

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 120(EDC)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Offered: 3/2/12

Referred: Finance

Sponsor(s): SENATORS FRENCH, Hoffman, Thomas, Stevens

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act establishing in the Department of Education and Early Development a**
2 **voluntary parent and early childhood education program for pre-elementary aged**
3 **children."**

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

5 * **Section 1.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section
6 to read:

7 SHORT TITLE. This Act may be known as the Alaska Parents as Teachers Act.

8 * **Sec. 2.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
9 read:

10 PARENTS AS TEACHERS PROGRAM ESTABLISHED. (a) The department shall
11 devise and implement a statewide parents as teachers program for the benefit of children who
12 are under five years of age. The program must provide a system of early childhood education
13 that

14 (1) is evidence-based;

- 1 (2) involves parents;
- 2 (3) is consistent with available research and best practices for high quality
3 early childhood education;
- 4 (4) incorporates guidelines adopted by the department for early learning that
- 5 (A) enhances school readiness;
- 6 (B) increases parent understanding of child development and
7 developmental milestones;
- 8 (C) reduces the incidence of child abuse and neglect;
- 9 (D) increases identification of health problems and developmental
10 delays through regular screenings;
- 11 (E) improves child health indicators, including immunization rates;
- 12 (F) increases parental involvement; and
- 13 (5) provides for effective and efficient coordination with or expansion of pre-
14 elementary education programs operating in the state, to the extent permitted by law.
- 15 (b) A school district shall, to the extent space is needed and available, provide for the
16 use of a room in a school at no charge to support the program established under this section.
- 17 (c) The department may develop and enter into local partnerships to implement the
18 program established under this section.
- 19 (d) On or before January 15, 2015, the department shall provide a report to the
20 legislature on the effectiveness and participation rates of the program established in this
21 section. The report must include a comparison of performance of participants and
22 nonparticipants.
- 23 (e) The program established under this section terminates on July 1, 2015.
- 24 (f) In this section, "department" means the Department of Education and Early
25 Development.