

plication for assistance under this Act, the Commissioner of Education shall make an immediate investigation of the financial circumstances of the applying district and report thereon to the Board of Education. If by the investigation and report it appears that a property tax levy of ten mills on the real and personal property in the district, assessed on the basis provided in Section 2 of this Act, plus all additional revenues from tuition, Federal or Territorial aid, or other sources, would be insufficient to meet the requirements of the current year's budget of the district, as approved pursuant to Article 5, Title 37, ACLA 1949, the Board may direct the Commissioner to give emergency financial assistance to the district as provided in this Act. School districts receiving special financial assistance from the Alaska Native Service shall not be eligible for assistance under this Act.

Section 4. The financial assistance authorized herein shall be in an amount determined necessary by

the Commissioner, but it shall not exceed 10% of that portion of the approved budget of the district on which Territorial refunds are determined for the current year or \$5,000, whichever is the lesser amount. Payment shall be made upon vouchers approved by the Commissioner of Education, either in a single payment or in such other manner as he may deem advisable. The Commissioner may withhold assistance for any district which fails to pay the salaries of its teachers currently and in full, and such district shall be liable to repay on demand by the Commissioner any sums theretofore allowed it under this Act in the current school year.

Section 5. Funds for administration of this Act shall be included in those appropriated for the support of schools in the Territory.

Section 6. This Act shall take effect July 1, 1955, and shall terminate June 30, 1957, unless otherwise provided by law.

Approved March 28, 1955

CHAPTER 140

AN ACT

To provide scholarships at the University of Alaska for certain native students; setting forth the terms and limitations; and related matters.

(H. B. 215)

Be it Enacted by the Legislature of the Territory of Alaska:

Section 1. **Purpose.** Because of the language difficulty and economic condition of the native peoples of Alaska, and the necessity for integrating the native cultures with the Alaskan economy, it is hereby declared to be the purpose of the Legislature to make provision for assistance to natives who wish to pursue a higher education beyond the attainments possible in the free public schools system.

Section 2. **Definition of Native.** For the purposes of this Act the term "native" means any person between the ages of 17 and 25 who is a descendant of members of the aboriginal races inhabiting Alaska when annexed to the United States, or who is a descendant of Indians or Eskimos who, since the year 1867 and prior to June 30, 1952, migrated into Alaska from Canada, and who is such descendant as to have at least one-quarter blood derived from such ancestors.

Section 3. **Scholarships.** The Board of Regents of the University of Alaska shall offer scholarships to natives desiring to attend the University of Alaska, not to exceed ten new scholarships for each academic year. Preference shall be given to natives residing in the rural areas of Alaska who desire to receive training in the Department of Education. If there are more than ten applications the Board of Regents shall award ten scholar-

ships to those applicants who have the highest scholastic record or who are determined by the Board of Regents to be the most qualified among the applicants and who are financially unable to obtain a higher education without assistance. The University shall provide such minimum financial assistance to such students as shall be necessary in each individual case, but not to exceed fees, board and room in any case.

Section 4. **Continuation of Scholarships.** The award of free room and board shall be made from any funds available to the University. Each native who receives a scholarship under this Act shall be entitled to retain such scholarship and to receive free room and board during his or her attendance at the University so long as he or she shall maintain a grade average equivalent to a "C" or better; Provided however, that no one native shall be entitled to the scholarship for more than four years, nor for more than the number of years necessary to receive a bachelor's degree.

Section 5. **Construction of Act.** The Board of Regents shall offer the scholarships provided for herein for the academic year beginning in the fall of 1955 and each academic year thereafter. The scholarships provided for herein shall be supplemental and in addition to any other scholarships to which the applicant may be entitled or may receive.

Approved March 28, 1955