

2018 CAPITOL CURRENTS

30th Alaska State Legislature ~ 2nd Session

Eleventh Edition – 3/26 to 4/1/18

14 days to go

Happy Easter

HIGHLIGHTS

It's been a huge struggle but looks like the operating and mental health budgets will be voted on this coming week. They are currently being held in third reading on the House Floor.

With a series of procedural moves on Friday, the House of Representatives cut a proposed \$2,700 Permanent Fund Dividend to \$1,600.

The proposal was an attempt to break a deadlock over the state's operating budget. If the issue is truly resolved, the final budget vote will be next week, since lawmakers left the Capitol for the Easter weekend.

[HB 25](#), Insurance Coverage for Contraceptives sponsored by Rep. Claman, was also held in Third Reading. Hopefully, it will get to the Senate next week.

As of now, no one expects to adjourn the 90th day!

April is a month of several national awareness movements: autism, sexual assault and child abuse.

Stand in solidarity against child abuse on **Friday, April 6th**, by wearing blue. The Blue Ribbon Campaign began in 1989 as one woman's tribute to her grandson when she tied a blue ribbon on her car antenna to symbolize his bruises, after he died at the hands of his mother's abusive partner.

See the Governor's Proclamation for sexual assault awareness month here: [SAAM](#)

Find out about Alaska's Autism Society here: <http://www.asagoldenheart.org/>

See the President's Proclamation here: [National Child Abuse Awareness Month Proclamation](#)

BUDGET ISSUES

The Senate has scheduled departmental budget closeouts for the coming week on Tuesday-Education at 12:30pm; Corrections at 1:00pm; LAW at 4:00pm; and HSS at 5:30pm.

Senate Finance is scheduled again to take [Public Comment on the operating budget Friday, April 6th](#). Last week all public testimony was cancelled.

Call-in:

From Anchorage: (907) 563-9085

From Juneau: (907) 586-9085

All others: (844) 586-9085

You can send in written comments to Finance.Committee@akleg.gov

Senate Finance Committee Public Comment Schedule on the State Operating Budget

Friday, April 6th

9:00-9:30am	Juneau
9:30-10:00am	Utkiakvik, Tok, Delta Junction
10:00-10:30am	Kenai, Kodiak, Dillingham
10:30-11:00am	Ketchikan, Wrangell, Petersburg
1:30pm-2:00pm	Bethel, Nome, Kotzebue, Unalaska
2:00pm-2:30pm	Sitka, Cordova, Valdez
2:30pm-3:30pm	Fairbanks, Mat-Su
3:30pm-4:00pm	Glennallen, Seward, Homer
4:00-5:00pm	Statewide Offnets
5:00-4:00pm	Anchorage

Meanwhile, House Finance will hear [HB 282](#), the **Capital Budget Contingent on Tax** and [HB 284](#), the **Capital Budget** on Tuesday; take public testimony on [HB 398](#), **Corporation Tax: Public Utility Income Allocation** on Wednesday; and [HB 212](#), **REAA & Small Muni School District Fund** on Thursday.

In addition to the capital budget, HFIN has scheduled [HB 240](#), Pharmacy Benefits Managers sponsored by Rep. Guttenberg.

HFIN hearings are scheduled to start at **1:30pm**.

HEARINGS OF INTEREST

If you want to share your opinions/concerns about a particular piece of legislation, look for hearings where the committees list public testimony being taken. That’s your chance!

SFIN has the operating budget pending referral scheduled at each of their meetings—bill hearings may be adjusted on the day they actually get the budget. So, the current schedule for SFIN is

Monday at 3:00pm they’ll hear two of their own bills- [SB 216](#), School Funding for Consolidated Schools and they reopen public testimony on [SB 104](#), Education Curriculum.

They're scheduled to work through **several** Board extension bills Tuesday 9:00am.

[HB 273](#), Marijuana Control Board; [HB 274](#), Board of Psychologists/Psychologist Assistants; [HB 275](#), Massage Therapists; [HB 278](#), Board of Certified Real Estate Appraisers; [HB 279](#), Real Estate Commission; [HB 280](#), Board of Marital & Family Therapy; and, [HB 302](#), Board of Professional Counselors

Wednesday at 1:30pm they'll hear [HB 31](#), Sexual Assault Training & Exam Kits; Domestic Violence sponsored by Rep. Tarr.

What else is happening?

SL&C will hear two bills sponsored by Sen. Giessel- [SB 112](#), Workers Compensation; Drug Database & Test and [SB 38](#), Pharmacy Benefits Managers at 9:00am on Monday.

[HB 27](#), High-Risk Chemicals for Child Exposure sponsored by Rep. Tarr will be heard Monday at 1pm in HRES.

Monday at 1:30 pm HFIN will take up [HB 268](#), **Opioid Prescription Information** sponsored by Rep. Gara and SJUD will take up confirmation hearings for the State Commission on Human Rights, the Workers' Compensation Appeals Commission and the Violent Crimes Compensation Board.

3:15pm on Monday, HL&C will hear [SB 108](#), Medical Care/Licensing/Medical Board sponsored by Sen. Giessel. The bill is also scheduled in the committee on Friday.

HSTA will hear [HB 407](#), APOC; Campaign Contributions/Reporting sponsored by HSTA at 3:15pm. They'll also hear it again on Thursday.

[HCR 19](#), Governor: AK Native Language Emergency sponsored by Rep. Ortiz is scheduled for its first hearing in the Senate Tuesday at 3:30pm in SCRA.

Fifth on the list for SSTA on Tuesday at 3:30pm is [HB 20](#), Solemnize Marriage: Elected Officials sponsored by Rep. Claman.

SJUD takes up confirmation hearings for the Commission on Human Rights; the Lt. Governor Successor and the Public Defender Wednesday at 1:30pm. They are also scheduled to hear [SJR 14](#), Constitutional Amendment: Parental Consent to Abortion sponsored by Sen. Olson.

Thursday noon you may want to watch "Improving the Safety, Permanency, & Well-being of AK's Children" a Lunch & Learn by the Casey Family Programs sponsored by Rep. Spohnholz.

The presentation will repeat at 3:00pm in HHSS.

1:30pm confirmation hearings for the Mental Health Trust Authority are scheduled in HFIN.

[SB 134](#), Termination of Parental Rights; Guardians sponsored by Sen. Gardner receives its first hearing on Friday at 1:30pm in SHSS.

~ End of Report ~

Contact: Caren Robinson (carenr@gci.net)