

2016 CAPITOL CURRENTS

29th Alaska State Legislature ~ 2nd Session

Tenth Edition – 3/28 to 4/3/16

14 days to go! Maybe

~ **Extended or Special Session is likely** ~

HIGHLIGHTS

If the Alaska Legislature holds a special session this year, the Alaska Senate wants it to take place away from Juneau. In a 13-7 vote, they approved **SCR 16** urging the Governor to designate a location for a special session in a community on the state's road system.

Go Blue Day was celebrated April 1st, the start of Child Abuse Prevention month. Representative's Tarr and Spohnholz, and Commissioner Davidson lead a Rally on the Capitol steps. Legislators, staffers, and the public alike wore blue.

We also celebrated Vietnam Veteran's Day this past week.

The Alaska Supreme Court affirmed a lower court's decision recognizing the authority of a Juneau-based tribal government to issue child support orders.

The Legislature's deal on the 4th Avenue building was declared invalid by an Anchorage Superior Court judge. Since then, lawmakers met to decide whether to move out of their building on Fourth Avenue, buy it or pursue some other option.

After an almost 2 hour executive session, they decided 13-1 to offer \$32.5 million. Representative Neuman of MatSu was the lone dissenting vote. As of today, no word on whether the deal will be accepted.

The Catholic Church in Alaska wants protection from civil and criminal liability for refusing to perform same-sex marriages in its landmark chapels, said a Catholic bishop during testimony on **HB 236**.

HCR 27 would limit when bills can be requested and introduced. In part, it provides that no personal legislation can be introduced after the 25th day. Now it's the 35th.

BUDGET ISSUES

With less than 3 weeks until the end of session, four bills were introduced on behalf of Senate Finance that will cost our communities millions of dollars.

House Bills 207 thru 210 will increase the local contribution for the Teacher's Retirement System (TRS), and the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS); eliminate the Alaska Performance Scholarship program; and decrease Alaska's revenue sharing program.

Everyday citizens, business owners, municipal governments, and schoolteachers already have raised big concerns.

Organized by the Rasmuson Foundation as part of its educational campaign called Plan4Alaska, about **40 former Alaska lawmakers** of diverse political stripes and backgrounds (aka “Fossils”) convened to talk about Alaska’s \$4 billion budget deficit.

The ideas included support for a comprehensive budget solution involving income tax, budget cuts, and use of the Permanent Fund earnings while continuing PFD’s at some amount.

Many said such a solution is needed this legislative session to prevent the economy from crashing.

EDUCATION ISSUES

Alaska Right to Life’s executive director has claimed the House Speaker has in effect, “killed” **SB 89** by referring it to the House Health & Social Services (HSS) Committee, chaired by an opponent of this legislation.

SB 89 would bar “abortion services providers” from teaching sex education in schools — a provision that would apply solely to Planned Parenthood.

In any event, it will be heard in HSS on April 7th for public testimony.

HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES ISSUES

The Alaska Senate has voted 15-5 to approve SB 1 by Senator Micciche that bans smoking in bars, restaurants, and most workplaces.

HB 27, Child Protection and Opportunity Act, passed the house. It aims to improve the lives of foster youth in an effective, cost-efficient manner.

It speeds up the process for placing a foster child in a permanent home to meet national standards; requires the Office of Children’s Services to demonstrate in court that releasing a foster child from custody prior to age 21 is in the best interests of the child; works to increase the number of adoptive parents and reduce the times a foster child moves from one school to another; and encourages relative placements.

The Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation (YKHC) signed an historic Joint Venture Agreement with the Indian Health Service (IHS).

The first batch of marijuana business license applications is available to the public, and so far Alaskans have more interest in growing than selling.

PUBLIC SAFETY ISSUES

HB 324, passed by the House, changes the current requirement that a medical physician be placed on the Violent Crimes Compensation board and now allows for a physician assistant or an advanced nurse practitioner to fill the seat.

SB 174, allows the university to regulate possession in the dorms and in health service and counseling offices, among other places. The university has estimated it will cost millions to implement.

Members of Senate Finance disagree. Senators Kelly and Dunleavy said the university could protect public safety simply by putting up “no gun” signs.

Legislation, **HB 27** aimed at improving communication and interactions between law enforcement and individuals with non-apparent disabilities passed the House.

The bill includes three major parts:

1. Implements a non-apparent disability awareness-training component for Alaska peace officers, corrections officers and parole/probation offices.
2. Requires an addition to the Passenger Vehicle Driver Handbook that instructs drivers about their responsibilities when interacting with a peace officer.
3. Implements a voluntary statewide identification system to place a non-apparent disability symbol on a driver's license or identification card.

NATURAL RESOURCES

The Supreme Court on Monday declined to hear a case brought by the state of Alaska opposing the so-called Forest Service "roadless rule," ending a major, long-running court battle over the state's attempts to be exempt from the logging regulation.

GOVERNOR'S CORNER

<http://gov.alaska.gov>

Governor Walker ordered all Alaska state flags to be flown at half-staff in honor and memory of the victims of the March 27, 1964 Alaska earthquake and the devastating tsunamis' that followed.

BILLS ON THE MOVE

~ Below are pertinent bills that had hearings or other action this past week ~

SENATE COMMITTEE OR FLOOR ACTION

SB 8 / Industrial Hemp Production Licenses

http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_complete_bill.asp?session=29&bill=SB8

Version 29-LS0195\H - Moved from Senate Judiciary on 3/30. Referred to Finance.

SB 91 / Omnibus Criminal Law & Procedure; Corrections

http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_complete_bill.asp?session=29&bill=SB91

Version 29-LS0541\S - Amendments Sen. Finance on 4/2. Scheduled further on 4/4, 4/5, and 4/6.

SB 112 / Adoption of Child in State Custody

http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_complete_bill.asp?session=29&bill=SB112

Version 29-GS1262\G - Moved from Senate Judiciary on 3/28. Referred to Rules

SB 113 / New Drugs for the Terminally Ill

http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_complete_bill.asp?session=29&bill=SB113

Version 29-LS0783\E - Moved from Senate HSS on 3/30. Referred to Judiciary.

SB 150 / MVA Commissioner – Member of CDVSA

http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_complete_bill.asp?session=29&bill=SB150

Version 29-GS2797\A- Scheduled in Senate State Affairs on 4/7.

SB 156 / Insurance Coverage for Contraceptives

http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_complete_bill.asp?session=29&bill=SB156

Version 29-LS11444P - Moved from Senate HSS on 3/30. Referred to Labor & Commerce

SB 165 / Alcoholic Beverage Control Board; Minors; Alcohol

http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_complete_bill.asp?session=29&bill=SB165

Version 29-LS1384H - Moved from Senate Judiciary on 3/30. Referred to Rules.

SB 175 / Pharmacy Benefits Managers

http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_complete_bill.asp?session=29&bill=SB175

Version 29-LS1110W - Heard and held in Senate Labor & Commerce on 3/31.

SB 179 / Ban Late Term Abortion; Child Surrender

http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_complete_bill.asp?session=29&bill=SB179

Version 29-LS1236W - Heard and held in Senate HSS on 3/30.

SB 201 / Pharmacy Board and Employees; Drug Distribution/Manufacturing

http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_complete_bill.asp?session=29&bill=SB201

Version 29-LS1482A - Heard and held in Senate Labor & Commerce on 3/31.

SJR 12 / Constitutional Amendment: Elected Attorney General

http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_complete_bill.asp?session=29&bill=SJR12

Version 29-LS0095W - Moved from Senate State Affairs on 3/29. Scheduled Judiciary on 4/4 with public testimony.

HB 27 / DHSS Duties; CINA; Foster Care; Adoption

http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_complete_bill.asp?session=29&bill=HB27

Version 29-LS0176G.A - CS passed 37-0 from House on 4/1 and transmitted to the Senate.

HB 231 / Extend Board of Parole

(Floor action!)

http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_complete_bill.asp?session=29&bill=HB231

Version 29-LS1138E- Passed House on 3/29 on vote of 36-0. Scheduled Senate State Affairs 4/5.

HB 275 / Indigenous Peoples Day

(Floor action!)

http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_complete_bill.asp?session=29&bill=HB275

Version 29-LS1333W.A- Passed House on 3/22 on vote of 38-0. Transmitted to Senate.

HB 324 / Violent Crimes Compensation Board Membership **(Floor action!)**

http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_complete_bill.asp?session=29&bill=HB324

Version 29-LS1479W- Passed House on 3/30 on vote of 38-0. Scheduled Senate State Affairs on 4/5 with public testimony.

HOUSE COMMITTEE OR FLOOR ACTION

HB 200 / Adoption of Child in State Custody

http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_complete_bill.asp?session=29&bill=HB200

Version 29-GH1262H - Moved from House HSS on 3/31. Referred to Judiciary.

HB 205 / Criminal Law/Procedure; Public Aid

http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_complete_bill.asp?session=29&bill=HB205

Version 29-LS0896A- Heard/held House Judiciary on 3/28 and 3/30. Further scheduled on 4/4, 4/5, 4/7, 4/8, and 4/9, with the last three dates taking public and invited testimony.

HB 236 / Right to Refuse to Solemnize Marriage

http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_complete_bill.asp?session=29&bill=HB236

Version 29-LS1290\A - Moved from House Judiciary on 4/1. No further referrals except Rules.

HB 237 / Interstate Medical Licensure Compact

http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_complete_bill.asp?session=29&bill=HB237

Version 29-LS1100\A- Scheduled House Finance on 4/2.

HB 269 / MVA Commissioner Member of CDVSA

http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_complete_bill.asp?session=29&bill=HB269

Version 29-GH2797\W - Moved from House State Affairs on 3/31. Referred to Finance.

HB 308 / Child Safety Seat Installation Liability

http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_complete_bill.asp?session=29&bill=HB308

Version 29-LS1323\A - Moved from House Labor & Commerce on 3/28. Scheduled Judiciary 4/6.

HB 315 / Electronic Visit Verification: Medicaid

http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_complete_bill.asp?session=29&bill=HB315

Version 29-LS1287\A- Scheduled in House HSS on 4/5.

HB 324 / Violent Crimes Compensation Board Membership (Floor action!)

http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_complete_bill.asp?session=29&bill=HB324

Version 29-LS1479\W- Passed House on 3/30 on vote of 38-0. Scheduled Senate State Affairs on 4/5 with public testimony.

HB 334 / Child Custody; Domestic Violence; Child Abuse

http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_complete_bill.asp?session=29&bill=HB334

Version 29-LS1409\H - Heard and held in House HSS on 3/29. Further scheduled for 4/5.

HB 344 / Drug Prescription Database

http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_complete_bill.asp?session=29&bill=HB344

Version 29-LS1378\P- Moved CS from House HSS on 3/24. Finance referral added.

HJR 29 / Call Federal Constitutional Convention: Term Limits

http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_complete_bill.asp?session=29&bill=HJR29

Version 29-LS1322\A - Heard and held House Judiciary on 4/1 with public and invited testimony.

HJR 30 / Post Traumatic Stress Injury

http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_complete_bill.asp?session=29&bill=HJR30

Version 29-LS1483\P- Moved CS from House State Affairs on 3/31. Referred to Rules.

SB 1 / Regulation of Smoking

(Floor action!)

http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_complete_bill.asp?session=29&bill=SB1

Version 29-LS0003\U - Passed the Senate on 3/30 on vote of 15-5. Transmitted to House on 4/1.

SB 53 / Advanced Practice Registered Nurses

http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_complete_bill.asp?session=29&bill=SB53

Version 29-LS0043\P - Rules has calendared for 4/4 House Floor.

SB 74 / Medicaid Reform/PFD/HSAS/ER Use/Studies

http://www.akleg.gov/basis/get_complete_bill.asp?session=29&bill=SB74

Version 29-LS0692\U.A - Heard/held House Finance on 3/28, 3/29, and 3/30. Scheduled on 4/6.

SB 89 / Parent Rights: Education; School Absence

http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_complete_bill.asp?session=29&bill=SB89

Version 29-LS0735\L - Scheduled House HSS on 4/7 with public testimony scheduled.

SB 112 / Adoption of Child in State Custody

http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_complete_bill.asp?session=29&bill=SB112

Version 29-GS1262\G - Moved from Senate Judiciary on 3/28. Referred to Rules.

SB 124 / Extend Sunset on Alaska Commission on Aging

http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_complete_bill.asp?session=29&bill=SB124

Version 29-LS1235\A - Heard and held House Finance on 3/31. Scheduled further on 4/6. Senate Finance fiscal note slashes one position for FY17 and another position for FY18, leaving two people to run and operate the Commission.

SCR 16 / Special Session to be Held on Road System (Floor vote!)

http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_complete_bill.asp?session=29&bill=SCR16

Version 29-LS0906\W- Passed 13-7 from Senate on 3/30. Scheduled House State Affairs on 4/7.

COMMITTEE HEARINGS

MONDAY – April 4

(SENATE) FINANCE Committee

9:00 AM S. Finance Room 532

SB 91 / Omnibus Criminal Law and Procedure; Corrections

(HOUSE) MISC MEETING

12:00 PM Capitol Room 106

Lunch & Learn: What's Your Green Dot?

by Ann Rausch, Program Coordinator, Council of Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault (CDVSA)

by Suzi Pearson, Executive Director, Abused Women's Aid In Crisis (AWAIC)

Sponsored by Representative Spohnholz and Representative Tarr

(HOUSE) JUDICIARY Committee

1:00 PM Gruenberg Room 120

HB 205 / Criminal Law-Procedure; Drivers License; Public Aid

(SENATE) JUDICIARY Committee

1:30 PM Beltz Room 105 (TSBldg)

SJR 12 / Constitutional Amendment: Elected Attorney General

(HOUSE) JUDICIARY Committee

5:30 PM Gruenberg Room 120

HB 205 / Criminal Law-Procedure; Drivers License; Public Aid

TUESDAY – April 5

(HOUSE) STATE AFFAIRS Committee

8:00 AM Capitol Room 106

**Overview of the Dept. of Corrections – Governor's Administrative Review Results
Confirmation Hearings:**

- Dean Williams, Commissioner, Dept. of Corrections

(SENATE) FINANCE Committee
9:00 AM S. Finance Room 532
SB 91 / Omnibus Criminal Law and Procedure; Corrections

(SENATE) STATE AFFAIRS Committee
9:00 AM Butrovich Room 205
HB 324 / Violent Crimes Compensation Board Membership
Consideration of Governor's Appointee: Dean Williams, Commissioner, Dept. of Corrections

(HOUSE) JUDICIARY Committee
1:00 PM Gruenberg Room 120
HB 205 / Criminal Law-Procedure; Drivers License; Public Aid

(SENATE) LABOR & COMMERCE Committee
1:30 PM Beltz Room 105
SB 156/ Insurance Coverage for Contraceptives

Bills Previously Heard –
SB 175 Pharmacy Audits –
SB 201 - PHARMA BD & EMPLOYEES; DRUG DIST/MANUFAC

(HOUSE) HSS Committee
3:00 PM Capitol Room 106
HB 345 / Insurance Coverage for Contraceptives
HB 334 / Child Custody; Domestic Violence; Child Abuse
HB 315 / Electronic Visit Verification: Medicaid

(SENATE) FINANCE Committee
5:00 PM S. Finance Room 532
SCR 4 / U.S. Countermand Convention Delegates

(HOUSE) JUDICIARY Committee
5:00 PM Gruenberg Room 120
HB 205 / Criminal Law-Procedure; Drivers License; Public Aid <Testimony Invitation only>

WEDNESDAY – April 6

(HOUSE) EDUCATION Committee
8:00 AM Capitol Room 106
HB 352 / Limit Abortion Service Providers in Schools

(HOUSE) FINANCE Committee
8:30 AM H. Finance Room 519
SB 124 / Extend Sunset on Alaska Commission on Aging
HCR 4 / U.S. Countermand Convention Delegates

(SENATE) FINANCE Committee
9:00 AM S. Finance Room 532
SB 91 / Omnibus Criminal Law and Procedure; Corrections

(HOUSE) JUDICIARY Committee
1:00 PM Gruenberg Room 120
HB 308 / Child Safety Seat Installation Liability

(HOUSE) FINANCE Committee
1:30 PM H. Finance Room 519
SB 74 / Medicaid Reform; Telemedicine; Drug Database

(HOUSE) LABOR & COMMERCE Committee
3:15 PM Barnes Room 124
HB 234 / Insurance Coverage for Telemedicine

THURSDAY – April 7

(HOUSE) STATE AFFAIRS Committee
8:00 AM Capitol Room 106
SCR 16 / Special Session to be Held on Road System
SCR 20 / Sexual Assault Awareness Month: April 2016

(SENATE) STATE AFFAIRS Committee
8:30 AM Butrovich Room 205
SB 150 / MVA Commissioner - Member of CDVSA

(HOUSE) JUDICIARY Committee
1:00 PM Gruenberg Room 120
HB 205 / Criminal Law-Procedure; Drivers License; Public Aid

(HOUSE) HSS Committee
3:00 PM Capitol Room 106
SB 72 / Designated Caregivers for Patients
SB 89 / Schools; Parent Rights; Abortion Providers Limits

Website – Daily Committee Hearings

April 4 – April 10, 2016

http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_hearing.asp?session=29&Chamb=B&Date1=04%2F04%2F2016&Date2=04%2F10%2F2016&Comty=&Root=&Sel=1&Button=Display

~ End of Report ~

Contact: Caren Robinson (Carenr@gci.net)