

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 225(L&C)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE SENATE LABOR AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE

Offered: 4/19/22

Referred: Finance

Sponsor(s): SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to a paraprofessional training program; creating a limited teacher**
2 **resident certificate; creating a teacher residency program; relating to requirements to**
3 **issue a teacher certificate; relating to subject-matter expert limited teacher certificates;**
4 **relating to limited teacher certificates; creating a teacher registered apprenticeship**
5 **program; and creating a teacher recruitment and retention fund."**

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

7 *** Section 1.** AS 14.07.020(a) is amended to read:

8 (a) The department shall

9 (1) exercise general supervision over the public schools of the state
10 except the University of Alaska;

11 (2) study the conditions and needs of the public schools of the state,
12 adopt or recommend plans, administer and evaluate grants to improve school
13 performance awarded under AS 14.03.125, and adopt regulations for the improvement

1 of the public schools; the department may consult with the University of Alaska to
2 develop secondary education requirements to improve student achievement in college
3 preparatory courses;

4 (3) provide advisory and consultative services to all public school
5 governing bodies and personnel;

6 (4) prescribe by regulation a minimum course of study for the public
7 schools; the regulations must provide that, if a course in American Sign Language is
8 given, the course shall be given credit as a course in a foreign language;

9 (5) establish, in coordination with the Department of Health and Social
10 Services, a program for the continuing education of children who are held in juvenile
11 detention facilities or juvenile treatment facilities, as those terms are defined in
12 AS 47.12.990, in the state during the period of detention or treatment;

13 (6) accredit those public schools that meet accreditation standards
14 prescribed by regulation by the department; these regulations shall be adopted by the
15 department and presented to the legislature during the first 10 days of any regular
16 session, and become effective 45 days after presentation or at the end of the session,
17 whichever is earlier, unless disapproved by a resolution concurred in by a majority of
18 the members of each house;

19 (7) prescribe by regulation, after consultation with the state fire
20 marshal and the state sanitarian, standards that will ensure healthful and safe
21 conditions in the public and private schools of the state, including a requirement of
22 physical examinations and immunizations in pre-elementary schools; the standards for
23 private schools may not be more stringent than those for public schools;

24 (8) exercise general supervision over pre-elementary schools that
25 receive direct state or federal funding;

26 (9) exercise general supervision over elementary and secondary
27 correspondence study programs offered by municipal school districts or regional
28 educational attendance areas; the department may also offer and make available to any
29 Alaskan through a centralized office a correspondence study program;

30 (10) accredit private schools that request accreditation and that meet
31 accreditation standards prescribed by regulation by the department; nothing in this

1 paragraph authorizes the department to require religious or other private schools to be
2 licensed;

3 (11) review plans for construction of new public elementary and
4 secondary schools and for additions to and major rehabilitation of existing public
5 elementary and secondary schools and, in accordance with regulations adopted by the
6 department, determine and approve the extent of eligibility for state aid of a school
7 construction or major maintenance project; for the purposes of this paragraph, "plans"
8 include educational specifications, schematic designs, projected energy consumption
9 and costs, and final contract documents;

10 (12) provide educational opportunities in the areas of vocational
11 education and training, and basic education to individuals over 16 years of age who
12 are no longer attending school; the department may consult with businesses and labor
13 unions to develop a program to prepare students for apprenticeships or internships that
14 will lead to employment opportunities;

15 (13) administer the grants awarded under AS 14.11;

16 (14) establish, in coordination with the Department of Public Safety, a
17 school bus driver training course;

18 (15) require the reporting of information relating to school disciplinary
19 and safety programs under AS 14.33.120 and of incidents of disruptive or violent
20 behavior;

21 (16) establish by regulation criteria, based on low student performance,
22 under which the department may intervene in a school district to improve instructional
23 practices, as described in AS 14.07.030(a)(14) or (15); the regulations must include

24 (A) a notice provision that alerts the district to the deficiencies
25 and the instructional practice changes proposed by the department;

26 (B) an end date for departmental intervention, as described in
27 AS 14.07.030(a)(14)(A) and (B) and (15), after the district demonstrates three
28 consecutive years of improvement consisting of not less than two percent
29 increases in student proficiency on standards-based assessments in language
30 arts and mathematics, as provided in AS 14.03.123(f)(1)(A); and

31 (C) a process for districts to petition the department for

1 continuing or discontinuing the department's intervention;

2 (17) notify the legislative committees having jurisdiction over
3 education before intervening in a school district under AS 14.07.030(a)(14) or
4 redirecting public school funding under AS 14.07.030(a)(15);

5 **(18) collaborate with the University of Alaska and districts to**
6 **establish a paraprofessional training program for districts designed to prepare**
7 **high school students for entry into the teacher registered apprenticeship program**
8 **established in AS 14.20.700.**

9 * **Sec. 2.** AS 14.20 is amended by adding new sections to read:

10 **Sec. 14.20.013. Limited teacher resident certificate.** (a) Notwithstanding
11 AS 14.20.020, the department shall issue a limited teacher resident certificate to a
12 person who meets the requirements of (b) of this section.

13 (b) To be eligible for a limited teacher resident certificate, a person must

14 (1) either

15 (A) hold a baccalaureate degree from an institution of higher
16 education accredited by a recognized regional or national accrediting
17 association or approved by the commissioner and be currently enrolled in an
18 approved

19 (i) post-baccalaureate teacher education program at a
20 nationally or regionally accredited institution meeting the requirements
21 of AS 14.20.020(b) that provides for completion of the regular teacher
22 certificate education requirements within three years after receipt of a
23 limited teacher resident certificate under this section; or

24 (ii) nontraditional or alternative teacher education
25 program; or

26 (B) be currently enrolled in the final year of a baccalaureate
27 degree teacher education program at an institution of higher education
28 accredited by a recognized regional or national accrediting association or
29 approved by the commissioner;

30 (2) have submitted fingerprints and the fees required by the
31 Department of Public Safety under AS 12.62.160 for criminal justice information and

1 a national criminal history record check to the department; the department must have
 2 submitted the fingerprints and fees to the Department of Public Safety for a report of
 3 criminal justice information under AS 12.62 and a national criminal history record
 4 check under AS 12.62.400, and the person must have been found by the department to
 5 be suitable for employment as a teacher under AS 14.20.020(f); and

6 (3) have taken the competency examination or examinations described
 7 in AS 14.20.020(i).

8 (c) A limited teacher resident certificate is valid for one school year and only
 9 valid while a teacher resident is participating in the teacher residency program
 10 established under AS 14.20.014. A limited teacher resident certificate may be renewed
 11 for two additional school years upon a showing of substantial progress toward
 12 completion of a teacher education program required under (b)(1) of this section and
 13 continued participation in the teacher residency program under AS 14.20.014. In this
 14 subsection, "teacher resident" means a teacher qualified to teach under (b) of this
 15 section.

16 (d) The department shall adopt regulations necessary to implement this section
 17 and shall consult with school districts, regional educational attendance areas, the
 18 University of Alaska, and other stakeholders before adopting regulations as required
 19 under this subsection.

20 (e) The board shall establish standards for the approval of nontraditional and
 21 alternative teacher education programs described in (b)(1)(A)(ii) of this section. The
 22 standards must be comparable to the standards for approving institutions of higher
 23 education under AS 14.20.020(b).

24 **Sec. 14.20.014. Teacher residency program.** (a) The teacher residency
 25 program is established in the department to help a teacher resident work as a teacher
 26 while progressing toward completion of the teacher education program required under
 27 AS 14.20.013(b)(1). The program must

28 (1) require that, during a teacher resident's first year of participation in
 29 the program, the teacher resident teach under the direct supervision of a program
 30 mentor who

31 (A) is an experienced teacher;

- 1 (B) has primary responsibility for teaching the content; and
 2 (C) awards the grade or credit in the content area;
- 3 (2) provide a teacher resident a structured learning experience
 4 supervised by an institution of higher education;
- 5 (3) allow a school district or a regional educational attendance area to
 6 further design and implement the program to
- 7 (A) meet the needs of the school district or regional educational
 8 attendance area;
- 9 (B) provide a teacher resident with an instructional experience
 10 connected to program learning goals and district priorities; and
- 11 (C) develop shared expectations for the teacher resident's
 12 gradual assumption of responsibilities in the teacher resident's placement as a
 13 fully certificated teacher;
- 14 (4) require that a school district and a regional educational attendance
 15 area participating in the program
- 16 (A) provide compensation to a teacher resident who is
 17 participating in the program and working for the school district or regional
 18 educational attendance area;
- 19 (B) provide each teacher resident participating in the program
 20 with a program mentor as described in (1) of this subsection who has been
 21 trained as a program mentor in accordance with the standards established by
 22 the board under (e) of this section; and
- 23 (C) collaborate with an institution of higher education through
 24 a memorandum of understanding or similar collaborative agreement when
 25 designing and implementing the school district or regional educational
 26 attendance area program under (3) of this subsection; and
- 27 (5) require that the department
- 28 (A) ensure that each school district and regional educational
 29 attendance area participating in the program provides each teacher resident
 30 with a program mentor as described in (1) of this subsection;
- 31 (B) help a school district or a regional educational attendance

1 area meet the standards for the training of program mentors established by the
2 board under (e) of this section; and

3 (C) help place a teacher resident in a school district or regional
4 educational attendance area where the teacher resident will work as a teacher
5 while progressing toward completion of the teacher education program under
6 AS 14.20.013(b)(1).

7 (b) For purposes of (a)(4)(C) of this section, a school district or a regional
8 educational attendance area shall give preference to an institution of higher education
9 located in the state.

10 (c) The department shall

11 (1) adopt regulations to implement and govern the program;

12 (2) consult with the Department of Labor and Workforce Development
13 and the United States Department of Labor to establish a standard form a school
14 district or regional educational attendance area may use to apply to register the
15 program as a registered apprenticeship program under 29 U.S.C. 50 - 50c (National
16 Apprenticeship Act); and

17 (3) before adopting regulations under this subsection, consult with
18 school districts, regional educational attendance areas, the University of Alaska, and
19 other stakeholders.

20 (d) A person employed as a teacher resident under this section is considered a
21 certificated employee for purposes of AS 14.25 (teachers' retirement system).
22 Employment as a teacher resident under this section counts as employment for
23 purposes of acquiring tenure under AS 14.20.150; however, a teacher resident is not
24 entitled to tenure until the teacher resident receives a teacher certificate under
25 AS 14.20.020.

26 (e) The board shall establish standards for the training of program mentors as
27 described in this section.

28 (f) A school district or regional educational attendance area may apply to
29 register a program established under this section as a registered apprenticeship
30 program under 29 U.S.C. 50 - 50c (National Apprenticeship Act). A school district or
31 regional educational attendance area may use the standard form established by the

1 department under (c)(2) of this section to apply under this subsection.

2 (g) In this section,

3 (1) "program" means the teacher residency program established under
4 this section;

5 (2) "teacher resident" means a teacher qualified to teach under
6 AS 14.20.013(b).

7 * **Sec. 3.** AS 14.20.020(h) is amended to read:

8 (h) A person is not eligible for a teacher certificate unless the person has
9 completed **the coursework, training, and examinations** [THREE SEMESTER
10 HOURS] in Alaska studies and [THREE SEMESTER HOURS] in multicultural
11 education or cross-cultural communications **as required by the board by regulation.**
12 However, the commissioner may issue a provisional certificate, valid for **not** [NO]
13 longer than two years, to an applicant who has not completed the **coursework,**
14 **training, and examinations** [SEMESTER HOURS] required under this subsection at
15 the time of application. **A school district or regional educational attendance area**
16 **may establish coursework, training, and examination requirements that are more**
17 **stringent than the coursework, training, and examinations required under this**
18 **subsection.**

19 * **Sec. 4.** AS 14.20.020(i) is amended to read:

20 (i) Beginning on July 1, 1998, a person is not eligible for an initial regular
21 teacher certificate unless the person has taken and successfully completed a
22 competency examination or examinations designated, at the time the person took the
23 test, by the board, **or the person has demonstrated competency through an**
24 **alternative method established under this subsection.** The board shall review
25 nationally recognized examinations that are designed to test the competency of new
26 teachers and shall designate those examinations that it finds adequately test the skills
27 and abilities of new teachers. For each examination designated under this subsection,
28 the board shall establish the minimum acceptable level of performance. **The board**
29 **may establish an alternative method to test the competency, skills, and abilities of**
30 **new teachers who have taken but have not successfully completed the**
31 **competency examination or examinations designated by the board under this**

1 **subsection.**

2 * **Sec. 5.** AS 14.20.022(b) is amended to read:

3 (b) To be eligible for a subject-matter expert limited teacher certificate, a
4 person shall

5 (1) hold at least a baccalaureate degree from an institution of higher
6 education accredited by a recognized regional or national accrediting association or
7 approved by the commissioner and

8 (A) have majored or minored in the subject that the person will
9 be teaching; [OR]

10 (B) have at least five years **of** experience in the subject matter
11 that the person will be teaching; **or**

12 **(C) have achieved a passing score, as defined by**
13 **department regulations, on a subject-matter examination approved by the**
14 **board;**

15 (2) have submitted fingerprints and the fees required by the
16 Department of Public Safety under AS 12.62.160 for criminal justice information and
17 a national criminal history record check to the department; the department must have
18 submitted the fingerprints and fees to the Department of Public Safety for a report of
19 criminal justice information under AS 12.62 and a national criminal history record
20 check under AS 12.62.400 and the person must have been found by the department to
21 be suitable for employment as a teacher under AS 14.20.020(f); [AND]

22 (3) be currently enrolled in an approved

23 **(A)** post-baccalaureate teacher education program at a
24 **nationally or** regionally accredited institution meeting the requirements of
25 AS 14.20.020(b) that provides for completion of the regular teacher certificate
26 education requirements within **three** [TWO] years after receipt of a subject-
27 matter expert limited teacher certificate under this section; **or**

28 **(B) nontraditional or alternative teacher education**
29 **program; and**

30 **(4) have demonstrated competency under AS 14.20.020(i).**

31 * **Sec. 6.** AS 14.20.022(d) is amended to read:

1 (d) A subject-matter expert limited teacher certificate is valid for one school
 2 year and may be renewed for two [ONE] additional school years [YEAR] upon a
 3 showing of substantial progress toward [TOWARDS] completion of a [THE] teacher
 4 education program required under (b)(3) of this section.

5 * **Sec. 7.** AS 14.20.022(e) is amended to read:

6 (e) A school district or regional educational attendance area that employs a
 7 subject-matter expert teacher shall provide a mentor who is an experienced teacher for
 8 the subject-matter expert teacher for at least the first two years [YEAR] of the
 9 subject-matter expert teacher's employment as a subject-matter expert teacher in the
 10 school district or regional educational attendance area.

11 * **Sec. 8.** AS 14.20.022 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

12 (i) The board shall establish standards for the approval of nontraditional and
 13 alternative teacher education programs described in (b)(3)(B) of this section. The
 14 standards must be comparable to the standards for approving institutions of higher
 15 education under AS 14.20.020(b).

16 * **Sec. 9.** AS 14.20.025 is amended to read:

17 **Sec. 14.20.025. Limited teacher certificates.** Notwithstanding
 18 AS 14.20.020(b), a person may be issued a limited certificate, valid only in the area of
 19 expertise for which it is issued, to teach Alaska Native language or culture, military
 20 science, or a vocational or technical course [FOR WHICH THE BOARD
 21 DETERMINES BY REGULATION THAT BACCALAUREATE DEGREE
 22 TRAINING IS NOT SUFFICIENTLY AVAILABLE]. A limited certificate may be
 23 issued under this section only if the school board of the district or regional educational
 24 attendance area in which the person will be teaching has requested its issuance. A
 25 person who applies for a limited certificate shall demonstrate, as required by
 26 regulations adopted by the board, instructional skills and subject matter expertise
 27 sufficient to ensure the public that the person is competent as a teacher. The board
 28 may require a person issued a limited certificate to undertake academic training as
 29 may be required by the board by regulation and make satisfactory progress in the
 30 academic training.

31 * **Sec. 10.** AS 14.20 is amended by adding new sections to read:

1 **Article 8. Teacher Registered Apprenticeship Program.**

2 **Sec. 14.20.700. Teacher registered apprenticeship program.** (a) The teacher
3 registered apprenticeship program is established in the department to help
4 paraprofessionals or persons who possess a valid limited teacher certificate issued
5 under AS 14.20.025 continue to work as a paraprofessional or teacher under a limited
6 teacher certificate issued under AS 14.20.025 while earning credit toward a bachelor's
7 degree and teaching certification. The program must

8 (1) be a multi-year program designed for a person who has not yet
9 obtained a bachelor's degree;

10 (2) include tiered compensation and responsibilities that increase as the
11 participant gains pedagogical expertise;

12 (3) be designed to allow participants who successfully complete the
13 program to obtain a teacher certificate; and

14 (4) require that each school district participating in the program
15 provide each participant with a program mentor who

16 (A) is an experienced teacher; and

17 (B) has been trained as a program mentor in accordance with
18 the standards established by the board under (c) of this section.

19 (b) The department shall

20 (1) adopt regulations to implement and govern the program; at a
21 minimum, the regulations must establish

22 (A) program standards that meet the requirements necessary to
23 qualify the program as a registered apprenticeship program under 29 U.S.C. 50
24 - 50c (National Apprenticeship Act); and

25 (B) a mentor-to-apprentice ratio;

26 (2) consult with the Department of Labor and Workforce Development
27 and the United States Department of Labor to establish a standard form a school
28 district may use to apply to register the program as a registered apprenticeship
29 program under 29 U.S.C. 50 - 50c (National Apprenticeship Act); and

30 (3) in conjunction with the Department of Labor and Workforce
31 Development, help school districts

1 (A) develop programs established under this section; and

2 (B) secure funding for the programs from sources other than
3 the state.

4 (c) The board shall establish standards for the training of program mentors as
5 described in this section.

6 (d) A school district may apply to register a program established under this
7 section as a registered apprenticeship program under 29 U.S.C. 50 - 50c (National
8 Apprenticeship Act). A school district may use the standard form established by the
9 department under (b)(2) of this section to apply under this subsection.

10 (e) When collaborating with an institution of higher education in connection
11 with the program, a school district shall

12 (1) give preference to an institution of higher education located in the
13 state; and

14 (2) execute a memorandum of understanding or similar collaborative
15 agreement.

16 (f) In this section, "program" means the teacher registered apprenticeship
17 program.

18 **Sec. 14.20.710. Teacher recruitment and retention fund.** (a) The teacher
19 recruitment and retention fund is established in the general fund for the purpose of
20 providing grants under (b) of this section. The fund consists of money appropriated to
21 it by the legislature, including grants and donations, money from other sources, and
22 interest earned on money in the fund. Appropriations to the fund do not lapse.

23 (b) Money in the fund may be appropriated for the department to provide
24 grants to nonprofit organizations that advance recruitment and retention efforts in the
25 state and to provide grants to school districts for the school districts to design,
26 develop, implement, or fund

27 (1) teacher registered apprenticeship programs;

28 (2) teacher residency programs;

29 (3) alternative pathway programs;

30 (4) student loan repayment;

31 (5) housing stipends;

- 1 (6) cost of living subsidies;
 2 (7) recruitment bonuses;
 3 (8) longevity bonuses;
 4 (9) mentorship coaching;
 5 (10) teacher training;
 6 (11) professional development for superintendents, principals, and
 7 other school administrators;
 8 (12) continuing education; and
 9 (13) other programs approved by the department that are likely to
 10 improve teacher recruitment and reduce teacher turnover.

11 (c) The department shall

- 12 (1) apply for and use money from the fund to obtain private and
 13 federal grants for the purposes under AS 14.20.700 and this section;
 14 (2) help school districts complete grant applications for a grant under
 15 (b) of this section;
 16 (3) award grants under (b) of this section based on a scoring matrix
 17 established by the department in regulation; the scoring matrix must give the most
 18 weight to applications from school districts that
 19 (A) have the greatest need for a grant; and
 20 (B) will use the grant money for purposes that most greatly
 21 benefit student performance through improved teacher recruitment and
 22 retention rates.

23 (d) The department may require that a school district provide matching funds
 24 for the implementation and operation of the program for which the school district
 25 requests the grant. The matching funds may come from private sources, including a
 26 corporation organized under 43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq. (Alaska Native Claims Settlement
 27 Act).

28 (e) The department shall, after each award cycle, provide to each school
 29 district a copy of each grant application that resulted in an award of a grant under (b)
 30 of this section for the purpose of spreading innovative ideas across the state.

31 (f) In this section, "fund" means the teacher recruitment and retention fund.

1 * **Sec. 11.** AS 37.05.146(c) is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

2 (80) the teacher recruitment and retention fund under AS 14.20.710.

3 * **Sec. 12.** AS 14.16.050(a)(3)(C); AS 14.20.022(c), and 14.20.220 are repealed.

4 * **Sec. 13.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
5 read:

6 REPORT ON STUDY OF TEACHER HOUSING NEEDS. The Department of
7 Education and Early Development shall conduct a study that assesses the need for teacher
8 housing in rural areas of the state. The study must include a projection of future teacher
9 housing needs in rural areas of the state, a plan to meet those needs, and the annual
10 appropriations required to satisfy the identified needs. The Department of Education and
11 Early Development shall collaborate with the Department of Labor and Workforce
12 Development to determine the projection of future teacher housing needs as part of the study.
13 The Department of Education and Early Development shall collaborate with the Alaska
14 Housing Finance Corporation and school districts in the state to develop the plan to meet the
15 needs for teacher housing identified in the study. Not later than December 31, 2023, the
16 Department of Education and Early Development shall submit a report on the study to the
17 senate secretary and chief clerk of the house of representatives and notify the legislature that
18 the report is available.