

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 24(FIN)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Offered: 3/16/20

Referred: Rules

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES KREISS-TOMKINS, Fields, Johnston, LeDoux, Story, Lincoln, Spohnholz, Foster

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to instruction in a language other than English; establishing limited**
2 **language immersion teacher certificates; renaming the Alaska Native Language**
3 **Preservation and Advisory Council as the Council for Alaska Native Languages; and**
4 **relating to the membership of the Council for Alaska Native Languages."**

5 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

6 * **Section 1.** AS 14.20 is amended by adding a new section to read:

7 **Sec. 14.20.023. Limited language immersion teacher certificates. (a)**

8 Notwithstanding AS 14.20.020(b), the department may issue a limited language
9 immersion teacher certificate, valid only in the area of expertise for which it is issued,
10 to a person qualified under (b) of this section to teach any subject if the language of
11 instruction is not English and the instruction is provided only to students who are
12 enrolled in a language immersion program.

13 (b) A person may apply for a limited language immersion teacher certificate
14 under this section if the person is the subject of a request made under (c) of this

1 section and demonstrates, as required by regulations adopted by the board,
2 instructional skills and subject matter expertise sufficient to assure the public that the
3 person is competent as a teacher. The board may require a person issued a limited
4 language immersion teacher certificate under this section to undertake academic
5 training as may be required by the board by regulation and make satisfactory progress
6 in the academic training.

7 (c) The department may issue a limited language immersion teacher certificate
8 under this section if the school board of the district or regional educational attendance
9 area in which an applicant for a limited language immersion teacher certificate will be
10 teaching submits a request to the department for the limited language immersion
11 teacher certificate to be issued to the applicant. A request for a limited language
12 immersion teacher certificate under this section must specify the school district or
13 regional educational attendance area, subject, and instructional language for which the
14 certificate is valid.

15 (d) The board may adopt regulations necessary to implement this section. The
16 regulations may not require an applicant for a limited language immersion teacher
17 certificate under this section to achieve a minimum score on an examination unless the
18 examination is given in the instructional language for which the certificate is valid.

19 (e) A limited language immersion teacher certificate issued under this section
20 is initially valid for one year. The department may, in accordance with (f) of this
21 section and regulations adopted by the board, extend or renew a limited language
22 immersion teacher certificate issued to a person under this section if the school board
23 of the district or regional educational attendance area in which the person is or will be
24 teaching requests that the certificate be extended or renewed and certifies that the
25 person has demonstrated skills in classroom instruction and student assessment.

26 (f) If a person meets the requirements for an extension or renewal of a limited
27 language immersion teacher certificate under (e) of this section, the department may
28 extend or renew a limited language immersion teacher certificate for instruction in

29 (1) a language that is not an Alaska Native language for a cumulative
30 period not to exceed four years;

31 (2) an Alaska Native language for a cumulative period that may exceed

1 four years.

2 * **Sec. 2.** AS 44.33.520(a) is amended to read:

3 (a) The **Council for Alaska Native Languages** [ALASKA NATIVE
4 LANGUAGE PRESERVATION AND ADVISORY COUNCIL] is established in the
5 department for the purpose of recommending the establishment or reorganization of
6 programs to support the preservation, restoration, and revitalization of Alaska Native
7 languages.

8 * **Sec. 3.** AS 44.33.520(c) is amended to read:

9 (c) The governor shall appoint to the council established in this section **seven**
10 [FIVE] voting members who are professional language experts and who represent
11 diverse regions of the state. In addition, one member of the senate appointed by the
12 president of the senate and one member of the house of representatives appointed by
13 the speaker of the house of representatives shall serve on the council as nonvoting
14 members. In appointing the nonvoting members of the council, the president of the
15 senate and the speaker of the house of representatives shall appoint a member of the
16 bush caucus, if a bush caucus exists. In this subsection, "bush caucus" means a group
17 of legislators that represents rural areas of the state.

18 * **Sec. 4.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
19 read:

20 REVISOR'S INSTRUCTIONS. The revisor of statutes is requested to consider
21 changing the

22 (1) heading of art. 9 of AS 44.33 from "Alaska Native Language Preservation
23 and Advisory Council" to "Council for Alaska Native Languages";

24 (2) catch line of AS 44.33.520 from "Alaska Native Language Preservation
25 and Advisory Council" to "Council for Alaska Native Languages."