

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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SPONSOR STATEMENT

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 9

Proposing Amendments to the Constitution of the State of Alaska Relating to an Appropriation Bill Funding Public Education for Grades Kindergarten through 12.

State statute, AS 14.14.060(c), requires school districts to submit their funding requests to their municipal governments by May 1st. However, municipal ordinances vary in the date in which school districts must submit a budget, varying from March 1 to early May. Typically, the Legislature passes the operating budget, containing K-12 funding, anywhere from mid-April to late May. The passage of the budget at such late dates causes uncertainty for school districts as they develop their budgets. In most instances, this uncertainty forces school districts to have to issue pink slips to educators then rehire them once the educational funding is finalized by the Legislature. Not only are the school districts impacted, municipalities and local government officials also bear the brunt of this uncertainty when attempting to develop their budgets.

Senate Joint Resolution 9, would require, if approved by the Legislature and the voters, a separate appropriation bill funding K-12 education to be passed by the 45th day of each regular session. This change occurs within Article 9, Section 12 of the Alaska Constitution.