

What's Up with the Legislature?

“The Never Ending Story”

The last legislative session consisted of a regular session and four special sessions. What happened and how that might affect the next session?

House of Representatives

House Majority Coalition Forms

22 Members

(A “razor thin” majority out of 40 House members!)

18 Democrats

1 Independent

3 Republicans



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Senate

- A solid Republican majority although less than at the beginning of the session.
- 13 members (down from the initial 15 member majority)

(20 members in the Senate)

12 Republicans, 1 Democrat

(Senators Dunleavy & Hughes expelled from the majority caucus for voting against the budget)

It started so promising!

January 17

Regular Session of the 30th Legislature Convenes

Agreement among both bodies that the #1 priority was a long-term, sustainable fiscal plan.

Once fiscal plan was in place an operating budget could be introduced and debated.

Solution remains elusive!

Two items rose to the surface:

- 1. Long term fiscal plan**
- 2. Broad band access**

Senate Education introduced an omnibus bill with a wide variety of topics.

Widely disparate ideas for fiscal plan put forward

- **Complete overhaul of tax credits.**
- **Using portion of earnings reserve account – or not?**
- **Additional reductions to state government.**
- **New revenue (income tax, other taxes).**
- **5% to 6% reduction of the Education BSA.**

Session adjourns May 17 with no fiscal plan and no budget!

1st Special Session Convenes May 18

No progress made

1st Special Session adjourns June 16

State makes plans for a state government shutdown on June 30, the end of the fiscal year.

And the 2nd Special Session Convenes!

Session convenes on June 16.

Plans continue to determine what state services are non-essential and can be shut down.

Schools close for the summer with everyone wondering if they would re-open in September!

A Compromise is Reached !

The BSA is funded at the FY 16 level!

Significant concessions made by both the House & Senate.

A government shutdown is avoided.

2nd Special Session adjourns July 15.

No fiscal plan is passed and to balance the budget a draw is made on the Earnings Reserve.

And yet a 3rd Special Session!

3rd Special session convened on July 27.

The agenda had one item – the Capital Budget.

This was necessary to access matching federal funds.

The Capital Budget was quickly passed and the legislature adjourned on July 27.



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And Yes, a 4th Special Session!

Governor Walker convenes the legislature with two agenda items:

- 1. Pass a fiscal plan with a Tax and Wage Provision, SB 4001 (Self Employment Tax) ;**
- 2. Consider SB54 calling for a review of the Crime and Sentencing Reform.**

The Legislature came into session on Oct. 23.

Lines in the Sand Are Quickly Drawn

House schedules a series of Finance Committee meetings.

Senate President announces the the upper body committees will not meet in Juneau until there is something to vote on!



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So What Does All This Mean For AASB in the Upcoming Session?

We **MUST NOT** be reactive!

We plan to capitalize on the **Alaska Educational Challenge**.

We have a high profile event in which numerous legislators were involved and that gives us an opportunity to talk about education and make those transformational changes discussed by the committees.

ALASKA'S EDUCATIONAL CHALLENGE

- **Student Learning**
- **Educator Excellence**
- **Modernization & Finance**
- **Tribal & Community Ownership**
- **Safety & Well-Being**

An Opportunity to Ride on the Momentum

- **Governor will likely introduce legislation to implement all of portions of the AEC.**
- **11 legislators served on committees.**
- **6 school board members on committees**
- **5 superintendents on committees**

A New Look To Legislative Updates in 2018

- Replaces *LegNews*
- “*The Session*”
 - What Happened
 - The Take Away
 - Daily Log
 - Education Bills Introduced
 - Upcoming Educational Hearings

The Session

Your Weekly Legislative Briefing

January 15-21, 2018

What Happened

"It was a busy week at the Capitol as the session got underway..."

This section could be a 2-3 paragraph synopsis of the House, Senate and Administration's activities during the previous week.

This newsletter could be constructed and published each Monday during the session, which would allow the inclusion of late-breaking weekend news. As daily content is



The Take Away

"So what does all this mean for education?"

This section would be a brief analysis of the week's legislative activities and their impact on education.

1-3 main talking points presented as a single paragraph or as bullets. I can create a captioned photo (like the one at right) for the "Big" take away point each week.



House forms bipartisan majority coalition, vows to change oil tax.

In tandem with the "Upcoming Education Hearings" section below, "The Take Away" section could also be a good place to promote Calls To Action urging members to testify or contact legislators at key points in the session. A separate coordinated "Call To Action" email could also be sent to members from Constant Contact.

What you can do this week

If there are actionable items that are coming up during the week of Monday's distribution, we can conclude this section with "what and when" suggestions, such as contacting legislators to weigh in on an issue, or testifying on a specific bill that a committee is hearing on a certain day this week. We can also include links to make it easy to [Contact Legislators](#) about a bill or issue.

Monday, Jan 15

Brief 1-2 paragraph recap of the day's activities. Format would be like a diary or blog.

Tuesday, Jan 16

Brief 1-2 paragraph recap of the day's activities.

Wednesday, Jan 17

Brief 1-2 paragraph recap of the day's activities.

Thursday, Jan 18

Brief 1-2 paragraph recap of the day's activities.

Friday, Jan 19

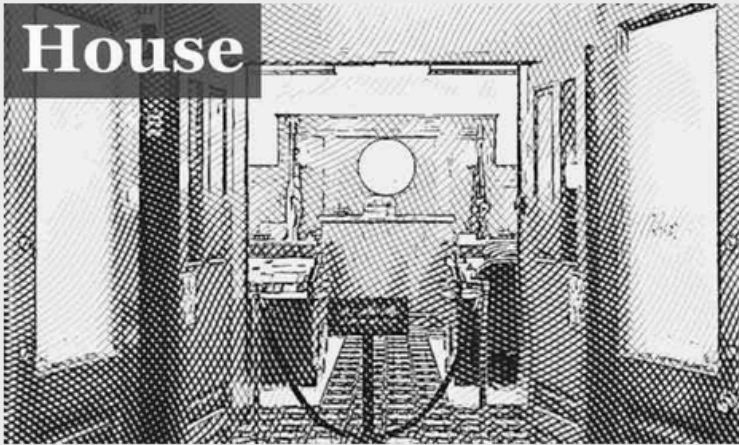
Brief 1-2 paragraph recap of the day's activities.

Saturday, Jan 20

Brief 1-2 paragraph recap of the day's activities.

Education Bills Introduced

House



House Bill 11

(Kawasaki) Retirement incentives for teachers and other public employees. (Referred to State Affairs Committee)

House Bill 52

(Kawasaki) Pre-elementary school programs & plans. (Referred to House Education Committee)

Senate



Senate Bill 12

(Bishop) Employment tax for educational facilities. (Referred to Senate Labor & Commerce Committee)

Senate Bill 27

(Dunleavy) Establishing a Task Force on Reading Proficiency and Reading Instruction and on the effects of dyslexia on some students (Senate Education Committee)

- K-12 Support
- Boarding Home Grants
- Youth in Detention
- Special Services

Content

** Testimony by invitation only*

9:00 am

House Education Committee

- HB 64, Reading Proficiency Task Force; Dyslexia
-

Wednesday, Feb 1

8:00 am

House & Senate Education Committees

- Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)
 - Dept. of Education & Early Development
-

Friday, Feb 3

8:00 am

House Finance Subcommittee

- Overview EED Budget Components

9:00 am

Senate Education Committee



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