

STATE OF ALASKA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2013

Source
CSHR 8(FIN) am

**House
Resolve No.**
7



Establishing the Task Force on Sustainable Education in the House of Representatives.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

WHEREAS state education funding support for public education in grades kindergarten through 12 is increasing at a significant rate and real dollar value; and

WHEREAS state revenue, including revenue paid for education, is almost entirely dependent on revenue generated by oil production on state-owned land; and

WHEREAS production of oil on state-owned land is forecast to continue to decline; and

WHEREAS implementation of new education standards influences capital and operational costs for public education funding; and

WHEREAS local school districts achieve varying levels of success, as indicated by drop-out and graduation rates; and

WHEREAS the public school funding formula under AS 14.17 may mask the effect of energy, health care, pupil transportation, and other inflationary factors that erode the amount of instructional dollars available to classrooms; and

WHEREAS continued increases in public school funding under AS 14.17 restrict the

flexibility of both the legislature and local school districts to respond to changing funding needs for public schools in the state;

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives that the Task Force on Sustainable Education is established in the House of Representatives for the purpose of examining the efficiency and effectiveness of public education delivery in the state, including

(1) the ability of the state's public schools to prepare students for various rewarding careers; and

(2) all aspects of public education funding in the state; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the duties of the task force include

(1) performing an analysis of public education funding that includes

(A) a determination of the adequacy of public school funding provided under AS 14.17.410 for coverage of appropriate education expenses;

(B) a determination of the appropriate uses of the base student allocation;

(C) alternative methods of addressing fluctuating energy, health, insurance, personnel, and pupil transportation costs;

(D) a calculation of the total amounts of state, local, and federal funding available to each district and for each category of special needs service area;

(E) a comparison of the allocation of administrative and instructional personnel among districts;

(F) a determination as to whether the allocation of administrative and instructional personnel affects the ability of each district to provide effective instructional services;

(G) a calculation of the effect of pension and health care expenses on total education costs;

(2) evaluating the availability of courses that meet core academic curriculum requirements under AS 14.43.820(a)(3) in each district; and

(3) submitting to the governor, the Department of Education and Early Development, and the legislature, by January 1, 2014, a report of findings and recommendations of the task force and submitting additional reports the task force considers advisable; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force may meet between and during legislative sessions; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force consists of

(1) the chairs of the House Education Committee and the House Finance Subcommittee on Education and Early Development, who shall serve as cochairs of the task force;

(2) members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives in consultation with the cochairs of the task force, as follows:

(A) one member representing a regional Native corporation organized under 43 U.S.C. 1602(m) (Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act) or the Alaska Federation of Natives;

(B) two educators;

(C) one member who is a cochair of the special committee having jurisdiction over energy in the House of Representatives;

(D) two businesspersons; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that

(1) a majority of the members of the task force constitutes a quorum; a vacancy on the task force shall be filled in the same manner as the original selection or appointment;

(2) the staff of the legislative members of the task force shall serve as staff for the task force;

(3) the task force shall meet at the call of the cochairs;

(4) the task force may request data and other information from the Department of Education and Early Development;

(5) members of the task force serve without compensation but are entitled to per diem and travel expenses authorized for boards and commissions under AS 39.20.180; and

(6) the task force expires January 1, 2015.