

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 52(FIN)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Offered: 5/10/23

Referred: Today's Calendar

Sponsor(s): SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to education; requiring the Department of Education and Early**
2 **Development to provide information relating to public schools on an Internet website;**
3 **relating to information on the post-secondary education, career path, and residency of**
4 **graduates from high schools in the state; relating to transportation of students; relating**
5 **to state funding for districts operating residential schools; increasing the base student**
6 **allocation; and providing for an effective date."**

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

8 *** Section 1.** AS 14.03.120 is amended by adding new subsections to read:

9 (k) The department shall establish and maintain a user-friendly Internet
10 website that allows a member of the public to view and download information
11 described in this subsection and to make recommendations relating to improving
12 public education in the state. The information on the Internet website must be
13 presented in a fashion that is easily understood. To the extent practicable, and without

1 disclosing information that is confidential under state or federal law, the department
2 shall make the following information available on the Internet website:

- 3 (1) reports required under this section and AS 14.03.078;
- 4 (2) copies of audits made under AS 14.14.050; and
- 5 (3) a description of how each district is addressing the needs of
6 students who receive special education services.

7 (l) A district may provide on the district's Internet website a link to the
8 Internet website described in (k) of this section.

9 (m) The department shall collaborate with the Department of Labor and
10 Workforce Development under AS 44.31.020 to gather data on the progress of each
11 high school graduating class in a district by collecting career, postsecondary
12 education, and residency data on each student in the graduating class. The departments
13 shall gather the data every five years for 20 years after the high school graduation date
14 of the class.

15 * **Sec. 2.** AS 14.07.020(a), as amended by sec. 15, ch. 40, SLA 2022, is amended to read:

16 (a) The department shall

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

19 (2) study the conditions and needs of the public schools of the state,
20 adopt or recommend plans, administer and evaluate grants to improve school
21 performance awarded under AS 14.03.125, and adopt regulations for the improvement
22 of the public schools; the department may consult with the University of Alaska to
23 develop secondary education requirements to improve student achievement in college
24 preparatory courses;

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

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

30 (5) establish, in coordination with the Department of Family and
31 Community Services, a program for the continuing education of children who are held

1 in juvenile detention facilities or juvenile treatment facilities, as those terms are
2 defined in AS 47.12.990, in the state during the period of detention or treatment;

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

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

14 (8) exercise general supervision over early education programs that
15 receive direct state or federal funding, including early education programs provided by
16 a school district for students four and five years of age, approve an early education
17 program provided by a school district that complies with the standards adopted by the
18 board under AS 14.07.165(a)(5), and revoke approval of an early education program if
19 the program does not comply with the standards adopted by the board under
20 AS 14.07.165(a)(5);

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

25 (10) accredit private schools that request accreditation and that meet
26 accreditation standards prescribed by regulation by the department; nothing in this
27 paragraph authorizes the department to require religious or other private schools to be
28 licensed;

29 (11) review plans for construction of new public elementary and
30 secondary schools and for additions to and major rehabilitation of existing public
31 elementary and secondary schools and, in accordance with regulations adopted by the

1 department, determine and approve the extent of eligibility for state aid of a school
2 construction or major maintenance project; for the purposes of this paragraph, "plans"
3 include educational specifications, schematic designs, projected energy consumption
4 and costs, and final contract documents;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

26 (C) a process for districts to petition the department for
27 continuing or discontinuing the department's intervention;

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

31 (18) establish a reading program to provide direct support for and

1 intervention in the reading intervention programs of participating schools as described
2 in AS 14.30.765 and 14.30.770;

3 (19) annually convene, either in person or electronically, a panel to
4 review and comment on the effectiveness of the programs created by the department
5 and the regulations adopted by the board to implement AS 14.03.410, 14.03.420,
6 AS 14.30.760 - 14.30.770, and 14.30.800; the panel

7 (A) shall provide recommendations and guidance to the board,
8 the department, and the legislature on how to integrate early education and
9 reading programs created under this title with tribal compacting or programs
10 focused on cultural education within the department;

11 (B) shall discuss support for reading in Alaska Native
12 languages and other non-English languages;

13 (C) must collectively represent the regions of the state and
14 include teachers of grades kindergarten through three, school administrators,
15 parents of students in grades kindergarten through three, stakeholders from
16 indigenous language immersion programs, representatives from early
17 education stakeholder groups, and researchers of best practices for improving
18 literacy performance, including best practices for instruction of indigenous
19 students and students whose first language is not English;

20 **(20) collaborate with the Department of Labor and Workforce**
21 **Development to gather data on the progress of each high school graduating class**
22 **as required under AS 14.03.120(m).**

23 * **Sec. 3.** AS 14.07.020(a), as amended by sec. 16, ch. 40, SLA 2022, is amended to read:

24 (a) The department shall

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

27 (2) study the conditions and needs of the public schools of the state,
28 adopt or recommend plans, administer and evaluate grants to improve school
29 performance awarded under AS 14.03.125, and adopt regulations for the improvement
30 of the public schools; the department may consult with the University of Alaska to
31 develop secondary education requirements to improve student achievement in college

1 preparatory courses;

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

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

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

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

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

22 (8) exercise general supervision over early education programs that
23 receive direct state or federal funding, including early education programs provided by
24 a school district for students four and five years of age;

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

29 (10) accredit private schools that request accreditation and that meet
30 accreditation standards prescribed by regulation by the department; nothing in this
31 paragraph authorizes the department to require religious or other private schools to be

1 licensed;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

30 (C) a process for districts to petition the department for
31 continuing or discontinuing the department's intervention;

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

4 **(18) collaborate with the Department of Labor and Workforce**
 5 **Development to gather data on the progress of each high school graduating class**
 6 **as required under AS 14.03.120(m).**

7 * **Sec. 4.** AS 14.09.010(a) is repealed and reenacted to read:

8 (a) A school district that provides student transportation services for the
 9 transportation of students who reside a distance from established schools is eligible to
 10 receive funding for operating or subcontracting the operation of the transportation
 11 system for students to and from the schools within the student's transportation service
 12 area. Subject to appropriation, the amount of funding provided by the state for
 13 operating the student transportation system is the amount of a school district's ADM,
 14 less the ADM for the district's correspondence programs during the current fiscal year,
 15 multiplied by the per student amount for the school district as follows, for the school
 16 years beginning July 1, 2023:

DISTRICT	PER STUDENT AMOUNT
Alaska Gateway	\$2,536
Aleutians East	378
Anchorage	531
Annette Island	222
Bering Strait	60
Bristol Bay	3,257
Chatham	342
Copper River	1,934
Cordova	409
Craig	515
Delta/Greely	2,019
Denali	2,203
Dillingham	1,484
Fairbanks	995

1	Galena	310
2	Haines	763
3	Hoonah	364
4	Iditarod	258
5	Juneau	735
6	Kake	331
7	Kashunamiut	6
8	Kenai Peninsula	1,115
9	Ketchikan	886
10	Klawock	712
11	Kodiak Island	974
12	Kuspuk	797
13	Lake and Peninsula	468
14	Lower Kuskokwim	338
15	Lower Yukon	1
16	Matanuska-Susitna	1,109
17	Nenana	716
18	Nome	757
19	North Slope	1,365
20	Northwest Arctic	30
21	Pelican	88
22	Petersburg	457
23	Saint Mary's	235
24	Sitka	522
25	Skagway	44
26	Southeast Island	1,408
27	Southwest Region	728
28	Tanana	581
29	Unalaska	790
30	Valdez	897
31	Wrangell	854

1	Yakutat	907
2	Yukon Flats	322
3	Yukon/Koyukuk	365
4	Yupiit	2.

5 * **Sec. 5.** AS 14.16.200(b) is amended to read:

6 (b) Costs that may be claimed by a district for reimbursement under (a) of this
7 section are

8 (1) one round trip on the least expensive means of transportation
9 between the student's community of residence and the school during the school year if
10 the district expends money for the trip; and

11 (2) a per-pupil monthly stipend to cover room and board expenses as
12 determined by the department on a regional basis and not to exceed the following
13 amounts:

14 (A) for the Southeast Region (Region I), \$1,845 [\$1,230];

15 (B) for the Southcentral Region (Region II), \$1,800 [\$1,200];

16 (C) for the Interior Region (Region III), \$2,178 [\$1,452];

17 (D) for the Southwest Region (Region IV), \$2,264 [\$1,509];

18 (E) for the Northern Remote Region (Region V), \$2,664

19 [\$1,776].

20 * **Sec. 6.** AS 14.17.470, as amended by sec. 26, ch. 40, SLA 2022, is amended to read:

21 **Sec. 14.17.470. Base student allocation.** The base student allocation is \$6,640

22 [\$5,960].

23 * **Sec. 7.** AS 44.31.020 is amended to read:

24 **Sec. 44.31.020. Duties of department.** The Department of Labor and
25 Workforce Development shall

26 (1) enforce the laws and adopt regulations under them concerning
27 employer-employee relationships, including the safety, hours of work, wages, and
28 conditions of workers, including children;

29 (2) accumulate, analyze, and report labor statistics;

30 (3) operate systems of workers' compensation and unemployment
31 insurance;

1 (4) gather data reflecting the cost of living in various locations of the
2 state upon request of the director of personnel under AS 39.27.030;

3 (5) operate the federally funded employment and training programs
4 under 29 U.S.C. 2801 - 2945 (Workforce Investment Act of 1998);

5 (6) administer the state's program of adult basic education and adopt
6 regulations to administer the program; and

7 (7) administer the programs of the Alaska Vocational Technical Center
8 and adopt regulations to administer the programs, including regulations that set rates
9 for student tuition and room and board and fees for the programs and services
10 provided by the department regarding the Alaska Vocational Technical Center;

11 **(8) gather data on the progress of each high school graduating**
12 **class in a district by collecting career, postsecondary education, and residency**
13 **data on each student in the graduating class; the department shall gather the**
14 **data required under this paragraph every five years for 20 years after the high**
15 **school graduation date of each high school graduating class; the department shall**
16 **publish a biennial report on the data gathered under this paragraph; in this**
17 **paragraph, "district" has the meaning given in AS 14.17.990.**

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

20 RETROACTIVITY. Section 4 of this Act is retroactive to July 1, 2023.

21 * **Sec. 9.** Section 3 of this Act takes effect on the effective date of sec. 16, ch. 40, SLA
22 2022.

23 * **Sec. 10.** Sections 4 - 6 and 8 of this Act take effect on the effective date of sec. 26, ch. 40,
24 SLA 2022.

25 * **Sec. 11.** AS 14.03.120(k) and (l), enacted by sec. 1 of this Act, take effect July 1, 2024.

26 * **Sec. 12.** AS 14.03.120(m), enacted by sec. 1 of this Act, and secs. 2 and 7 of this Act take
27 effect July 1, 2025.