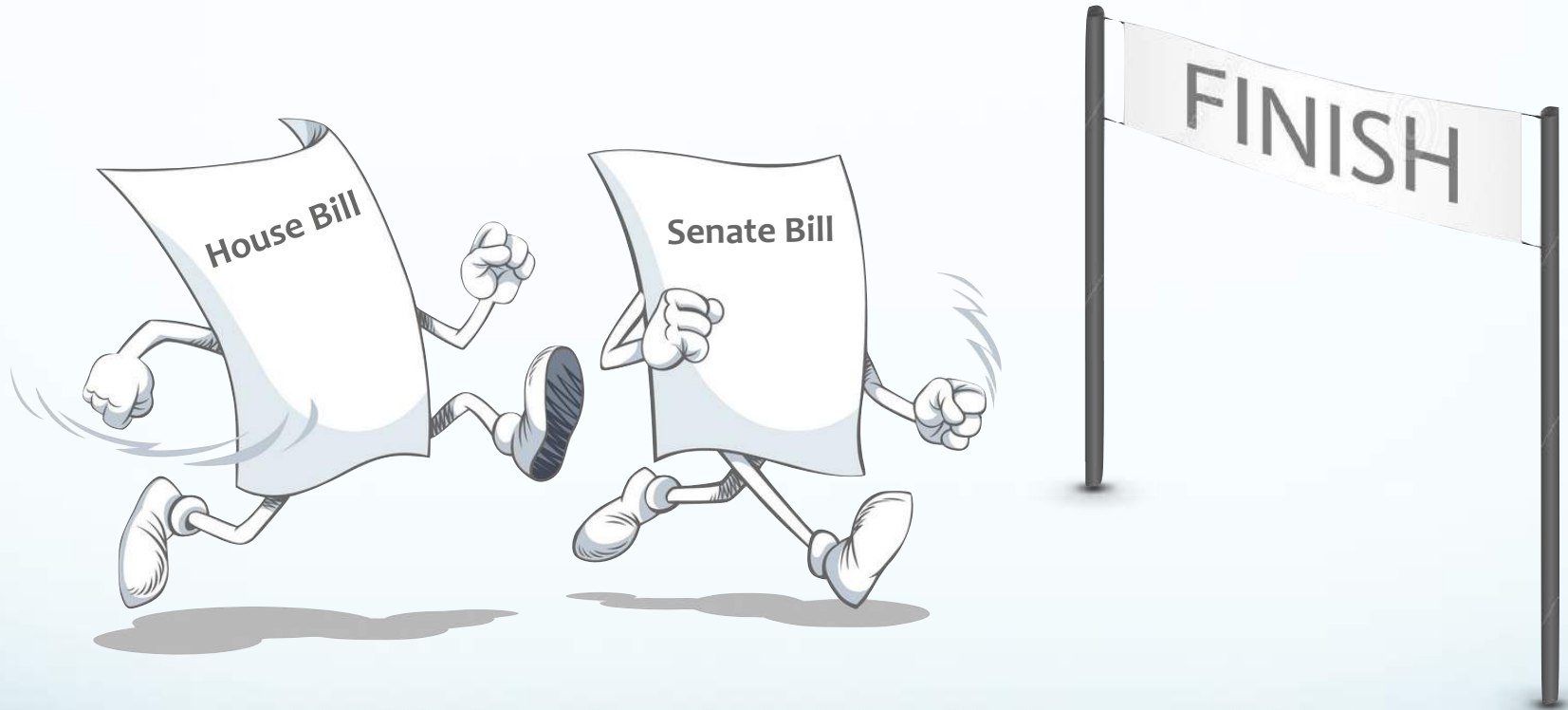


Legislation On The Move

A Race to the Finish!



Norm Wooten

AASB Director of Advocacy



HB 48 – Alaska Performance Scholarship: Eligibility

Rep. Andi Story (D-Juneau)

- Adds a CTR to the eligibility criteria for the APS;
- Increases the 1st award level from \$4,755 to \$7,000;
- Increases the 2nd award level from \$3,566 to \$5,250;
- Increases the 3rd award level from \$2,378 to \$3,500;
- Extends the eligibility for scholarship termination from 6 years to 8 years.
- HB 48 is in HSE ED – Next committee of referral is HSE FIN.



HB 108 – Concurrent Secondary & Trade School *Rep. Ken McCarty (R-Eagle River)*

- **Directs the department to provide opportunities to participate in concurrent CTE training & on-the-job trade experience programs to students over 14 years old enrolled in public secondary schools;**
- **Allows training to occur in family owned businesses;**
- **Specifies the allowable hours and times a student may work in a trade sponsored program.**
- **Held in HSE Ed, Committees of referral EDC, L&C, FIN**



HB 164 – Early ED Programs; Reading; Virtual Ed

Rep. Chris Tuck (D-Anchorage)

- Implements Early Ed program over a period of 6 years beginning with lowest performing 10% of districts.
- Districts not required to establish a pre-K program.
- Once a district pre-K program is approved by DEED – it may include pre-K students in the ADM at .05.
- Requires an evidence based reading program through grade 3 with interventions for students not meeting proficiency. DEED is to develop criteria.
- Increases limit on unreserved fund balance from 10% to 25% of district expenditures.



HB 164 – Early ED Programs; Reading; Virtual Ed

Rep. Chris Tuck (D-Anchorage)

- Elementary education teaching endorsement must have 3 credits, or equivalent, in evidence-based reading instruction.
- Establishes Virtual Education Consortium. Professional development for teachers utilizing virtual ed will be available.
- DEED will develop a database of virtual education courses for 6-12.
- Early ed grants will be repealed after 11 years.
- Bill is in final HSE committee of referral – HSE Fin.



HB 173 – School Climate & Connectedness

Rep. Geran Tarr (D-Anchorage)

- Creates a School Climate & Connectedness Improvement Committee (2 year life);
- Committee includes two school board members;
- School Districts must develop a school climate & Connectedness plan. Plan is to include:
 - ▶ Social & Emotional learning
 - ▶ Trauma-informed and healing centered practices
 - ▶ Cultural competence & healing centered practices
 - ▶ Multi-tiered restorative practices
 - ▶ Methods for reducing racial disparities.
- Bill held in HSE ED, Committees of referral EDC, FIN



HB 220 – Retirement Systems; Defined Benefits Option

Rep. Grier Hopkins (D-Fairbanks)

- Designed to be cost neutral with a variable contribution rate of 6% to 8%. If fund balance drops below 90% employee contributions can rise from 6% to 8%.
- Would be open to TRS Tier 3 and PRS Tier 4 and all future state employees. Employees would have the option to enter a defined contribution or a defined benefits plan.
- Employees could retire after 30 years of employment or at age 60.
- Health care benefits would remain the same as TRS tier 3 and PERS tier 4.
- Bill is in final HSE committee of referral – HSE Fin.



HB 259 – PFD’s 25/75 POMV Split

Rep. Ivy Spohnholz (D-Anchorage)

- Retains the statutory amount of the POMV draw from the PF.
- 25% of the POMV draw would be allocated to PFDs.
- 75% of the POMV draw would be allocated to the GF.
- Of the the 75% to the GF, no less that 50% would go to the public education fund to satisfy the foundation formula.
- If the 50% of the 75% GF allocation does not satisfy the foundation formula, the GF would make up the shortage.
- If the 50% of the 75% exceeds the foundation formula, the overage would be distributed to districts through the formula.
- AASB testified in support of HB 259.
- The bill is the 2nd committee of referral – HSE Ed – Next is HSE Fin.



HB 272 – Increase Base Student Allocation

Rep. Andi Story (D-Juneau)

- Increases the BSA over two years from the current \$5930:
 - ▶ July 1, 2022 - \$6153
 - ▶ July 2, 2023 - \$6208
- This would be the first BSA increase since 2017.
- AASB sent out a Call-To-Action for testimony on February 9.
- HB 272 is in the first committee of referral, HSE Ed and still must go to HSE Fin.



HB 273 – Increase Base Student Allocation Inflation

Rep. Andi Story (D-Juneau)

- Increases the BSA for inflation each year.
- The formula for the increase is by a percentage equal to the percentage of increase over the preceding three years for all items in the Consumer Price Index for urban Alaska.
- HB 273 is in the first committee of referral – HSE Ed – next committee is HSE Fin.



HB 312 – Allow Natural Hairstyles

Rep. Geran Tarr (D-Anchorage)

- Prohibits a school District or an employer from wearing a hairstyle that is commonly or historically associated with a race;
- Companion bill to SB 174 – Allow Natural Hairstyles.
- Bill was held in HSE ED, next committee of referral L&C.



HB 350 – School Bond Debt Reimbursement

Rep. Harriet Drummond (D-Anchorage)

- Eliminates the moratorium on the payment of school bond debt reimbursement enacted in 2015;
- For projects approved after July 1, 2022, the reimbursement to municipalities would be 60% or 70%.
- Bill was held in HSE ED, next committee of referral HSE FIN.



HB 351 – Establishment of Public Schools Thru State-Tribal Compacts *Rep. Tiffany Zulkosky (D-Bethel)*

- Companion bill to SB 34;
- A State Tribal Education Compact (STEC) would be considered a school district.
- Compacts would be with Federally recognized tribes (FRT).
- A STEC must follow all statutory requirements for non-STEC districts.
- STEC school may not charge tuition.
- STEC employees are state employees, but preferences may be allowed for a member of a FRT.
- If a STEC has applicants in excess of its capacity it may prioritize enrollment to members of the FRT.



HB 351 – Establishment of Public Schools Thru State-Tribal Compacts *Rep. Tiffany Zulkosky (D-Bethel)*

- A STEC must provide special education services.
- Employees of a STEC may organize with all rights, including the right to strike.
- STEC employees participate in TRS/PERS, including requirements to contribute to retirement plans.
- HB 351 was held in HSE ED, next committee of referral is HSE FIN.



SB 20 – Out of State Teacher Reciprocity

Sen. Gary Stevens (R-Kodiak)

- Provides for a provisional certificate for an out-of-state teacher;
- Allows 3 years for teacher to complete Alaska & cross-cultural studies;
- This was a recommendation from the Governor’s Task Force on Retention & Recruitment.
- Bill passed Sen ED & FIN and cleared the Senate floor. Assigned to HSE ED & Fin. Currently in HSE FIN



SB 34 – State-Tribal Education Compact Schools

Sen. Gary Stevens (R-Kodiak)

- A State Tribal Education Compact (STEC) would be considered a school district.
- Compacts would be with Federally recognized tribes (FRT).
- A STEC must follow all statutory requirements for non-STEC districts.
- STEC school may not charge tuition.
- STEC employees are state employees, but preferences may be allowed for a member of a FRT.
- If a STEC has applicants in excess of its capacity it may prioritize enrollment to members of the FRT.



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- STEC employees participate in TRS/PERS, including requirements to contribute to retirement plans.
- SB 34 is in first committee of referral – Sen. Ed – next is Sen. Jud.



SB 72 – Secondary School Civics Education

Sen. Gary Stevens (R-Kodiak)

- The state board must develop a curriculum that includes government, citizenship, and history of governmental systems used in the US and Alaska, including those used by Alaska Natives.
- Students must pass a civics assessment developed by DEED.
- SB72 assigned to ED, C&RA, and FIN. Passed all committees and approved on Sen. Floor. Assigned to HSE committees EDU & FIN. Currently in HSE ED.



SB 111 – Alaska Academic Improvement and Modernization ACT (*Sen. Education Committee*)

- Companion bill to HB 164.
- Initiated a pre-K grant program.
- Requires districts to implement evidence-based reading program.
- Allows districts to count Pre-K students as .05 ADM.
- Districts may increase unreserved fund balance to 50% until FY 27. Thereafter the unreserved fund balance limit is 25%.
- Teachers applying for elementary education endorsements must have 3 credits of evidence based reading coursework.



SB 111 – Alaska Academic Improvement and Modernization ACT (*Sen. Education Committee*)

- Reading interventions are required for students who are not proficient.
- Unless a waiver is granted, a student not proficient in reading will not be advanced to the 4th grade.
- Many sessions have repeal dates attached.
- SB 111 is Sen. Fin, the final Senate committee of referral.



SB 140 – Designate Sex for School-Sponsored Sports

Sen. Shelley Hughes (R-Palmer)

- Sex is defined as biological sex
- Schools must designate each team sport as:
 - ▶ Male, men’s, or boys
 - ▶ Female, women’s , or girls;
 - ▶ Coeducational or mixed team;
- Any student that participates in an athletic team or sport that is designated as “female, women’s, or girls” must be female , based on the participant’s biological sex.
- Assigned to ED – held in Sen. ED



SB 174 – Allow Natural Hairstyles

Sen. David Wilson (R-Wasilla)

- Prohibits a school District or an employer from wearing a hairstyle that is commonly or historically associated with a race, including wearing headwraps;
- Companion bill to HB – 312
- Assigned to ED, L&C. Being held in L&C.



SB 225 – Teacher Registered Apprenticeship Programs (*Sen. Education Committee*)

- Teacher Apprenticeship Program & Teacher Residency Program created within DEED;
- Authorizes State Board to create alternative pathways to certification;
- Establishes Teacher Apprentice Program within Dept. of Labor & creates a fund to provide apprenticeship grants to districts;
- Increases time for subject matter teachers to meet requirements for full certification;
- Meets recommendations of Governor’s Task Force on Teacher Retention and Recruitment.
- Assigned EDU, L&C, FIN