

Bill Review

Norm Wooten,
Director of
Advocacy

AASB Virtual Legislative
Academy

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association of
ALASKA
school boards

HB 18 - Teachers National Board Certification

Rep. Jonathon Kreiss-Tomkins (D-Sitka)

- School districts shall display, in a prominent location, the name of each teacher who has attained NBC.
- The goal of the legislature is have at least 4% of Alaska's teachers with NBC by 2025.
- There is **NO REQUIREMENT** for districts to fund the NBC certification process for teachers. That is a local control decision.
- HB 18 Referred to House SA, Ed. Heard in House SA and referred to HS Ed

HB 45 - Workers Comp & Contagious Diseases

Rep. Andy Josephson (D-Anchorage)

- The onslaught of COVID-19 precipitated the bill but it would be applicable to other contagious diseases as well.
- Adds a new section to AS 23.30
- If a covered employee (including teachers) who works directly with the public within two weeks of a positive test or diagnosis of a disease would be assumed to have contracted it at work and would be covered by worker's compensation.
- An employer could only rebut a claim by producing clear and convincing evidence that an employee infection was not work related.
- Referred to House L&C, Fin – Heard & public testimony taken – held in L&C

HB 48 - APS Eligibility

Rep. Andi Story (D-Juneau)

- In AS 14.43.820(a) adds an additional category of educational course work to the Alaska Performance Scholarship:
 - Four years of mathematics, four years of language arts, four years of science, and four years of social studies, one year of which may include a foreign language, an Alaska Native language, fine arts, or cultural language or career and technical education;

Referred to House Ed, Fin. Has not been heard yet.

CSSB 56 - Extending COVID-19 Disaster Emergency

Senate Rules by Request of Governor

HB 76 - Extending COVID-19 Disaster Emergency

House Rules by Request of Governor

Provides for response to COVID-19 Pandemic by making temporary changes to state law:

- Occupational/professional licensing, tele-health, fingerprinting, charitable gaming/online ticket sales, federal stabilization funds, wills, shareholder meetings.

CSSB 56 Referred to Sen H&SS, L&C, Fin. Heard by Sen H&SS, L&C, Fin. Motion to discharge from Sen Fin failed, Remains in Sen Fin

HB 76 Referred to House H&SS, Fin – Bill is now in House Fin.

SB 58 - Funding for Correspondence Programs

Senate Rules by request of the Governor

HB 78 - Funding for Correspondence Programs

House Rules by request of the Governor

- Amends AS.14.17.410(b)(1))(C) by moving the correspondence student ADM up in the foundation formula immediately following the district cost factor and just prior to the special needs and vocational technical instruction multipliers.
- Amends AS 14.17.430 by removing the 90% factor for a correspondence student and clarifying the new funding allocation for a correspondence student. It makes the correspondence student “worth” a full ADM rather than the current 90%.

SB 58 Referred to Sen Ed, Fin. Heard in Sen Fin & held in committee

HB 78 Referred to Hse Ed, Fin. Bill has been acted on.

SB 74 - G.O. Bonds; State Infrastructure Projects

Senate Rules by Request of the Governor

HB 93 - G.O. Bonds; State Infrastructure Projects

House Rules by Request of the Governor

G.O Bonds must be approved through a ballot measure.

Education Projects included in the G.O. Bonds:

- Houston Middle School Replacement - \$9,000,000
- Major Maintenance Grant Fund - \$25,000,000
- Mt. Edgecumbe School Repairs - \$7,882,000

SB 74 Referred to Sen Tran, Fin. Has been heard in Trans

HB 93 Referred to House Fin. Has been heard in House Fin

SB 93 - Health Insurance All-Payer Claims Database

Senate Rules by Request of the Governor

HB 113 - Health Insurance All-Payer Claims Database

House Rules by Request of the Governor

Intent is to begin process of reducing Alaska health care cost – highest in the nation.

Purpose of the database:

- Collect/Analyze health care cost & data;
- Create central data base of health care information
- Provide access to health care info while protecting privacy
- Provide info on health care costs

SB 93 Referred to Sen H&SS, L&C, Fin. No action taken yet

HB 113 Referred to House L&C, H&SS, Fin. No action taken yet

SB 19 - Extend Special Services Agency

Sen. Gary Stevens (R-Kodiak)

HB 43 - Extend Special Services Agency

Rep. Andi Story (D-Juneau)

- Special Services Agency serves 45 districts – especially rural and small districts.
- Would extend the agency through 2029.
- SESA was established by the state and their services are defined in statute:
- The services of the Agency shall be available to school districts that serve children *whose special education needs occur infrequently, who require specialized services not normally available in the school district, and who cannot be easily served by local school district personnel, because of the low number of students in the district in need of the particular service.* The agency may provide services to a child with a disability, as that term is defined in AS 14:30:350.
- SB 19 heard in Sen Ed and is now in Sen Fin
- HB 43 referred to Ed, Fin. HSE Ed heard the bill and held it in committee.

SB 80 - Public Schools: Mental Health

Sen Gray-Jackson (D-Anchorage)

HB 60 - Public Schools: Mental Health

Rep. Matt Claman (D-Anchorage)

- Includes mental health instruction into AS 14.30.360(a)
- State Board must provide instructional standards developed in consultation with Alaska DH&SS and representatives of national & state mental health organizations

SB 80 referred to Senate Ed, H&SS, Fin. Heard and held in Senate Ed. A CS is being prepared for the bill.

HB 60 Referred to House Ed, Fin. No action taken yet.

SB 6- RIP for Public Employees/Teachers

Sen. Scott Kawasaki (D-Fairbanks)

- A voluntary Retirement Incentive Program.
- Would allow public employees to retire upto 3 years early.
- Designed to save money through lower personnel costs.
- Makes available retirement incentives rather than layoffs.

Heard in Sen Ed and held in committee

SB 8- Alaska Reads Act

Sen. Tom Begich (D-Anchorage)

- Requires reporting to parents on reading proficiency.
- Optional Pre-K Programs implemented over 6 years.
- Pre-K students will be counted as 0.5 in ADM calculations.
- Required department to provide training & assistance to districts in establishing early learning programs.
- Elementary teachers must complete 3 credits in evidence-based reading instruction for certificate endorsement and recertification.
- Requires districts to provide reading intervention to students who do not achieve reading proficiency.
- Department will assist districts in reading intervention.
- Reading assessments required to measure proficiency.

The Alaska Academic Improvement & Modernization Act, a combination of SB 8 & SB 42 is scheduled to be introduced in Senate Ed on Friday, March 26. So far I have been unable to see a copy.



SB 42 –Virtual/Early Education, Reading

Sen. Shelley Hughes (R-Palmer)

- Intent language for student/teacher ratio K-3
- Optional early education programs. Students are counted as 0.5 for ADM calculations.
- Directs districts to establish challenging-class programs 9-12.
- Department will establish standards & approve Pre-K programs.
- Elementary must acquire 3 credits in evidence-based reading instruction for certification.
- Individual reading improvement plan required for students not proficient on reading assessments.
- Students must be retained in 3rd grade if not proficient unless a waiver is granted.
- Establishes a virtual education consortium. Consortium will provide training to teachers in virtual education.
- Teachers instructing virtually must receive training or demonstrate proficiency.

SB 15 - Open Meetings Act; Penalty

Sen. Mia Costello (R-Anchorage)

- Adds that any elected or appointed public official who knowingly attends a meeting of of a governmental body that violates AS 44.62.310 (Alaska Open Meetings Act) is subject to a civil penalty. AASB testified against this bill.
- The penalty is a fine not to exceed \$1,000.00
- The current law provides that any violation is “voidable” – the action must be repeated in accordance with the statute.
- SB 15 referred to Senate C&RA, Jud. Heard in Senate C&RA and referred to Jud. Heard and held in Jud.
- Bill may be in trouble – passed from C&RA with 1 do pass, 1 do not pass, 2 no rec.

SB 20 - Out of State Teacher Reciprocity

Sen. Gary Stevens (R-Kodiak)

- Permits the issuance of an Alaska teaching certificate for an applicant who holds a certificate from another state.
- Applicant must pass the Alaska background check.
- Applicant must complete education & training requirements within three years

SB 20 Referred Senate Ed, Fin. Heard in Se Ed & held in committee. SB 20 was forwarded to Sen Fin on Friday.

SB 32 - College Credit for High School Students

Sen. Gary Stevens (R-Kodiak)

- Bill is a continuation of the Middle College program introduced in the 31st legislature.
- Districts must provide the program to students who are interested in enrolling and are qualified.
- The program is a partnership between the district and UA.
- The program may include on-site and distance delivery options.

SB 32 Referred to Sen Ed, Fin. Bill was heard in Sen Ed and transmitted to Sen Fin.

SB 34 - State Tribal Education Compact Schools

Sen. Gary Stevens (R-Kodiak)

- State Board must establish regulations for tribal compact schools.
- Funding would be provided through public education fund.
- Tribal compact schools must accept special education students.
- Tribal compact schools would have the same standing as a borough school district, city school district, REAA, or a state boarding school.
- Tribal Compact school employees may organize.

SB 34 Referred to Senate Ed, Jud. No action has been taken yet.

SB 72 - Secondary Schools Civics Education

Sen. Gary Stevens (R-Kodiak)

- Would require every student to take a pass a test consisting of 128 questions from the naturalization test used by the Immigration Service.
- A student must receive at least 60% on the test in order to receive a diploma.
- This requirement would included in AS 14.03.076.

SB 72 Referred to Senate Ed, C&RA. Heard and held in Senate Ed. A CS was introduced removing the “high stakes” test requirement. The bill remains in Sen Ed

SR 2 - Urge Governor to Issue a Disaster Declaration

Introduced by Sen Rules Committee

- Read on the Senate floor in 1st, 2nd, 3rd readings.
- Passed the Senate on a vote 11 – 6.
- Transmitted to the Governor.
- The Governor has expressed his reluctance to issue an extension of the Emergency Declaration while the legislature is in session.

No action has been taken by the Governor

SJR 8 - Completion of University Land Grant

Sen. Gary Stevens (R-Kodiak)

- Alaska Statehood Act specified a 103,000,000 acre entitlement to the University of Alaska.
- UA received the smallest land entitlement in the U.S.

SJR 8 Referred to Sen Ed, Res. Heard in Sen Ed and transmitted to Resources. Sen Res. Passed CS. CSSJR 8 transmitted to Sen. Rules

Voting Bills

- SB 39 – Sen Shower (R-Wasilla) – Ballot Custody/Tampering; Voter Reg; Mail
- SB 43 – Sen Hughes (R-Palmer) – Elections; Voting, Campaign Finance
- HB 96 – Gov. Dunleavy – Elections; Voting, Ballot Regs
- HB 95 – Rep. Rauscher (R-Sutton) – Elections; Election Investigations
- HB 23 – Rep, Rauscher (R-Sutton) – Ballot Custody/Tampering Voting, Voter Reg
- HB 66 – Rep. Tuck (D-Anchorage) – Elections; Voting, Ballots
- HB 138 – Rep. Kreiss-Tomkins – Voting by Mail

Appropriation Bills

- SB 48 – Appropriation: Supplemental, Amending
- SB 49 – Appropriation: Operating Budget/Loans/Funds
- SB 50 – Appropriation: Capital, Reappropriation, Supplemental, Amending
- SB 51 – Appropriation: Mental Health Budget
- HB 68 – Appropriation: Supplemental, Amending
- HB 69 – Appropriation: Operating Budget/Loans/Funds
- HB 70 – Appropriation: Capital, Reappropriation, Supplemental, Amending
- HB 71 – Appropriation: Mental Health Budget
- Sen Fin took public testimony on SB 49, SB 50, SB51