

SENATE CS FOR CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 57(FIN)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Offered: 4/25/25

Referred: Today's Calendar

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES FIELDS, Josephson, Schrage

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to education reports; relating to charter schools; relating to student**
2 **transportation funding; relating to the base student allocation; relating to wireless**
3 **telecommunications devices in public schools; relating to the duties of the Department of**
4 **Labor and Workforce Development; establishing the Task Force on Education Funding;**
5 **and providing for an effective date."**

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

7 * **Section 1.** AS 14.03.120 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

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

1 * **Sec. 2.** AS 14.03.250(a) is amended to read:

2 (a) A local school board shall prescribe an application procedure for the
 3 establishment of a charter school in that school district. The application procedure
 4 must include provisions for an academic policy committee consisting of parents of
 5 students attending the school, teachers, and school employees and a proposed form for
 6 a contract between a charter school and the local school board, setting out the contract
 7 elements required under AS 14.03.255(c). **The application procedure must allow an**
 8 **application to be submitted at any time during a school year for the following**
 9 **school year. A local school board shall announce the deadline to submit an**
 10 **application for establishment of a charter school for the following school year.**

11 * **Sec. 3.** AS 14.03.255 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

12 (e) A local school board may establish simplified procedures and standards for
 13 a renewal of a contract in good standing, as defined by the local school board, between
 14 the local school board and a charter school.

15 * **Sec. 4.** AS 14.09.010(a) is repealed and reenacted to read:

16 (a) A school district that provides student transportation services for the
 17 transportation of students who reside a distance from established schools is eligible to
 18 receive funding for operating or subcontracting the operation of the transportation
 19 system for students to and from the schools within the student's transportation service
 20 area. Subject to appropriation, the amount of funding provided by the state for
 21 operating the student transportation system is the amount of a school district's ADM,
 22 less the ADM for the district's correspondence programs during the current fiscal year,
 23 multiplied by the per student amount for the school district as follows, for the school
 24 years beginning July 1, 2025:

DISTRICT	PER STUDENT AMOUNT
Alaska Gateway	\$2,529
Aleutians East	377
Anchorage	529
Annette Island	221
Bering Strait	59
Bristol Bay	3,247

1	Chatham	341
2	Copper River	1,928
3	Cordova	408
4	Craig	514
5	Delta/Greely	2,013
6	Denali	2,197
7	Dillingham	1,480
8	Fairbanks	992
9	Galena	309
10	Haines	761
11	Hoonah	363
12	Iditarod	257
13	Juneau	733
14	Kake	330
15	Kashunamiut	6
16	Kenai Peninsula	1,112
17	Ketchikan	883
18	Klawock	710
19	Kodiak Island	971
20	Kuspuk	794
21	Lake and Peninsula	466
22	Lower Kuskokwim	337
23	Lower Yukon	1
24	Matanuska-Susitna	1,106
25	Nenana	714
26	Nome	755
27	North Slope	1,361
28	Northwest Arctic	30
29	Pelican	88
30	Petersburg	455
31	Saint Mary's	234

1	Sitka	520
2	Skagway	44
3	Southeast Island	1,404
4	Southwest Region	726
5	Unalaska	788
6	Valdez	894
7	Wrangell	851
8	Yakutat	904
9	Yukon Flats	321
10	Yukon/Koyukuk	364
11	Yupiit	2.

12 * **Sec. 5.** AS 14.17.470 is amended to read:

13 **Sec. 14.17.470. Base student allocation.** The base student allocation is **\$6,660**
14 **[\$5,960].**

15 * **Sec. 6.** AS 14.33 is amended by adding a new section to read:

16 **Article 5. Wireless Telecommunications Devices.**

17 **Sec. 14.33.300. Wireless telecommunications device policy.** (a) Each school
18 district shall adopt a policy that regulates the possession and use of nonschool-issued
19 wireless telecommunications devices during regular school hours, including lunch and
20 passing periods. Each school district shall share this policy with parents or guardians,
21 students, volunteers, and school employees. If a school district's policy prohibits the
22 use of nonschool-issued wireless telecommunications devices, the policy must allow
23 exceptions for students to use a wireless telecommunications device for medical or
24 translation purposes, in the event of an emergency, or when a teacher or administrator
25 of the school grants permission to a student to use a wireless telecommunications
26 device for educational purposes.

27 (b) This section does not authorize a person to monitor, collect, or access
28 information related to a student's use of a wireless telecommunications device.

29 (c) In this section, "wireless telecommunications device" means any portable
30 wireless device that has the capability to provide voice, messaging, or other data
31 communication between two or more parties.

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

2 **Sec. 44.31.020. Duties of department.** The Department of Labor and
3 Workforce Development shall

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

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

8 (3) operate systems of workers' compensation and unemployment
9 insurance;

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

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

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

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

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

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

29 TASK FORCE ON EDUCATION FUNDING. (a) The Task Force on Education
30 Funding is established as a joint task force of the Alaska State Legislature.

31 (b) The task force shall

1 (1) analyze the state of public education funding and the current accountability
2 provisions for schools and districts in the state;

3 (2) evaluate internal and external factors leading to school absenteeism and
4 identify district and state level intervention and incentive tools relating to school absenteeism;

5 (3) analyze and make recommendations on effective policies relating to school
6 major maintenance and school construction;

7 (4) evaluate and recommend health insurance, group insurance, and ways to
8 reduce property and building insurance for public school facilities;

9 (5) make recommendations relating to public education funding and
10 accountability provisions for schools and districts in the state; and

11 (6) submit a report of findings and recommendations of the task force to the
12 senate secretary and the chief clerk of the house of representatives not later than the first day
13 of the First Regular Session of the Thirty-Fifth Alaska State Legislature and notify the
14 members of the legislature that the report is available.

15 (c) The task force consists of six members as follows:

16 (1) three members of the senate, at least one of whom is a member of the
17 minority, appointed by the president of the senate; the president of the senate shall select one
18 of the members to serve as co-chair of the task force;

19 (2) three members of the house of representatives, at least one of whom is a
20 member of the minority, appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives; the speaker
21 of the house of representatives shall select one of the members to serve as co-chair of the task
22 force.

23 (d) A vacancy on the task force shall be filled in the same manner as the original
24 selection or appointment.

25 (e) The task force shall meet at the call of the co-chairs. The task force may meet
26 between and during legislative sessions. A majority of the members of the task force
27 constitute a quorum. The task force may conduct meetings in person, telephonically, or by
28 electronic means, as directed by the co-chairs.

29 (f) The task force may request data and other information from the Department of
30 Education and Early Development.

31 (g) The legislative staff of the members of the task force shall serve as staff for the

1 task force. The task force may hire staff and contract for services necessary to carry out the
2 duties of the task force under the procedures adopted by the legislative council governing
3 procurement of services, subject to the approval of the legislative council and the legislative
4 council making funds available for that purpose.

5 (h) The task force expires on January 31, 2027.

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

8 APPLICABILITY. Section 3 of this Act applies to a contract that becomes legally
9 binding on or after the effective date of this Act.

10 * **Sec. 10.** This Act takes effect July 1, 2025.