

SENATE BILL NO. 203

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY SENATOR OLSON

Introduced: 2/19/20

Referred: Education, Labor and Commerce

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act relating to instruction in a language other than English; relating to limited
2 teacher certificates; renaming the Alaska Native Language Preservation and Advisory
3 Council as the Council for Alaska Native Languages; and relating to the membership of
4 the Council for Alaska Native Languages."

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

6 * **Section 1.** AS 14.20.025 is repealed and reenacted to read:

7 **Sec. 14.20.025. Limited teacher certificates.** (a) Notwithstanding
8 AS 14.20.020(b) and 14.20.022, the department may issue a limited teacher certificate,
9 valid only in the area of expertise for which it is issued, to a person qualified under (b)
10 of this section to teach

11 (1) Alaska Native Culture;

12 (2) military science;

13 (3) vocational or technical education;

14 (4) any subject if the language of instruction is not English.

(b) A person may apply for a limited teacher certificate under this section if the person is the subject of a request made under (c) of this section and demonstrates, as required by regulations adopted by the board, instructional skills and subject matter expertise sufficient to assure the public that the person is competent as a teacher. The board may require a person issued a limited teacher certificate under this section to undertake academic training as may be required by the board by regulation and make satisfactory progress in the academic training.

(c) The department may issue a limited teacher certificate under this section only if the school board of the district or regional educational attendance area in which an applicant for a limited teacher certificate will be teaching submits a request to the department for the limited teacher certificate to be issued to the applicant. A request for a limited teacher certificate under (a)(4) of this section must specify the subject and instructional language for which the certificate is valid.

(d) The board may adopt regulations necessary to implement this section. The regulations may not require an applicant under (a)(4) of this section to achieve a minimum score on an examination unless the examination is given in the instructional language for which the limited certificate is valid.

(e) A limited teacher certificate issued under this section is initially valid for one year. The department may, in accordance with regulations adopted by the board, extend or renew a limited teacher certificate issued under this section if the school board that initially requested the issuance of the limited teacher certificate requests that the certificate be extended or renewed and certifies that the person has demonstrated skills in classroom instruction and student assessment.

* **Sec. 2.** AS 44.33.520(a) is amended to read:

(a) The Council for Alaska Native Languages [ALASKA NATIVE LANGUAGE PRESERVATION AND ADVISORY COUNCIL] is established in the department for the purpose of recommending the establishment or reorganization of programs to support the preservation, restoration, and revitalization of Alaska Native languages.

* **Sec. 3.** AS 44.33.520(c) is amended to read:

(c) The governor shall appoint to the council established in this section seven

1 [FIVE] voting members who are professional language experts and who represent
2 diverse regions of the state. In addition, one member of the senate appointed by the
3 president of the senate and one member of the house of representatives appointed by
4 the speaker of the house of representatives shall serve on the council as nonvoting
5 members. In appointing the nonvoting members of the council, the president of the
6 senate and the speaker of the house of representatives shall appoint a member of the
7 bush caucus, if a bush caucus exists. In this subsection, "bush caucus" means a group
8 of legislators that represents rural areas of the state.

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

11 REVISOR'S INSTRUCTIONS. The revisor of statutes is requested to change the

12 (1) heading of art. 9 of AS 44.33 from "Alaska Native Language Preservation
13 and Advisory Council" to "Council for Alaska Native Languages";

14 (2) catch line of AS 44.33.520 from "Alaska Native Language Preservation
15 and Advisory Council" to "Council for Alaska Native Languages."