



House Speaker Bryce Edgmon's *Legislative Update*



Volume XII, No. 8

March 9th, 2018

First and Foremost—Protecting Your PFD



Alaska is in tough times, facing tough decisions on how to fund essential government services and programs. But whatever our way forward, one thing is certain: We have to guarantee a sustainable PFD for Alaskans.

Next week, the Alaska House Majority Coalition will introduce a bill giving voters the power to safeguard forever the Permanent Fund Dividend by enshrining it in the Alaska Constitution.

Guaranteeing a dividend—now and in the future—has always been a chief goal of the Alaska House Majority Coalition. The full fiscal plan we passed to the Senate last year was in large part designed to eliminate the risk to the PFD program that the structural budget deficit creates.

The Senate did not act on our balanced-budget plan. But that has not changed our objectives. We will continue to seek the fairest and most responsible way to close the budget gap, and as always, protecting your PFD will be our first and foremost priority.

A Constitutional amendment—decided by the Alaskan people—is the best way to lock in this guarantee. Stay tuned next week to learn more details about how, together, we can achieve this.



Speaker Edgmon addressing the press earlier this week.

New Representative for Y-K Region Sworn In



Today Tiffany Zulkosky, of Bethel, was sworn in as the new representative for the Yukon-Kuskokwim region's House District 38. Rep. Zulkosky fills the seat left vacant following the resignation of Zach Fansler from the Legislature. She brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to her new role, and we in the Alaska House Majority Coalition are very happy to have her with us.



Former U.S. Senator Mark Begich was in attendance to wish Rep. Zulkosky well on her swearing-in day. During Sen. Begich's tenure in D.C., Rep. Zulkosky was his Rural Director for Alaska.

Edgmon Office Intern Garners Academic Recognition

This week our intern, Bobbie McNeley, was honored with a special recognition from the University of Alaska Fairbanks Department of Alaska Native Studies and Rural Development. The department heads selected her as the Outstanding Student of the Year 2018 for the Alaska Native Studies program. Bobbie is pursuing a degree concentrating in Alaska Native Law, Government, and Politics under the Alaska Native Studies bachelor program. She is also completing an Associate degree in Tribal Management.

Just two weeks ago, Bobbie attended the UAF TRiO Day at the Fairbanks campus, where she was honored among several TRiO Student Support Services High Achiever students. TRiO grants allow institutions to provide services and assist first generation and low-income students with their higher education. The award is given to students that show superior efforts and commitment to their education and extracurricular activities.



Bobbie, left, with her academic advisor Victoria Smith in Fairbanks.

We are very pleased that Bobbie, who is a District 37 constituent from Nelson Lagoon, is receiving these well-deserved recognitions. In the meantime, we're keeping her hard at work here in the Edgmon office.



Unalaska's James Vuong, left, and Dillingham's Shania Johnson, right, were at the Capitol this week with the Alaska Youth for Environmental Action.



On Thursday Speaker Edgmon met with Eileen Arnold, left, of Bethel's Tundra Women's Coalition, and Marilyn Casteel, of Dillingham's Safe and Fear Free Environment.

Martin Stepetin, formerly of Saint Paul and currently a resident of Juneau, dropped by with his daughter Kaiya this week. Martin holds a citation marking the 75th anniversary of the forced evacuation of Aleut residents from their homes during World War II. Representative Justin Parish (D-Juneau), right, sponsored the citation along with Speaker Edgmon.



On Deck Next Week...

MONDAY

(H)EDUCATION

Mar 12 Monday 8:00 AM

Joint with Senate EDC

Presentation: Educator Workforce Pilot Study by the Coalition for Student Equity

(S)FINANCE

Mar 12 Monday 9:00 AM

+SB 158 OIL/HAZARDOUS SUB.:CLEANUP/REIMBURSEMENT

HB 131 RELOCATION ASSISTANCE FOR FED. PROJ/PROG

(H)JUDICIARY Standing Committee*

Mar 12 Monday 1:00 PM

HB 75 GUN VIOLENCE PROTECTIVE ORDERS

(H)FINANCE

Mar 12 Monday 1:30 PM

HJR 23 CONST AM: PERMANENT FUND; POMV; DIVIDEND;

(S)RESOURCES

Mar 12 Monday 3:30 PM

SB 211 TEMP. TRANSFER OF COMM. FISHING PERMITS
SJR 13 URGING CO-MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR SEA OTTERS

TUESDAY

(H)COMMUNITY & REGIONAL AFFAI

Mar 13 Tuesday 8:00 AM

SB 174 PROGRAMS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

(S)FINANCE

Mar 13 Tuesday 9:00 AM

Power Cost Equalization and Community Assistance Overview

David Teal, Director, Legislative Finance Division

(H)FISHERIES Special Committee*

Mar 13 Tuesday 10:00 AM

Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled

(H)FINANCE Standing Committee*

Mar 13 Tuesday 1:30 PM

HJR 23 CONST AM: PERMANENT FUND; POMV; DIVIDEND; HB 285 APPROP: MENTAL HEALTH BUDGET; HB 286 APPROP: OPERATING BUDGET/LOANS/FUNDS

WEDNESDAY

(H)EDUCATION

Mar 14 Wednesday 8:00 AM

Joint with House HSS

Presentation: Introduction to Early Childhood Development & the AK Early Childhood Coordinating Council

(H)RESOURCES

Mar 14 Wednesday 1:00 PM

HB 272 TANGLE LAKES STATE GAME REFUGE; HB 260 FISH & GAME LICENSES; ELECTRONIC FORM

(S)RESOURCES

Mar 14 Wednesday 3:30 PM

Consideration of Governor's Appointees Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission:
-Commissioner Designee Dale Kelley
-Commissioner Designee Fate Putman

THURSDAY

(H)ARCTIC POLICY, ECONOMIC DEV., & TOURISM Special Committee*

Mar 15 Thursday 11:30 AM

HB 383 TOURISM MARKETING:BOARD;ASSESSMENT;FUND

FRIDAY

(H)EDUCATION

Mar 16 Friday 8:00 AM

Joint with House HSS

Presentations:

- High Quality Early Care & Education
- Early Childhood Partnerships, Engagement, Innovation, & Investment

(H)RESOURCES

Mar 16 Friday 1:00 PM

HCR 23 PROTECT WILDLIFE FROM FOREIGN PATHOGENS
HB 260 FISH & GAME CENES; ELECTRONIC FORM

Keep in Contact

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