administrative Assistant - Range 19 (part-time)		
\$3.637 x 6 months=	\$21.822	
\$21.822 x 39% benefits	<u>\$8.442</u>	
	\$30.264	30.3

TRAVEL

4 trips @ \$436 x 6 members	\$10.464	
3 days per diem @ \$100/day x 4 trips	<u>\$7.200</u>	
	\$17.664	17.7

CONTRACTUAL

Advertising of public notices	\$2.000	2.0
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SUPPLIES

Supplies will be absorbed within existing Legislative Operating Budget.

EQUIPMENT

Equipment will be absorbed within existing Legislative Operating Budget.

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

(7)

Date Referred: February 13, 1991

FURTHER REFERRALS:

Finance

Date of Committee Action: 02/26/91

The HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES Committee considered:

HCR 4

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4 JOINT COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

Establishing the Joint Committee on School Improvement.

- RECOMMENDATIONS:
- be replaced with _____ the same title
 a new title
- have attached amendments(s)
- do pass
- do not pass
- no recommendations
- individual recommendations
- additional referral to the _____ Committee

ADOPTS: _____ letter of Intent

ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(S): (Dept) _____

APPROVES PREVIOUS: (Dept/Date) _____

fiscal impact _____

fiscal note(s) _____

zero fiscal note _____

zero fiscal note(s) _____

SIGNING DO PASS:

SIGNING OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:

	Check appropriate column:	Do Not Pass	No Rec	Amend
<i>Cheri L. Davis</i>				
<i>John C. Samples</i>				
<i>Mark Henley</i>				

John C. Samples

 Chairman's Signature

**New Directives in School Performance:
The Legislature as Advocate and Guarantor**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



***REPORT OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE
ON
SCHOOL PERFORMANCE***

To The
Seventeenth Alaska Legislature

JUNEAU, ALASKA
JANUARY 1991

**MEMBERS OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE
ON SCHOOL PERFORMANCE**

Senator Lloyd Jones, Co-Chair
Representative Eileen Panigeo MacLean, Co-Chair

Senator Al Adams
Senator Jack Coghill
Senator John Binkley, Ex Officio

Representative Cheri Davis
Representative Niilo Koponen
Representative Johnny Ellis, Ex Officio

Consultant to the Joint Committee

Dr. Frank Darnell
Emeritus Professor of Education
University of Alaska Fairbanks

NEW DIRECTIVES IN SCHOOL PERFORMANCE:

**THE LEGISLATURE AS ADVOCATE AND
GUARANTOR**

.....

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

***REPORT OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE
ON SCHOOL PERFORMANCE***

**TO THE
SEVENTEENTH ALASKA LEGISLATURE**

**JUNEAU, ALASKA
JANUARY 1991**

Today, education is perhaps the most important function of state and local governments. Compulsory school attendance laws and the great expenditures for education both demonstrate our recognition to the importance of education to our democratic society. It is required in the performance of our most basic public responsibilities, even service in the armed forces. It is the very foundation of good citizenship. Today it is a principal instrument in awakening the child to cultural values, in preparing him for later professional training, and in helping him to adjust normally to his environment. In these days, it is doubtful that any child may reasonably be expected to succeed in life if he is denied the opportunity of an education. Such an opportunity, where the state has undertaken to provide it, is a right which must be made available to all on equal terms.

**SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES
BROWN V. BOARD OF EDUCATION, 1954**

INTRODUCTION

When established by the Sixteenth Legislature, the Joint Committee on School Performance was charged with identifying causes of inadequate school performance and recommending ways to overcome them. As reported in the body of its second report, the Committee has accomplished this task. It has not been the purpose of the Committee to seek an indictment of school personnel or schools in general; in some locations exceptionally effective school programs and teachers are to be found. It is undeniable, however, that in many instances school performance is far from what it eventually must be. Whether due to problems in society as a whole or with Alaska's system of public education, there are conspicuous and critical failings in elementary and secondary education in Alaska. Although the legislature has wisely delegated much of its policy-making authority to school districts, the legislature remains ultimately responsible for failings in the system because of its constitutional mandate to maintain public schools in Alaska. In this role the legislature must seek to alleviate widespread shortcomings.

NEEDS IDENTIFIED

Drawing on material in this and the Committee's first report, the Committee has concluded that shortcomings in school performance may be attributed to the following deficiencies, all of which require immediate attention:

1. The need for stricter school district accountability through more closely monitored school operations by the legislature.
2. The need to encourage greater local participation in school affairs at the community or building level.
3. The need to insist on better coordinated health, social service, and educational agencies as a means to remove barriers to learning among disadvantaged youth.
4. The need to strengthen readiness to learn among pre-school children.
5. The need to raise and distribute funds for school districts more equitably among all regions and political subdivisions of the state.
6. The need to achieve balanced equality of opportunity among all students.
7. The need to redraw some school district boundaries in a way that will make districts more operationally efficient, more cost effective, and more receptive to constituent needs.
8. The need to strengthen professional development in the teaching profession.
9. The need for all students to be better informed about the political and natural history of Alaska, the cultural heritage of all its people, and its economic potential.
10. The need to better understand processes of schooling in Alaska, such as why some pupils succeed where others do not, why some programs of instruction work well while others do not,

and how information about successful programs can be disseminated more effectively.

It is not just coincidental that some of the observations made by the Joint Committee in arriving at these needs correspond to those of similarly constituted groups in other states. Many states, either through their legislatures or governors' offices, have undertaken school performance improvement or school system restructuring programs in recent years. The movement for improved school performance is national in scope; many problems relating to school performance identified elsewhere are present in Alaska. Others, some of the most severe, are uniquely Alaskan and are in part the causes of the incongruous gap in performance between poorly performing students, many of whom are in isolated rural villages, and adequately performing students.

RECOMMENDATIONS REVIEWED

In response to the Joint Committee's findings and as the means that will enable the legislature to eliminate or reduce some of the deficiencies the Committee has identified, several recommendations in this and the Committee's first report have been made. To deal with other needs, the Committee has raised several questions about the condition of Alaska's system of public schools that first must be answered before additional recommendations can be made. In either case, the legislature needs to advocate and guarantee changes that will lead to new directives in school performance. The Joint Committee has recommended changes that it believes are preconditions to most improvements in school performance

School District Accountability [Pages 8 - 12]

The need for stricter school district accountability was well established by the Alaska Senate through the work of its Special Committee on School Performance in 1988 and the Joint Committee on School Performance in 1989 and 1990. Acting on a recommendation of the Joint Committee, the legislature passed HB 469 in 1990 (now codified as Chapter 173) establishing the purposes, expected outcomes, and goals of schooling. Furthermore, Chapter 173 requires school districts to be held accountable for the authority delegated to them by requiring an annual "report card" on school performance to the public and the legislature. The state Department of Education is currently developing procedures, in cooperation with school districts, the public, and the education profession in general, that will enable the process to be carried out promptly and uniformly. (As a means to underscore the significance of this legislation, Bob Arnold former staff director of the Senate's Special Committee on School Performance, has summarized in essay form his reflections on the legislature's declared purposes of schooling since enactment of Chapter 173. His essay is attached as Appendix H.)

Incentive Grants and Local Participation

[Pages 13 - 16] *

The need to encourage greater local participation in school improvement was addressed in HB 469 with passage of a clause in the bill that established the Fund for the Improvement of School Performance, but failed to appropriate funds to activate the program. The governing body of a school district, district advisory board or nonprofit community organization, or a teacher or principal

*Page numbers accompanying each recommendation refer to the place where detailed information on each topic may be found in the body of the report.

employed by a school in the state, may apply for a grant to improve school performance by submitting an application to the commissioner of education. Without an appropriation creation of the fund serves no purpose. Therefore, the Committee recommends

that no less than \$3,000,000 be appropriated annually to the Fund for the Improvement of School Performance over the next five years.

Health and Family Services Programs

[Pages 16-17]

The Committee recognized that not all causes of inadequate school performance can be attributed to problems in the school system. Thus, the Committee has identified the need for better coordinated health and family-related service programs, for the complexity of the need for change involves social, health, and poverty-related problems. To address these in a coordinated way, the legislature enacted HCR 46 in response to a recommendation in the Committee's first report. That resolution called on the executive branch of government to create a committee of cognizant department heads to develop a plan that will enable their departments to better serve the needs of disadvantaged and "at risk" students through coordinated deployment of resources. The governor is presently examining ways this resolution can be implemented.

To underscore the sense of importance the Committee gives to this subject, it recommends:

that a resolution calling for better coordinated services among the departments of health and social services, labor, community and regional affairs, and education, similar to the resolution calling for this effort passed by the 16th Legislature, be enacted by the 17th Legislature.

Early Childhood and Parenting Education

[Pages 17-21]

The need for enhanced early childhood education is consistent with testimony from every corner of the state, urban and rural. Among fundamental causes that deny children the means or motivation necessary to succeed at schooling are inadequate or insufficient early childhood and parenting education. In recognition of this reality the legislature has increased appropriations for early childhood education as has the federal government. There remain, however, many unanswered questions on the nature of early childhood education and how programs should be delivered, answers to which will determine the eventual make-up of Alaska's early childhood programs.

Therefore, as was stated in its first report the Committee recommends:

that the legislature, by resolution, establish a Committee to address the issues and questions on early childhood education that pertain to the education of Alaska's young children, with particular attention given to those children with environmental handicaps. Included among the Committee's responsibility shall be the development of a plan for a statewide program of early childhood education and preparation of a report on its findings with recommendations to the legislature no later than May, 1992.

School Finance and Governance [Pages 29-84]

Of all the needs identified by the Joint Committee, the need for a redesigned system of school governance and finance is the most complex. Because this subject addresses so many important problem areas (the need for tax liability equity among districts, equitable distribution of state funds for school purposes, and equitable decision making authority among all Alaska communities), meeting it may hold the greatest promise of all the Committee's recommendations. The Committee recommends:

that the legislature, in recognition of the urgency of the need for improved school performance, initiate a thorough investigation of the school finance and governance systems of Alaska public education. It is further recommended that this work be conducted as a legislative "in-house study" (utilizing the resources of the Department of Education when required) and that it be carried out under the auspices of a newly created joint committee on school performance (as recommended in Chapter Three). The study shall include answers to the questions posed in the body of this report (pages 46-47 and 61-64) and propose a system of governance and a financial foundation formula in agreement with the findings. The committee shall report its findings and make its proposals no later than January 1993.

Professional Development of School Personnel

[Pages 84 - 104]

Much of the education reform movement during the past decade has focused on improving the quality of teacher performance through improved professional development.

Although it is recognized that the aggregate of Alaska's current teaching force is among the best trained and competent in the nation, this position is at risk. Teacher shortages, primarily in rural schools where recently there has been an annual teacher turnover rate of 30 %, have made it necessary to recruit teachers who do not have the background necessary to succeed under the demanding conditions found in many Alaska schools. The means to develop, recruit, and retain an adequate teacher force, both in numbers and ability, need to be expanded and enhanced. Therefore, in the matter of teacher education and training, it is recommended:

1. that a BA or BS degree in a subject matter discipline be a prerequisite for admission to a professional teacher education program at all campuses of the University of Alaska.

2. that teacher training programs that prepare new teachers and upgrade in-service teachers for assignment in village schools be standard offerings of the University of Alaska system and routinely available as a means to qualify candidates for teacher certificate endorsements appropriate to recommendation number 3 under certification below (pertaining to village teaching).

3. that the University of Alaska prepare detailed estimates of the funding that will be required to carry out the prior two recommendations, to be made available to the legislature no later than January 15, 1992.

In the matter of teacher certification, it is recommended:

1. that legislation be enacted relating to requirements for limited teacher certificates for the purpose of providing teachers in certain limited fields where baccalaureate degree training is not sufficiently available, so long as the person demonstrates both subject matter expertise and teaching competency.

2. that the legislature, by resolution, instruct the state board of education to investigate the feasibility and desirability of setting into place alternative certification routes for candidates entering teaching from other fields not covered in recommendation number 1 under this heading.

3. that the legislature, by resolution, urge the state board of education to adopt a tiered system of certification that distinguishes between competencies necessary to teach in rural, multicultural communities (Alaska villages) and traditional, urban teaching assignments.

In the matter of tenure, it is recommended:

that the existing tenure law be changed. Sec. 14.20.150 (2) presently requires teachers to be "employed as a teacher in the same district continuously for two full school years and is reemployed for the school year immediately following the two full years." The Committee proposes the following alteration: "employed as a teacher in the same district continuously for five full school years and is reemployed for the school year immediately following the five full years."

Program Definition and Curricula

[Pages 104 - 108]

Strengthened curricula and innovative programs of instruction can be among the most promising components of the school improvement movement. Historically it has been the practice of the Alaska legislature to defer decisions affecting curricula and programs of instruction to others. Nevertheless, and although the Committee subscribes to the principle of delegating matters of curriculum to the state board and local districts, because a critical need is not being met, Alaska studies is an exception to this doctrine. There is a critical need for all Alaskans to be well informed about Alaska's history, system of government, geography and natural resources, and the richness of its multiculturally diverse population.

Therefore, it is recommended:

that the legislature, by statute, require that the scope and sequence schedule developed by the state Department of Education in its Alaska studies program be incorporated into the curriculum of each school district of the state.

Research, Evaluation. and Dissemination

[Pages 109 - 112]

As the Committee collected background material for this report, the need to better understand processes of schooling in Alaska became clear. There is a need for long-range, ongoing studies that will provide the state with background materials and knowledge of options that are necessary to meet goals of education. What little research is carried out by Alaska institutions is usually initiated only by inspired individual investigators. Current capabilities of Alaska institutions of higher education and the Department of

Education to fulfill Alaska's educational research needs are being questioned. The issue is not whether there is a need for educational research; the issue is whether there is the capability and commitment at Alaska's research institutions to carry it out.

Efforts at the University of Alaska to develop a coordinated, sustained, institutional educational research presence with its recently established Alaska Schools Research Fund have created the potential to meet most research needs

that this report speaks to as well as many others.

Therefore, the Committee recommends:

that the legislature support the University's "Alaska School Research Fund" as it has the potential to enable Alaska's research capability to become sufficient to meet the state's educational research needs. Furthermore, it recommends pursuing research on subjects suggested in this report and others that may be suggested, especially those that seek the means to ameliorate causes of inadequate school performance.

This summary leads to the Joint Committee's final recommendation. There is need for the legislature to continue to give extraordinary attention to school performance. Arguments advanced in favor of creating the Joint Committee two years ago remain valid. Some of the Committee's recommendations already acted upon require continuing legislative oversight. And as measures to meet needs identified in this report are developed, they should be monitored by the legislature to guarantee that they are

carried out correctly and promptly. In particular, the study of the state's school finance and governance system recommended by the Committee in Chapter Two should be accomplished under the auspices of the legislature. Therefore the Committee recommends:

that the 17th Alaska Legislature establish a House-Senate Joint Committee on School Improvement. The Committee shall continue the work of the Joint Committee on School Performance, make additional recommendations as conditions warrant, and oversee all of the legislature's initiatives in school improvement.

CONCLUSION

Although there have been efforts at school reform over the past several years that failed because they were ill founded or inadequately carried out, it would be a mistake to dismiss current arguments for reform as lacking in substance or to doubt that there is genuine need. Two compelling reasons support this statement and the presumption that there is need to act on the Committee's recommendations definitively and promptly. First, the number of students who drop out of school or finish school unable to fill out a job application form let alone qualify for any kind of employment grows increasingly higher each year. As many as one out of every three students presently enrolled is experiencing social, economic, or academic distress. Complicating these conditions is the reality that these students are not uniformly distributed among the state's fifty-four school districts. There are concentrations of students (often in small, remote villages) where 60% to 70% of the school-age population benefits little from Alaska's education system. These children do not progress toward but rather retreat from requirements of contemporary society. Because they are scattered over such a

large geographic area, the critical nature of their deficiencies is not apparent. Consequently, they attract far less public awareness and concern than is usually necessary to activate calls for remedial measures. Nevertheless, these children are there, their need is great, and their numbers are growing.

Second, the level of education necessary to succeed in Alaska's (and the nation's) increasingly technological and educationally demanding society is much higher than ever before. There are more youth falling out of the system who are unable to cope academically or socially at any level than ever before, while at the same time the need to complete a solid basic education as a pre-condition merely to survive economically steadily increases. In the first report of the Joint Committee, quoting Lisbeth Shore from her book, *Within Our Reach: Breaking the Cycle of Disadvantage*, the point was made that "In today's world, a youngster who leaves school unable to read, write, and do simple arithmetic faces a bleak future. When a substantial proportion of boys and girls leave school uneducated, the rest of us face a bleak future."

Guided by the assumption that all children and youth are able to learn and that the state as well as individual students will profit from their learning, the Committee is convinced that Alaska need not face a bleak future -- *if education is given the priority it requires*. It follows, therefore, that the financial and intellectual resources of the state must be made equally available to all children. The real proof of the legislature's success in advocating and guaranteeing improved school performance will be seen when all students achieve levels of performance commensurate with their abilities regardless of their ethnicity, their gender, their economic circumstance, or their place of residence.

*I HAVE LIVED IN THIS VILLAGE ALL MY
LIFE AND NEVER WENT TO SCHOOL. I
SPEAK ONLY MY NATIVE LANGUAGE.
WHY IS IT THAT THE KIDS WHO
GRADUATE FROM HIGH SCHOOL DO
NOT KNOW ANY MORE THAN I DO?*

**TUNUNUK VILLAGE ELDER
SEPTEMBER, 1989**

THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENT HAS
NOT BEEN FILMED BUT IS
AVAILABLE IN THE ORIGINAL
FILE

**New Directives in School Performance:
The Legislature as Advocate and Guarantor**



**REPORT OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE
ON
SCHOOL PERFORMANCE**

To The
Seventeenth Alaska Legislature

JUNEAU, ALASKA
JANUARY 1991

HCR

5

3111 C STREET, SUITE 455
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99503
(907) 561-7628

WHILE IN SESSION
P.O. BOX V
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811
(907) 465-3704

ALASKA STATE HOUSE



CHAIR
RULES COMMITTEE

JUDICIARY

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL
TRADE & TOURISM

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

REPRESENTATIVE JOHNNY ELLIS

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the House HESS Committee
FROM: Rep. Johnny Ellis *JE*
RE: HCR 5
DATE: March 5, 1991

HCR 5 establishes the Health Resources and Access Task Force. This new task force combines the work of two other task forces into one. The Health Care Cost Containment Task Force has been working for the past two years on ways to contain the rapidly expanding costs of the state employee health plan. The Universal Health Care Task Force was established last year to recommend a plan to insure that all Alaskans have access to a basic level of health care.

We have obtained agreement from the leadership of both the Senate and the House, the Governor's office, Commissioner Mala as well as from Senator Duncan, chair of the Cost Containment Task Force and me, author of the Universal Task Force, that a combined task force with a joint mission is the most efficient and cost effective way to proceed.

Since the work of both task forces is currently underway, it would be most expedient for this resolution to pass the legislature as soon as possible.

Thank you for your consideration of this resolution.



FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
1991 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO: HCR 5

Revision Date: _____
Title: Establishing a Health Resources
and Access Task Force.
Sponsor: Representative Ellis
Requestor: Representative Ellis

Department Affected: Legislative Affairs Agency
BRU: Legislative Council
Component: Council & Subcommittees
Session Expenses, Legis. Oper Budget

COMPONENT SERIAL NO: 783

Expenditures/Revenues: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 92	FY 93	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96	FY 97
PERSONAL SERVICES	165.4	60.0	0	0	0	0
TRAVEL	48.1	30.0	0	0	0	0
CONTRACTUAL	92.0	61.0	0	0	0	0
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	305.5	151.0	0	0	0	0

CAPITAL	0	0	0	0	0	0
---------	---	---	---	---	---	---

REVENUE	0	0	0	0	0	0
---------	---	---	---	---	---	---

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND	305.5	151.0	0	0	0	0
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL	305.5	151.0	0	0	0	0

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME	3	0	0	0	0	0
PART-TIME	0	3	0	0	0	0
TEMPORARY	0	0	0	0	0	0

Estimate of current year impact: _____

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

HCR 5 establishes a Health Resources and Access Task Force within the Legislative Branch. The following is requested to adequately support the task force:

Prepared By: Pamela A. Stoops, Director
Division: Administrative Services

Phone: 465-3850
Date: 3/4/91

Approved By: Warren W. Endicott, Executive Director
Agency: Legislative Affairs Agency

Date: 3/4/91

Distribution (by preparer): Legislative Finance, Legislative Sponsor, Requestor, OMB, & Impacted Agency(ies).

Page 1 of 2

FXJ 305.5 LAA

PERSONAL SERVICES

Staff is requested as follows to assist the Health Resources & Access Task Force.

Legislative Assistant - Range 21A

\$4,155 x 12 months = \$49,860

\$49,860 x 37% benefits = \$68,427

Administrative Assistant - Range 19A

\$3,638 x 12 months = 43,656

\$43,655 x 37% Benefits = 59,809

Secretary - Range 12A

\$2,259 x 12 months = 27,108

\$27,108 x 37% Benefits = \$37,138

165.4

Funding for FY 93 is for seven months. The task force is terminated February 1, 1993.

TRAVEL

It is anticipated there will be 8 meetings of the 14 member Health Resources & Access Task Force.

TASK FORCE MEMBER TRAVEL

8 meetings x (7 members requiring airfare each meeting) = 56 airfares

56 airfares x \$436 = \$24,416

2 days per diem x 56 = 112

112 x \$95 = 10,640

8 meetings x (7 members not requiring airfare) = 56

2 days long term per diem x 56 = 112

112 x \$65 = 7,280

42.4

STAFF TRAVEL

8 meetings x (1 staff member requiring airfare each meeting) = 8 airfares

8 airfares x 436 = \$3,488

3 days per diem x 8 = 24

24 x \$95 = 2,280

5.7

48.1

It is anticipated there will be 5 meetings in FY 93.

CONTRACTUAL

Professional services funding to contract with State Health Care policy expert--\$80,000.

Advertising - advertising of public notice of meetings--\$6,600.

Phones - 2,400

Printing - 3,000

92.0

SUPPLIES

Supplies for the task force will be absorbed within the Session Expenses and Legislative Operating Budgets.

EQUIPMENT

Equipment for the task force will be absorbed within the Session Expenses and Legislative Operating Budgets.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
1991 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HCR 5

Revision Date: _____
Title: Resolution establishing a Health Resource and Access Task Force.
Sponsor: Ellis
Requestor: _____

Department Affected: Administration
BRU: Labor Relations
Component: Labor Relations

COMPONENT SERIAL NO.

0	0	5	8
---	---	---	---

Expenditures/Revenues: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 92	FY 93	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96	FY 97
PERSONAL SERVICES	0	0	0	0	0	0
TRAVEL	0	0	0	0	0	0
CONTRACTUAL	0	0	0	0	0	0
SUPPLIES	0	0	0	0	0	0
EQUIPMENT	0	0	0	0	0	0
LAND & STRUCTURES	0	0	0	0	0	0
GRANTS, CLAIMS	0	0	0	0	0	0
MISCELLANEOUS	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL OPERATING	0	0	0	0	0	0

CAPITAL	0	0	0	0	0	0
---------	---	---	---	---	---	---

REVENUE	0	0	0	0	0	0
---------	---	---	---	---	---	---

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND	0	0	0	0	0	0
FEDERAL FUNDS	0	0	0	0	0	0
OTHER	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	0	0	0	0	0	0

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
PART-TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
TEMPORARY	0	0	0	0	0	0

Estimate of current year impact: _____

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary.)

With the exception of possible participation in task force proceedings, there is no direct cost to agencies. Task force funding will be sought via sponsor fiscal note (attached).

Prepared by: Bruce Cummings *Bruce Cummings*
Division: Labor Relations

Phone: 465-4404
Date: 3/5/91

Approved by Commissioner: Millett Keller *Millett Keller*
Agency: Administration

Date: 2/5/91

Distribution (by preparer): Legislative Finance, Legislative Sponsor, Requestor, OMB, & Impacted Agency(ies).

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

(7)

Date Referred: February 13, 1991

FURTHER REFERRALS:

Finance

Date of Committee Action: 3-5-91

The HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES Committee considered:

HCR 5

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 5

HEALTH RESOURCES & ACCESS TASK FORCE

Establishing a Health Resources and Access Task Force.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

be replaced with CS HCRS (HES)

the same title
 a new title

have attached amendments(s)

do pass

do not pass

no recommendations

individual recommendation.

additional referral to the _____ Committee

ADOPTS: _____ letter of Intent

ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(S): (Dept)

APPROVES PREVIOUS: (Dept/Date)

fiscal impact L.A.A. 3-4-91

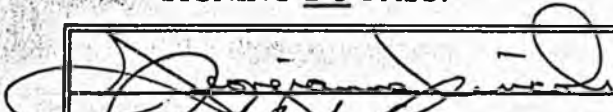
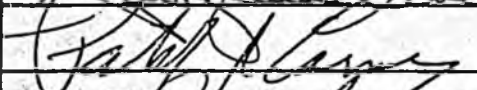
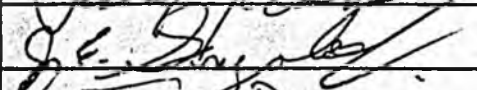

fiscal note(s) _____

zero fiscal note D.O.A. 3-5-91

zero fiscal note(s) _____

SIGNING DO PASS:

SIGNING OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:

	Check appropriate column:	Do Not Pass	No Rec	Amend
				
				
				
Bettye Davis				
				
May Miller				
Cheri Davis				


Chairman's Signature

Essay

Barbara Ehrenreich

Our Health-Care Disgrace

National health insurance is an idea whose time has come . . . and gone . . . and come again, sounding a little more querulous with each return, like any good intention that has been put off much too long. It was once, way back in the 1930s, a brisk, young, up-and-coming idea. By the late '60s, when Richard Nixon first declared a health-care "crisis," it was already beginning to sound a little middle-aged and weary. Today, with the health-care situation moving rapidly beyond crisis to near catastrophe, the age-old and obvious solution has the tone of a desperate whine: Why can't we have national health insurance—like just about everybody else in the civilized world, *please?*

Health-care costs have nearly doubled since 1980, to become the leading cause of personal and small-business bankruptcy. Collectively we spend \$600 billion a year on medical care, or 11% of GNP—a higher percentage than any other nation devotes to health. But the U.S. health system may be one of the few instances of social pathology that truly deserve to be compared to cancer. It grows uncontrollably—in terms of dollars—but seems to become more dysfunctional with every metastatic leap.

For a thumbnail index of failure, consider the number of people left out in the cold. Despite per capita medical expenditures that dwarf those of socialized systems, 37 million Americans have no health insurance at all. For the uninsured and the underinsured—who amount to 28% of the population—a diagnostic work-up can mean a missed car payment; a child's sore throat, an empty dinner table.

Even among those fortunate enough to be insured, the leading side effect of illness is often financial doom. Consider the elderly, whose federally sponsored insurance program, Medicare, inspires so much drooling and sharpening of knives at budget time. Even with Medicare, older Americans are forced to spend more than 15% of their income for medical care annually. And since nursing-home care is virtually uncovered, the elderly are pushed to degrading extremes—like divorcing a beloved spouse—in order to qualify for help through a long-term debilitating illness. Or, as more than one public figure has suggested, they can shuffle off prematurely to their reward.

We can't go on like this. Our infant-mortality rate is higher than Singapore's; our life expectancy is lower than Cubans'. As many as 50% of inner-city infants and toddlers go unimmunized. In the face of AIDS, our first major epidemic since polio, we are nearly helpless. Our city hospitals are overflowing with victims of tuberculosis, poverty, AIDS, old age and exposure. Our rural areas don't have this problem; they have fewer and fewer hospitals or, increasingly, less medical personnel of any kind.

But everyone knows that the system is broken beyond repair. According to the *New England Journal of Medicine*, 3 out of 4 Americans favor a government-financed national health-care program. The AFL-CIO is campaigning vigorously for national health care, and Big Business, terrified by the skyrock-

eting cost of employee health benefits, seems ready to go along. Even in the medical profession—the ancient redoubt of free-enterprise traditionalists—a majority now favor national health insurance.

So what stands in the way? There's still the American Medical Association, of course, which has yet to catch up to its physician constituency. But the interest group that arguably has the most to lose is the health-insurance industry, which spends more than \$1 million a year to forestall any thoroughgoing government action. And why not? The insurance industry already enjoys a richly rewarding, gruesomely parasitic relationship to the public health domain. In broad schematic outline, it goes like this:

For decades the private insurers have fanned the crisis by blithely reimbursing the fees of greedy practitioners and expansionary hospitals. Then, as costs rise, the private insurers seek to shed the poorest and the sickest customers, who get priced out or summarily dropped. For some companies, a serious and costly illness is a good enough reason to cancel a policy. Others refuse to insure anybody who *might* be gay and hence, actuarially speaking, might get AIDS.

So over the years, government has moved in to pick up the rejects: first the elderly, then the extremely poor. Since the rejects are of course the most expensive to insure, government is soon faced with a budget nightmare. Draconian cost-control measures follow. But because government can only attempt to control the costs of its own programs, the providers of care simply shift *their* costs onto the bills of privately insured patients. Faced with ever rising costs, the private insurers become more determined to shed the poorest and the sickest . . . and so the cycle goes.

The technical term for this kind of arrangement is lemon socialism: the private sector gets the profitable share of the market, and the public sector gets what's left. The problem with this particular lemon is that it tends to sour us on

the possibility of real reform. Even those who crave a national program covering everyone are wont to throw up their hands in despair: Nothing works! It's so complex! Maybe in 100 years!

It's time to cut the life-support system leading to the hungry maw of the insurance industry. The insurance companies can't have it both ways: they can't refuse to insure the poor, the old and the sick while simultaneously campaigning to prevent a government program to cover everyone alike. The very meaning of insurance is risk sharing—the well throwing in their lot with the sick, the young with the old, the affluent with the down-and-out. If private enterprise won't do the job, then let private enterprise get out of the way.

With the largest-ever consensus behind it, national health care's time is surely here at last. Otherwise, let us bow our heads together and recite the old Episcopal prayer: "We have left undone those things which we ought to have done . . . and there is no health in us." ■



AFTER SIS FOR TIME



Alaska State Legislature

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION
AND SOCIAL SERVICES

DATE: March 5, 1991

PLACE: Capitol Room 106

SUBJECT OF MEETING:

*HCR 5 HEALTH RESOURCES & ACCESS TASK FORCE

NAME	REPRESENTING	BUSINESS/PERSONAL MAILING ADDRESS	ZIP	(H) PHONE	(W) PHONE	DO YOU WANT TO TESTIFY?	WHAT SUBJECT/ WHICH BILL?
✓ Bruce Cummings	Admin/ Labor Relations	Box C-0220	99811	789-2263	465-4401	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Y	N HCR 5
✓ Mike Coughlin	ADMIN RET/BENEFITS	Box CR-0203	99811	463-3522	465-4470	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Y	N HB 45
✓ Gordon Evans	HIAA	318 4th St.	99801	586-3487	586-3210	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Y	N HCR 5
✓ JAY LIVEY	Dep. Comm. DHSS					<input checked="" type="radio"/> Y	N
						Y	N
						Y	N
						Y	N
						Y	N
						Y	N
						Y	N
						Y	N

HCR

6

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Helen

Representative Eileen Panigeo MacLean
Co-Chair House Finance Committee
P.O. Box 830
Barrow, Alaska 99723



WHILE IN JUNEAU
Box V
Juneau, Alaska 99811
465-4525
465-4833

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Department of Labor

MAR 5 1991

Comm	<i>NBA</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Deputy		<input type="checkbox"/>
Sp Asst		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sp Asst		<input type="checkbox"/>
Info Off		<input type="checkbox"/>
Adm Asst		<input type="checkbox"/>
Int Aud		<input type="checkbox"/>
ASD		<input type="checkbox"/>
ESD		<input type="checkbox"/>
LS&S		<input type="checkbox"/>
W/C		<input type="checkbox"/>
cc:		<input type="checkbox"/>
cc:		<input type="checkbox"/>

District 22

North Slope Borough

Anaktuvuk Pass
Atkasuk
Barrow
Kaktovik
Nulqsut
Point Hope
Point Lay
Wainwright

Northwest Arctic Borough

Ambler
Buckland
Deering
Kiana
Kivalina
Kobuk
Kotzebue
Noatak
Noorvik
Selawik
Shungnak

MEMORANDUM

Office of the Commissioner

TO: Nancy Bear Usera, Commissioner
Department of Labor

FR: Rep. Eileen P. MacLean *Rep. MacLean*
Co-Chair, House Finance Committee

DATE: Thursday, February 28, 1991

RE: HCR 6 Establishing the Special Interagency
Coordinating Committee on Schools

Attached is a copy of HCR 6 establishing a special interagency coordinating committee on schools. This bill was passed last year, however, time ran out and the committee did not meet.

With a new administration, it is important to reactivate the committee to forge together various agencies and people charged with the responsibility to provide health, social, legal, and educational services.

Alaskans are becoming aware that there are unacceptable levels of educational achievement among a significant portion of Alaskan Youth. Both individual youth and society as a whole are at risk. As you are aware, the state's cost will be immeasurable in unfilled human potential and millions of dollars spent on remedial programs that will never be restored.

I urge the department's support on this resolution. This is an effort to holistically improve our children's educational environment. I look forward to your response.

Rep. MacLean
I share your concern that we must all join together to bring about constructive change. You can count on my support for a coordinated effort.
Nancy Bear

MAR 12 1991

NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT



Pouch 169 • Barrow, Alaska 99723

(907) 852-5311 • FAX (907) 852-5984

Office of the
Superintendent

Patsy Aamodt, Superintendent

Nunamiut Wolves
Nunamiut School
Box 21029
Anaktuvuk Pass,
Alaska 99721
(907) 661-3226
FAX (907) 661-3402

March 6, 1991

Atkasuk Eagles
Meade River School
Atkasuk, Alaska 99791
(907) 633-6315
FAX (907) 633-6215

Representative Eileen MacLean
Co-Chair, House Finance
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Barrow Whalers
Barrow High School
Pouch 8950
Barrow, Alaska 99723
(907) 852-8950

Dear Eileen:

BMS Wolves
Barrow Middle School
Pouch 8950
Barrow, Alaska 99723
(907) 852-8950

The NSB School District is supportive of HCR 6 which proposes to establish a Special Interagency Coordinating Committee on Schools. We agree with the intent of the bill and the need to address social/health barriers to learning. However, I feel that the proposed composition of the Committee, which would be charged with the responsibility of establishing overall plans on our (school districts) behalf, does not adequately reflect local school-level representation. It would appear to be in the best interests of students to ensure that there be strong representation on this Committee from those in the professional field of education at the local level.

Arctic Fox
Fred Ipalook
Elementary School
Box 450
Barrow, Alaska 99723
(907) 852-4711

In closing, the District is supportive of the intent of HCR 6; however, I respectfully ask for your consideration to include professional educators who deal with the problems addressed in the bill everyday at the local level. Thank you for your consideration.

Kaveolook Rams
Harold Kaveolook School
Box 10
Kaktovik, Alaska 99747
(907) 640-6626
FAX (907) 640-6717

Sincerely,

Nuiqsut Trappers
Trapper School
Nuiqsut, Alaska 99789
(907) 480-6712
FAX (907) 480-6621

Tikigaq Harpooners
Tikigaq School
Box 148
Point Hope, Alaska 99766
(907) 368-2662 or 2663
FAX (907) 368-2770


PATSY AAMODT
SUPERINTENDENT

Cully Qavviks
Cully School
Point Lay, Alaska 99759
(907) 833-2312
FAX (907) 833-2123

Alak Huskies
Alak School
Box 10
Wainwright, Alaska 99782
(907) 763-2541
FAX (907) 763-2550



NEA-ALASKA

AFFILIATED WITH THE NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

ANCHORAGE REGIONAL OFFICE

1411 W. 33RD AVENUE
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99503
(907) 274-0536
FAX: (907) 274-0551

JUNEAU OFFICE

105 MUNICIPAL WAY, SUITE 302
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801
(907) 586-3090
FAX: (907) 586-2744

FAIRBANKS REGIONAL OFFICE

2118 CUSHMAN STREET
FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99701
(907) 456-4435
FAX: (907) 456-2159

March 13, 1991

To: **Representatives Carney and Lincoln, Co-Chairs
Members, House HESS Committee**

Re: **HCR 6: "Relating to the Special Interagency Coordinating Committee on
Schools."**

NEA-Alaska supports and encourages your favorable consideration of HCR 6.

The Resolution effectively addresses a critical need in public education in Alaska. NEA-Alaska members, certificated and non-certificated, frequently request specific information relative to various services which might be available to help children.

We suggest an additional "Resolve" which would direct the department or the Coordinating Committee, through school districts, to make in-service programs regarding youth services and how to access them available to all employees on a periodic basis.

Thank you for your consideration of our recommendation.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Manners
Executive Director

Don Oberg
President

cc: **Representative MacLean**