



Alaska State Legislature

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

Sponsor: Senator Gene Therriault
Current Version: CSSB 179(FIN)
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Fact Sheet for: Senate Bill 179

Short Title: Teacher Certification: Finger Prints

Summary:

- Allows teachers to receive a name-based background check, for purposes of a teaching certificate, if their fingerprints are illegible or nonexistent.
- Gives the Department of Education and Early Development the ability to grant a 60-day extension following the 3-month application period if an applicant's prints are backlogged and not processed in time.
- Conforms Alaska statute to federal law to avoid jeopardizing Alaska's ability to get federal background checks on anyone in the state.

Benefits:

- Provides an alternative background check option for teachers with unreadable fingerprints so they will not have to apply for a conditional teaching certificate and resubmit prints every three months.
- Allows the Department of Education the freedom to allow an extension on an application if the sole reason is a delay in fingerprint processing.
- Allows the State of Alaska to continue to receive Federal Criminal History Record Information by conforming to a Department of Justice audit of our Statutes.