



Contents

Friday, January 9, 20151

 First Release of Prefiled Legislation1

 HB 2 – Exempting Certain Unpaid Students from the Alaska Wage & Hour Act.....1

 HB 23 – Relating to Sexual Abuse & Sexual Assault Awareness & Prevention Efforts
in Public Schools.....2

 HB 27 – Relating to Children in Need of Aid, Including School Placement &
Transportation.....2

 HB 30 – Requiring School Districts to Develop & Require Completion of a History
of American Constitutionalism Curriculum2

 HB 36 – School District Pre-K Programs.....3

 HB 44 – Relating to Sexual Abuse & Sexual Assault Awareness & Prevention Efforts
in Public Schools.....3

 SB 3 – Relating to the Collection, Storage, & Handling of Student Data.....3

 SJR 2 – Constitutional Amendment: Contracting State Debt for Postsecondary
Student Loans.....4

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First Release of Prefiled Legislation

On Friday, January 9, 2015 the Alaska State Legislature released the first [prefiled legislation](#) of the first session of the 29th Alaska State Legislature. Below are summaries of and links to education-related prefiled legislation.

HB 2 – Exempting Certain Unpaid Students from the Alaska Wage & Hour Act

1/9/2015- Prefiled, By Rep. Lynn

[HB 2](#) exempts postsecondary students in unpaid practicums as part of a course of study at postsecondary schools from the Alaska Wage & Hour Act.

HB 23 – Relating to Sexual Abuse & Sexual Assault Awareness & Prevention Efforts in Public Schools

1/9/2015- Prefiled, By Rep. Tarr

[HB 23](#), also known as “Erin’s Law,” requires the governing body of each school district to adopt and implement a policy establishing a mandatory training program for employees and students, and provide parent, student, and staff notices relating to sexual abuse and sexual assault awareness and prevention for students in K-12th grade.

HB 23 is identical to [HB 233](#) and [SB 216](#), which both had strong support, from the 28th Alaska State Legislature.

HB 27 – Relating to Children in Need of Aid, Including School Placement & Transportation

1/9/2015- Prefiled, By Rep. Gara

[HB 27](#) addresses a number of areas relating to children in need of aid, including school placement and transportation.

New subsection (y) under Section 5 states that:

“If the department transfers a child from one placement setting to another and it is in the child’s best educational interests, the department shall immediately, and in advance of the transfer if possible, coordinate with the school the child is attending to ensure the child is permitted to attend that school through the end of the school term if the child’s new placement is in the same municipality and within 20 miles of the school. If federal funds and school district transportation funds are not available to pay for the cost of transportation for the child, the department shall pay the costs of transporting the child to school. The department shall work with the family or agency where the child is placed to arrange for transportation. The department shall consult with the school district regarding the child’s best interests, but the school district may not override the department’s decision to allow a child to remain in the current school through the end of the school term.”

HB 30 – Requiring School Districts to Develop & Require Completion of a History of American Constitutionalism Curriculum

1/9/2015- Prefiled, By Rep. Keller

[HB 30](#) requires school districts to develop and approve a syllabus and curriculum to teach students the history of American constitutionalism. The syllabus must ensure a student’s understanding of the history of American constitutionalism as portrayed in the Declaration of Independence, the first state constitutions, the Articles of Confederation, the Constitution of the United States, the Federalist Papers, the Bill of Rights, and other

historical documents produced in the founding of the United States. School districts may not issue a diploma to a student who does not successfully complete the curriculum. No waivers may be granted for this graduation requirement.

HB 30 is identical to [HB 31](#), sponsored by Rep. Keller during the 28th Alaska State Legislature.

HB 36 – School District Pre-K Programs

1/9/2015- Prefiled, By Reps. Kawasaki, Gara, Josephson, Kito III, Ortiz, & Drummond

[HB 36](#) adds pre-kindergarten programs provided by school districts to the definition of “elementary school,” which currently is defined as kindergarten – 8th grade, and allows students in those programs to be counted for the purpose of calculating the average daily membership of the school.

Students counted under this provision must turn four years old on or before September 1st of the beginning of the school year. The preschool program must be optional, must be supervised by the department under AS 14.07.020(a)(8), and must be consistent with regulations adopted by the board under AS 14.07.165.

HB 36 is identical to [HB 128](#), sponsored by Rep. Kawasaki during the 28th Alaska State Legislature.

HB 44 – Relating to Sexual Abuse & Sexual Assault Awareness & Prevention Efforts in Public Schools

1/9/2015- Prefiled, By Rep. Millett

[HB 44](#), also known as “Erin’s Law,” is identical to HB 23, above.

SB 3 – Relating to the Collection, Storage, & Handling of Student Data

1/9/2015- Prefiled, By Sen. Stevens

[SB 3](#) requires that the report the Dept. of Education & Early Development is required to submit to the legislature by February 15 each year on the progress of each school and school district toward high academic performance include “a description of the changes made to the collection and publication of student data and the reason for the changes” and the “results of privacy compliance and security audits conducted in the previous year relating to student data.”

SB 3 states that DEED may appoint a chief privacy officer with experience in developing and implementing data privacy and security policies to assist the State Board of Education & Early Development in developing and implementing policies and

procedures relating to student data privacy, and with developing training for and technical assistance to schools and school districts in implementation of policies and procedures relating to student data privacy.

SB 3 makes a number of other changes to statutes relating to collection, storage, and handling of student data. For details follow the bill link above.

SJR 2 – Constitutional Amendment: Contracting State Debt for Postsecondary Student Loans

1/9/2015- Prefiled, By Sen. MacKinnon

[SJR 2](#) is a constitutional amendment to allow state debt for postsecondary student loans. It is identical to [SJR 23](#), which was on the House Calendar at the end of session in 2014 and was poised to pass the legislature, but was not voted on.