

Kenai Peninsula Borough
Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly

MEMORANDUM

TO: Wayne Ogle, Assembly President
Members, Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly

FROM: Kelly Cooper, Assembly member *B. for K.C.*

DATE: February 6, 2018

RE: Resolution 2018-008 Supporting House Bill 287 Providing Early Approval of Funding for Public Education and Student Transportation

Representative Paul Seaton is sponsoring House Bill 287 which is intended to make early funding available for public education. Public school districts and regional education attendance areas in Alaska rely on the state to fund education each year, preferably by April 30th, to provide sufficient time to finalize their budgets and take necessary actions to prepare for the next school year. For example, Alaska Statutes require the district to notify all tenured teachers of non-retention for the next school year on or before May 15th, and non-tenured teachers by the last day of school each year. When the district does not know how much state funding it will receive it has to send notices to many such employees in case sufficient funding is not ultimately appropriated to retain them. As a result, the district loses employees it would otherwise retain.

Any delay beyond April in the approval of the state budget causes significant uncertainty and difficulty for the school district. Your support of this resolution would be appreciated.