

2017 CAPITOL CURRENTS

30th Alaska State Legislature ~ 1st Session

19th Edition – Week Ending 6/23/17

~ We have a budget-well almost~

HIGHLIGHTS

The House and Senate passed the [Conference CS for HB57](#)-the operating budget conference committee report- Thursday night using a $\frac{3}{4}$ vote to access the CBR-constitutional budget reserve- to bridge the funding gap.

The bill needs to be transmitted to the Governor for his signature prior to July 1st. He is expected to sign the bill, but may use his line item veto power on some measures so the final version of the budget is still unknown.

Friday, Department of Administration Commissioner Sheldon Fisher sent a notice to state employees rescinding the government shutdown layoff notices.

Earlier in the week the Governor issued a supplemental proclamation adding **HB 159**, the **opioid bill**, to the second special session allowing the House to take up concurrence of the measure with the changes made in the Senate.

After passing the operating budget the House took up the concurrence, agreed with the Senate changes, and now [SCS CSHB 159\(FIN\)](#) will be on its way to the Governor for his signature.

Finally, the Governor issued a second supplemental proclamation and added [SCS CSHB 111\(FIN\)](#), the oil and gas taxes bill to the second special session. The bill passed both bodies and a [Conference Committee](#) was established during the first special session.

BUDGET ISSUES

Will FY2018 be the year without a capital budget? SB23 has yet to be added to the second special session call.

SB 26, the PFD restructure, and **HB 115**, the income tax measure, are not in the call either.

Still work to be done to get to a sustainable fiscal plan.

Here are snapshots of what the FY2018 budget includes:

- Parents as Teachers, Pre-K grants and Best Beginnings are funded.
- The Office of Children's Services will get to add social workers to their ranks.
- The Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault can gain some prevention ground back with \$1 million additional dollars through the recidivism reduction fund.
- Community batterer intervention program funding was zeroed out.

- Although cuts to public health nursing were reduced due to one-time funding increments, intent language was added directing the department of health and social services to develop a three-year plan to contract with community health clinics to provide public nursing services. The plan is due to the legislature by January 20, 2018.
- Funds in Senior and Disabilities Medicaid Services will increase Day Habilitation services from 8 to 12 hours a week.

BILL UPDATE

Bills in committee at the end of the first session will remain active over the interim and may continue on toward passage when the second session starts next January. A list of bills of interest and where they're sitting will be provided next week in the last Capitol Currents for this year.

~ End of Report ~

Contact: Caren Robinson (carenr@gci.net)