

Sponsor Statement for SB 188

Education Fund/Land Endowment

“An Act establishing an education fund and a land endowment for public education; and providing for an effective date.”

Providing a quality education for our youth is a high priority. It is an on going challenge each session for the legislators to stretch the available funds in order to cover as much of the educational needs as possible. [SB 188](#) addresses this problem by establishing an education fund and a land endowment.

SB 188 establishes an educational fund as a separate fund of the state. The principal of the fund consists of legislative appropriations as well as gifts, bequests and contributions from individuals. Individuals will be able to contribute part of their Permanent Fund Dividends to the fund if they so choose. The net income of the fund may only be appropriated for public elementary and secondary education.

SB 188 appoints the commissioner of revenue as the treasurer. The Education Fund Board established in the Department of Education and Early Development administers the fund. The powers and duties for both the treasurer and Board are clearly outlined.

The Education Fund Board is entitled to receive the conveyance of 5,000,000 acres of land under Sec. 6(b) of the Alaska Statehood Act. The board will annually submit a list of selections of land to the commissioner of natural resources and the governor. This list will be submitted to the legislature. The legislature may by law approve or disapprove the list of selections. The deadline for making land selections is December 31, 2012.

SB 188 gives the authority to the Education Fund Board to handle the management and disposition of the land. The board shall seek public comment on proposals for development, exchange, or sale of land selections. The land shall be managed in a manner that permits customary and traditional uses of the resources as much as possible.