University of Alaska Fairbanks
Staff Council
Resolution 2016-E-2
Approved
April 11, 2016

UAF Staff Council unanimously approved the following resolution via electronic vote on April 11, 2016.

Resolution 2016-E-2 - Approved
A Resolution Supporting the Position of the Associated Students of the University of Alaska Fairbanks (ASUAF) in Their Opposition to State of Alaska Senate Bill 208 (SB 208), ‘An Act eliminating the Alaska education grant program and the Alaska performance scholarship program; and providing for an effective date.’

WHEREAS, UAF Staff Council is the elected representative body of the staff of the University of Alaska Fairbanks; and

WHEREAS, ASUAF is the elected representative body of the students of the University of Alaska Fairbanks; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska State Senate is currently considering SB 208, which would eliminate both the Alaska education grant program and the Alaska Performance Scholarship Program; and

WHEREAS, ASUAF recently passed a resolution in opposition to SB 208; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Performance Scholarship Program has made higher education accessible for thousands of Alaska students; and

WHEREAS, Staff Council recognizes the central focus of UAF’s mission to “educate students for active citizenship and prepare them for lifelong learning and careers”; and

WHEREAS, Staff Council also supports UAF’s work to “emphasiz[e] the circumpolar North and its diverse peoples”; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that UAF Staff Council stands with ASUAF in their opposition to State of Alaska Senate Bill SB 208, ‘An Act eliminating the Alaska education grant program and the Alaska performance scholarship program; and providing for an effective date.’

(Attachments)

__________________________  ____________________________
Faye Gallant, President, UAF Staff Council  Date

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Sponsor: Senator Murph
First considered 4/3/2016

Whereas, The student body of UAF strongly appreciates the Alaska Performance Scholarship and Alaska Education Grant, understanding that these awards are critical for providing education in Alaska, and;

Whereas, The compressed timeline of SB 208 has afforded students little opportunity to testify on the Alaska Performance Scholarship and Alaska Education Grant's importance, raising significant concern, and;

Whereas, The Alaska Performance Scholarship provided assistance to over 3,000 students this year, and;

Whereas, The Alaska Performance Scholarship and Alaska Education Grant provide critical incentives for students to pursue higher education in the state of Alaska, and;

Whereas, Students educated in Alaskan colleges are significantly more likely to stay in the state, strengthening the Alaskan economy and community, and;

Whereas, Ensuring that college graduates remain in Alaska is crucial to establishing the economic strength and diversity that will build Alaska's future, and;

Whereas, Many students would be unable to attend higher education institutions at all without the benefit of the Alaska Performance Scholarship or Alaska Education Grant, now therefore be it;

Resolved, That the student body of UAF strongly opposes Alaska Senate Bill 208, as students believe it will cause significant damage to the vitality of higher education in Alaska and consequently harm the state economy, and be it further;

Resolved, That the student body of UAF affirms the importance of the Alaska Performance Scholarship and Alaska Education Grant to higher education in Alaska.

Statement of Purpose: To oppose Alaska Senate Bill 208 and support the Alaska Performance Scholarship and Alaska Education Grant.

Statement of Fiscal Impact: $0
SR 186-005 Opposing Alaska Senate Bill 208

5-0-1

Officiated vote (yes, no, abstention)

Officiated by:

Jonathan Schurz, ASUAF Senate Clerk

Allyssia Garcia, ASUAF Senate Chair

Mathew Carrick, ASUAF President

Date Passed: April 3, 2016

Date: April 6, 2016

Date: 4/6/16
SENATE BILL NO. 208

"An Act eliminating the Alaska education grant program and the Alaska performance scholarship program; and providing for an effective date."

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

* Section 1. AS 14.42.030(e) is amended to read:

  (e) The commission may

  (1) adopt regulations under AS 44.62 (Administrative Procedure Act)

  to

  (A) carry out the purposes of

  (i) AS 14.43.091 - 14.43.325, 14.43.510 - 14.43.750

  [AS 14.43.091 - 14.43.849], 14.43.990, AS 14.44, and AS 14.48; and

  (ii) AS 14.43.910 and 14.43.920 as they relate to the

  purposes of AS 14.43.091 - 14.43.325, 14.43.510 - 14.43.750

  [AS 14.43.091 - 14.43.849], 14.43.990, AS 14.44, and AS 14.48;

  (B) ensure compliance with the requirements imposed by state

  and federal statutes and regulations governing the guaranty, insurance,

  purchase, or other dealings in eligible loans by federal agencies,

  instrumentalities, or corporations; and

  (C) establish standards for the

  (i) administration of hearings conducted under

  AS 14.43.153; and

  (ii) administrative enforcement of collection orders

  under AS 14.43.151 - 14.43.155;

  (2) delegate to the executive director of the commission or a

  subcommittee of the commission any duty imposed on or power granted to the

  commission by this chapter, AS 14.43, AS 14.44, or AS 14.48, except its power to

  adopt regulations and its duty to consider appeals under AS 14.43.100(b) and

  AS 14.48.120;

  (3) establish task forces, committees, or subcommittees, not

  necessarily consisting of commission members, to advise and assist the commission in

  carrying out its functions;

  (4) contract with or use existing institutions of postsecondary

  education or other individuals or organizations to make studies, conduct surveys,

  submit recommendations, or otherwise contribute to the work of the commission;

  (5) establish fees for the review of an out-of-state institution that

  (A) requests approval for participation in the programs under

  AS 14.43.091 - 14.43.325, 14.43.510 - 14.43.750 [AS 14.43.091 - 14.43.750],

  14.43.990, and AS 14.44; and

  (B) is not accredited by a national or regional accreditation

  association recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation;

  (6) collect all fees and costs incurred in collection of the amount owed

  on a loan or repayment obligation if the loan or repayment obligation becomes

  delinquent or in default; in this paragraph, fees and costs include attorney fees, court

  costs, and collection fees charged by a collection agency; and

  (7) if approved by the department, receive and analyze performance

  data for students in grades kindergarten through 12 and enter into contracts for the

  purpose of assessing education outcomes.

* Sec. 2. AS 14.43.810(a) is amended to read:

  (a) The Alaska performance scholarship program is established to provide

  scholarships for students who graduate from high school on or before July 15,

  2016, [GRADUATES] who are Alaska residents to attend a qualified postsecondary
institution in the state.

* Sec. 3. AS 14.43.820(a) is amended to read:
(a) Subject to appropriation, the commission shall award an Alaska performance scholarship to an applicant who
   (1) is a resident of the state as defined in AS 01.10.055;
   (2) graduated or will graduate within six months from a high school in
   the state;
   (3) except as provided in (c) of this section, has completed a core academic curriculum of high school level coursework that includes
      (A) four years of mathematics, four years of language arts, four years of science, and four years of social studies, one year of which may include a foreign language, an Alaska Native language, fine arts, or cultural heritage; or
      (B) three years of mathematics, four years of language arts, three years of science, four years of social studies, and two years of a foreign language or an Alaska Native language;
   (4) has a minimum grade-point average in high school of 2.5 or higher;
   the department shall set by regulation minimum requirements based on a substantially similar standard for districts that do not assign grades;
   (5) has achieved a minimum score on a
      (A) college entrance examination; or
      (B) standardized examination designed to measure a student's level of preparedness to make the transition to work, as selected by the department; [AND]
   (6) is enrolled in good standing in a course of study at a qualified postsecondary institution in this state that is intended to result in the award of a certificate or degree ; and
   (7) applies to the commission on or before July 15, 2016 .

* Sec. 4. AS 14.43.825(b) is amended to read:
(b) A student's eligibility for a scholarship terminates six years after the date the student graduates from high school unless the student qualifies for an extension of time allowed by the department by regulation. The department may not extend a student's eligibility for a scholarship past July 15, 2022.

* Sec. 5. AS 14.45.130(a) is amended to read:
(a) A religious or other private school that elects to comply with AS 14.45.100 - 14.45.130 shall maintain permanent student records reflecting immunizations, physical examinations, standardized testing, academic achievement, and courses taken at the school [, AND LEVEL OF ELIGIBILITY FOR AN ALASKA PERFORMANCE SCHOLARSHIP UNDER AS 14.43.810 - 14.43.849].

* Sec. 6. AS 37.14.750(a) is amended to read:
(a) The Alaska higher education investment fund is established in the general fund [FOR THE PURPOSE OF MAKING GRANTS AWARDED UNDER AS 14.43.400 - 14.43.420 BY APPROPRIATION TO THE ACCOUNT ESTABLISHED UNDER AS 14.43.915(a) AND OF MAKING SCHOLARSHIP PAYMENTS TO QUALIFIED POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTIONS FOR STUDENTS UNDER AS 14.43.810 - 14.43.849 BY APPROPRIATION TO THE ACCOUNT ESTABLISHED UNDER AS 14.43.915(b)]. Money in the fund does not lapse. The fund consists of
   (1) money appropriated to the fund;
   (2) income earned on investment of fund assets; and
(3) donations to the fund; AND
(4) MONEY REDEPOSITED UNDER AS 14.43.915(c).

* Sec. 7. AS 14.03.113 is repealed July 16, 2016.

* Sec. 8. AS 14.43.400, 14.43.405, 14.43.406, 14.43.415, 14.43.420, 14.43.810, 14.43.820, 14.43.825, 14.43.830, 14.43.840, 14.43.849, 14.43.915; and AS 37.14.750(c) are repealed July 16, 2022.

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

APPLICABILITY. The Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education may not award an Alaska performance scholarship under AS 14.43.810 - 14.43.849 to a new applicant who first applies for a scholarship after July 15, 2016.

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

TRANSITION: REGULATIONS. The Department of Education and Early Development, the Department of Labor and Workforce Development, and the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education may adopt regulations necessary to implement changes made to their respective authorities by this Act. The regulations take effect under AS 44.62 (Administrative Procedure Act), but not before the effective date of the law being implemented.

* Sec. 11. The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to read:

RETROACTIVITY. Sections 2 - 4 of this Act are retroactive to July 15, 2016.

* Sec. 12. Sections 1, 5, and 6 of this Act take effect July 16, 2022.

* Sec. 13. Except as provided in sec. 12 of this Act, this Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).