

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 32(FIN)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Offered: 3/29/21

Referred: Rules

Sponsor(s): SENATORS STEVENS, Micciche, Gray-Jackson

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act establishing the Alaska middle college program for public school students;**
2 **relating to the powers of the University of Alaska; and providing for an effective date."**

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

4 *** Section 1.** AS 14.07.168 is amended to read:

5 **Sec. 14.07.168. Report to the legislature.** Not later than the 30th legislative
6 day of each regular session of the legislature, the board shall prepare and present in
7 person to the legislative committees having jurisdiction over education an annual
8 report that describes the efforts of the board to develop, maintain, and continuously
9 improve a comprehensive quality public education system, as provided for under the
10 bylaws of the board. The report must include

11 (1) a summary of the resolves and rationales provided in support of
12 policy decisions made under AS 14.03.015;

13 (2) program and curriculum changes made, discussed, or
14 recommended in meetings held under AS 14.07.125;

1 (3) additional information relevant to efforts made to improve and
2 maintain the public education system;

3 **(4) a summary of the Alaska middle college program established in**
4 **AS 14.30.780; the summary must include the**

5 **(A) number of students participating in the program;**

6 **(B) types of courses in which students have enrolled;**

7 **(C) total number of credits that students have earned;**

8 **(D) rate of subsequent enrollment in postsecondary**
9 **institutions by students who participated in the program; and**

10 **(E) postsecondary remediation rates of students who**
11 **participated in the program for courses taken through the program.**

12 * **Sec. 2.** AS 14.30 is amended by adding a new section to read:

13 **Article 15. Alaska Middle College Program.**

14 **Sec. 14.30.780. Alaska middle college program established.** (a) The Alaska
15 middle college program is established for eligible students to enroll in courses offered
16 by the University of Alaska. A student shall earn both high school and college credit
17 for each course the student has satisfactorily completed through the program. College
18 credit earned through the program is fully transferable within and applicable toward
19 pursuit of a degree or certificate at the University of Alaska system.

20 (b) The University of Alaska shall make the program available to each school
21 district in the state. A school district may elect to participate by entering into an
22 agreement with the University of Alaska. An agreement under this subsection must
23 allow a student eligible under (c) of this section to participate in the program.

24 (c) A student is eligible for the program if the student

25 (1) is enrolled in a public school in the state;

26 (2) has completed the eighth grade and has demonstrated, to the
27 satisfaction of the school district and the University of Alaska, the academic ability
28 necessary to complete college level coursework;

29 (3) has not been awarded a high school diploma; and

30 (4) to maintain eligibility for the program, complies with the
31 requirements of the program.

1 (d) Every school district that elects to participate in the program shall provide
 2 information about the program to students and parents of students in grades eight
 3 through 12 who are enrolled in a public school in the state to ensure that students and
 4 parents are aware of program opportunities. The information provided must include
 5 the

6 (1) process that the University of Alaska uses in awarding credit for
 7 completing a course through the program, including the minimum scores generally
 8 required to receive college credit from a state postsecondary institution;

9 (2) availability of program courses offered online and throughout the
 10 school district;

11 (3) benefits of earning college credit while enrolled in high school;

12 (4) availability of academic support services;

13 (5) academic and social responsibilities associated with participating in
 14 the program; and

15 (6) consequences of failing or not completing a course taken through
 16 the program, including whether a failed course will appear on a student's official
 17 college transcript.

18 (e) An agreement entered into by a school district and the University of
 19 Alaska under (b) of this section must outline the manner in which costs associated
 20 with the program will be shared between the participating school district and the
 21 University of Alaska. The agreement may provide for scholarship opportunities and
 22 fee waivers to reduce the cost to the school district of participating in the program.

23 (f) If a program course is offered and conducted at a location other than a
 24 University of Alaska facility,

25 (1) the content and curriculum of the course must be consistent with
 26 national standards for awarding dual credit and the standards and learning outcomes of
 27 the equivalent course offered at the University of Alaska;

28 (2) the instructor teaching the course must meet the University of
 29 Alaska's standards for adjunct faculty members;

30 (3) the instructor shall use the same textbooks and instructional
 31 materials used for the equivalent course offered at the University of Alaska; and

1 (4) the course and the instructor are subject to regular evaluation by the
2 University of Alaska to ensure compliance with these standards.

3 (g) A student who enrolls in the program shall be permitted to enroll in up to
4 15 credits each semester and earn up to 60 total credits.

5 (h) For the purpose of calculating a school district's ADM under
6 AS 14.17.410, a student participating in the program is considered a full-time student
7 of the school district in which the student is enrolled.

8 (i) The University of Alaska and a school district may release to each other the
9 transcript of a student to determine the student's eligibility for the program or for
10 graduation.

11 (j) In this section,

12 (1) "program" means the Alaska middle college program established
13 under this section;

14 (2) "school district" has the meaning given in AS 14.30.350.

15 * **Sec. 3.** AS 14.40.040 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

16 (c) The University of Alaska shall implement the Alaska middle college
17 program established under AS 14.30.780. The University of Alaska shall

18 (1) evaluate and regularly review each course offered in the Alaska
19 middle college program under AS 14.30.780(f) to ensure consistency with national
20 standards for awarding dual credit;

21 (2) enter into an agreement with a school district that elects to
22 participate consistent with the Alaska middle college program standards; and

23 (3) award to a student college credit that is fully transferable within
24 and applicable toward pursuit of a degree or certificate at the University of Alaska
25 system for each course satisfactorily completed under the Alaska middle college
26 program.

27 * **Sec. 4.** This Act takes effect July 1, 2022.