



# House Speaker Bryce Edgmon's *Legislative Update*



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St. Patrick's Day, 2017

## Operating Budget Progressing toward Full Vote of House



The House devoted five days this week to consideration of floor amendments to the FY18 Operating Budget. When we finally finished this afternoon, we had considered 134 amendments to the bill.

The time has now come to pass the Operating Budget and turn our focus to other major components in our Majority Coalition's plan to end the fiscal crisis once and for all. Waiting in the wings we have HB 115, a House Finance Committee bill that protects the PFD while restructuring the Permanent Fund in a way that provides funding for our most essential state services and programs, like education, public safety, and the maintenance of our harbors, roads, and airports. We also need to move ahead on a Resources Committee bill—HB 111—to reform the state's unsustainable oil tax credit program in a way that will continue to incentivize exploration while saving us

hundreds of millions in spending in the coming years.

We now anticipate that the Operating Budget will pass the House on Monday. It includes tens of millions in reduced spending compared to FY17. But in the cuts we made, we were careful not to compromise the value of programs that most Alaskans feel are vital to sustain economic development and a decent quality of life.

In the weeks left in the session we will continue to work on the other cornerstones of our fiscal plan that together close our multi-billion-dollar deficit and put all Alas-



Speaker Edgmon with members of the House Majority Coalition at a press conference on Thursday. On his right, Majority Leader Chris Tuck (D-Anchorage), and on his left, House Rules Chairwoman Gabrielle LeDoux (R-Anchorage).

kans on stronger footing for a brighter future. I hope that everyone in the House, and eventually the Senate, will play a part in advancing this long overdue solution to our challenges.



In the Health & Social Services Committee on Thursday, more than a dozen foster youth attended a hearing on HB151, a bill by Rep. Les Gara (D-Anchorage) that would bring much-needed improvements to the foster care system in Alaska.



The Speaker, with House Majority Leader Chris Tuck, left, and House Minority Leader Charisse Millett, during floor debate this week.



In from Unalaska: Cade Terada, left, and Brian Conwell were in Juneau for a gathering of Alaska Youth for Environmental Action. They had meetings with several legislators this week.



Brian had a chance to say hello to Rep. Edgmon just as the Speaker was headed to the floor this morning.

## On Deck Next Week...

(H)EDUCATION Standing Committee  
Mar 20 **Monday** 8:00 AM  
HB 135 SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION GRANT PROGRAM;

(S)EDUCATION Standing Committee  
Mar 20 **Monday** 8:00 AM  
Confirmation Hearings  
- Mary Hughes, University of Alaska Board of Regents - David Piazza, and Kent Runion, Professional Teaching Practices Commission

(H)RESOURCES Standing Committee  
Mar 20 **Monday** 1:00 PM  
HB 105 DENALI WOLF SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA; HB 134 BOARD OF GAME MEMBERSHIP

(H)FINANCE Standing Committee  
Mar 20 **Monday** 1:30 PM HOUSE  
HB 111 OIL & GAS PRODUCTION TAX;PAYMENTS;CREDITS

(S)LABOR & COMMERCE  
Mar 21 **Tuesday** 9:30 AM  
SB 79 OPI-  
OIDS;PRESCRIPTIONS;DATABASE;LICENSES  
SB 71 COMMERCIAL FISHING LOANS

(H)FINANCE Standing Committee  
Mar 21 **Tuesday** 1:30 PM HOUSE

HB 111 OIL & GAS PRODUCTION TAX;PAYMENTS;CREDITS

(S)COMMUNITY & REGIONAL AFFAIRS  
Mar 21 **Tuesday** 3:30 PM  
HB 8 ENFORCEMENT OF FOREIGN PROTECTIVE ORDERS ; SB 77 SECOND CLASS BOROUGH SERVICE AREAS; SB 18 NEW CLASS OF BOROUGH; HB 7 MARKED BALLOT PHOTOS; PERSUASION AT POLLS

(H)EDUCATION Standing Committee  
Mar 22 **Wednesday** 8:00 AM  
HB 146 SCHOOL TAX; PFD PAYMENT FOR SCHOOL TAX

(S)MISCELLANEOUS MEETING  
Mar 22 **Wednesday** 12:00 PM  
Lunch & Learn: Alaska Chapter of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. Sponsored by Senator Hoffman

(H)FINANCE Standing Committee  
Mar 22 **Wednesday** 1:30 PM HOUSE  
HB 111 OIL & GAS PRODUCTION TAX;PAYMENTS;CREDITS

(H)RESOURCES Standing Committee  
Mar 22 **Wednesday** 6:00 PM  
-- Please Note Time Change --  
HB 87 CONFLICT OF INTEREST: BD FISHERIES/GAME; HJR 12 OPPOSING GEN. ENGINEERED SALMON TELECONFERENCED; HB 32 LABEL GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOOD

(H)FINANCE Standing Committee  
Mar 23 **Thursday** 9:00 AM  
HB 115 INCOME TAX; PFD CREDIT; PERM FUND

(H)FINANCE Standing Committee  
Mar 23 **Thursday** 1:30 PM  
HB 111 OIL & GAS PRODUCTION TAX;PAYMENTS;CREDITS

H)HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES  
Mar 23 **Thursday** 3:00 PM CAPITOL 106  
HB 138 MARCH: SOBRIETY AWARENESS MONTH; HB 151 DHSS;CINA; FOSTER CARE; CHILD PROTECTION; HCR 2 RESPOND TO ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES  
HCR 3 APRIL 2017: CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

(H)FINANCE Standing Committee  
Mar 24 **Friday** 1:30 PM  
HB 111 OIL & GAS PRODUCTION TAX;PAYMENTS;CREDITS

(S)RESOURCES Standing Committee  
Mar 24 **Friday** 3:30 PM  
Overview: Alaska's Seafood Industry  
Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development;  
Department of Fish & Game;  
Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute

## Keep in Contact

### Rep. Bryce Edgmon

Address:

Capitol Building, Room 208

Juneau, AK

99801

Phone: 907-465-4451

Toll Free: 1-800-898-4451

Fax: 907-465-3445

Email:

[Rep.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.gov)

[Adam.Berg@akleg.gov](mailto:Adam.Berg@akleg.gov)

[Tim.Clark@akleg.gov](mailto:Tim.Clark@akleg.gov)

[Amory.Lelake@akleg.gov](mailto:Amory.Lelake@akleg.gov)

[Tyra.Smith-MacKinnon@akleg.gov](mailto:Tyra.Smith-MacKinnon@akleg.gov)



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