Legislative Bulletin

A WEEKLY DIGEST OF ACTIVITY BY THE ALASKA LEGISLATURE AND U.S. CONGRESS FOR ALASKA'S SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

This bulletin is distributed by email only. School districts should copy for board members not online.

State Employees Warned of Potential Layoffs
Eighteen thousand state workers are officially on notice. All of them received electronic and printed warnings that they may not have a job come July 1. That's because of a stalemate in the Alaska Legislature over adopting a new budget without a long-term fiscal plan in place.

Gov. Bill Walker says he will attempt to assemble a new package of bills to break the stalemate and introduce it next week. House Speaker Bryce Edgmon says his majority caucus intends to adopt a budget by the June 16th deadline.

University of Alaska Takes Wait-and-See Approach to Stalemate
The University of Alaska Board of Regents normally has a budget in place by this time, but the political standoff in the Legislature makes that impossible. The school's lobbyist isn't very optimistic that a month is enough time to resolve differences between the House and Senate.

Making Sense of the Budget Standoff (Analysis)
The state budget standoff in Juneau – with layoff notices and all the rest – is not strictly a confrontation between the House and
Senate about the billions the state plans to spend next year. It's really about the future of the Alaska Permanent Fund.

**Oil Tax Bill Heads to Conference Committee**

One piece of the budget puzzle is moving into position for negotiations. **House Bill 111**, which would reduce or eliminate tax credits for oil and gas producers, is now in a House-Senate conference committee. The members are:

- Rep. Geran Tarr, D–Anchorage (chair)
- Rep. Andy Josephson, D–Anchorage
- Rep. Dave Talerico, R–Healy
- Sen. Cathy Giessel, R–Anchorage (chair)
- Sen. Bert Stedman, R–Sitka
- Sen. Donny Olson, D–Golovin

**Quotable Quotes**

"Time is a weapon used by those who have it against those who don't."

--John Rader, Alaska Senate President, 1977–78

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**Our Mission**

The mission of AASB is to advocate for children and youth by assisting school boards in providing quality public education, focused on student achievement, through effective local governance.