



Alaska State Legislature

Senate Majority Web: <http://www.akrepublicans.org>

Sponsor: Senator Lyda Green
Current Version: SB 289
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Date: February 2, 2004

Fact Sheet for: Senate Bill 289

Short Title: Extending the Special Education Service Agency

Summary:

- Extends the Special Education Service Agency for another nine years.

Benefits:

- Enables remote districts and communities that do not have local specialists to meet the needs of the local children with disabilities by employing professionals with specializations in various disabilities.
- As the state's force of specialists decreases and the prevalence of severe disabilities increases, this bill will ensure that children can continue to receive these services in their home communities.
- SESA provides extensive school support, consultation, training, and resources.

Background:

- The legislature created SESA to help schools and infant learning programs serve children with severe disabilities such as autism, visual impairment, hearing impairment, mental retardation, and significant physical or emotional disabilities.
- SESA has consistently earned positive performance reports from the Division of Legislative Audit and is supported by the Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education, the Department of Education and Early Development, Alaska Association of School Boards, the Alaska Association of School Administrators, and the National Education Association—Alaska.