



House Speaker Bryce Edgmon's *Legislative Update*



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End of 90-Day Period Nears as Both House and Senate Make Progress



Today the Senate appointed its members for the Operating Budget Conference Committee. They will join members the House appointed at about 9:30 p.m. last night. The six-person committee can now turn to working out compromises between differences in the two versions of the budget passed by each body.

This is an important milestone in the final phase of the session. With the committee in place, something known as the 24-Hour Rule comes into effect. This means that hearings on bills can be scheduled only a day ahead of time, rather than the five days' notice normally required. The 24-Hour Rule can accelerate a bill's progress toward final passage dramatically, leading to packed House and Senate floor calendars in the days ahead.

It is unlikely that we will finish on day 90, but there are promising signs that if we transition into the additional month allowed under the State Constitution, we will require just days rather than weeks.

Much of the focus during this home-stretch period moves to the House and Senate Finance Committees, where the lion's share of personal bills make their last stop before being voted on by one house or the other. These committees are also tasked with finalizing the Capital Budget, which funds infrastructure projects and maintenance around the state. While the state spending in that budget in recent years has been bare-minimum, the federal funding our outlays leverage is considerable.

In the meantime, negotiations among all caucuses in the Legislature continue, working toward compromise and consensus on variety of important measures that need to be resolved before final adjournment of the session. These include K-12 Education funding, public safety spending for safe communities, and measures to contribute to a fiscal plan.



Rep. Edgmon with Robin Jones, principal of the Chief Ivan Blunka School in New Stuyahok. Rep. Edgmon holds a fine desk plaque made by one of the many talented students at the school.

These talks can be challenging. The viewpoints of the Legislature's several caucuses can differ dramatically, and the assortment of policies under con-



sideration creates a complex interplay of its own. In the end, our goal is to balance as best as possible a range of varying priorities. As long as we approach such negotiations in good faith and with a reasonable willingness to compromise, then we will be successful soon in reaching an outcome that justly serves the people of Alaska.

Alaska Council of School Administrators Roundtable Discussion on Safety in Our Schools



On Tuesday I was honored to lead a roundtable on school safety with administrators and educators from across the state. One common theme was that flat funding of education and cutting critical support staff like counselors and nurses have made it more difficult to address the needs of every child, particularly those with mental health challenges or troubled homes. I was surprised to learn that, due to budget cuts, the Department of Education and Early Development can no longer provide or review emergency action plans. It's clear to me that cuts to education have made schools less secure, and all stakeholders must come together to address how to make schools safer. I'm committed to continuing the conversation and finding common sense solutions to this issue, which affects all corners of our state.

Superintendents, Principals, and Other School Officials Convene in Juneau



On Monday I met with administrators from the Southwest Region, Lake & Peninsula, and Bristol Bay Borough School Districts. L to R: SWRSD Finance Director Ryan Ayars, Chief Ivan Blunka School Principal Robin Jones, soon-to-retire SWRSD Superintendent Dave Piazza, LPSD Superintendent Ty Mase, Speaker Edgmon, and BBBSD Superintendent Bill Hill.



Speaker Edgmon also sat down with Unalaska City School District Superintendent John Conwell this week. (See more on John on page four.)



Speaker Edgmon addressing the Alaska Council of School Administrators on Tuesday morning.



Also on Tuesday, Rep. Edgmon presented Unalaska Schools Superintendent John Conwell with a legislative citation honoring him for having been selected 2018 Superintendent of the Year by the Alaska Superintendents Association.

Farewells from the Capitol



On Wednesday there was a surprise farewell get-together for retiring Senators Berta Gardner (D-Anchorage), left, and Denis Egan (D-Juneau), right. Both lawmakers have long been valued colleagues and will be missed at the Legislature.



This session's staffers with the Senator Ted Stevens Legislative Internship Program—including Edgmon office intern Bobbie McNeley, just right of center—were honored by University of Alaska and Legislative officials in a ceremony on Tuesday.

On Deck Next Week...

Monday

(H)FINANCE Standing Committee*

Apr 16 Monday 9:00 AM

+SB 215 ENHANCED 911:MULTI-LINE TELEPHONE SYSTEMS

+SB 92 VESSELS: REGISTRATION/TITLES; DERELICTS

+HB 260 FISH & GAME LICENS-ES;ELECTRONIC FORM

(S)FINANCE

Apr 16 Monday 9:00 AM

+ HB 151 DHSS;CINA; FOSTER CARE; CHILD PROTECTION

+ HB 267 RELEASE HUNTING/FISHING RECORDS TO MUNI

Tuesday

(H) FINANCE

Tuesday, April 17, 2018 9:00 AM

HB 224 - REEMPLOYMENT OF RETIRED TEACHERS & ADMIN<public testimony>

HB 119 - AIDEA:DIVIDEND TO

STATE;INCOME;VALUATION

HB 409 - DMV ID CARDS & REGISTRATION FEES pending referral

Bills Previously Heard or Scheduled

(S) FINANCE

Tuesday, April 17, 2018 9:00 AM

HB 38-WORKERS' COMP: DEATH;PERM PARTIAL IMPAIR

HB 400-FEES FOR FIRE PREVENTION MEASURES

(S)STATE AFFAIRS

Apr 17 Tuesday 3:30 PM

+HCR 19 GOVERNOR: AK NATIVE LANGUAGES EMERGENCY

+HB 97 REPEAL AK FIRE STANDS. COUNCIL TAX CREDIT

Wednesday

(H) FINANCE

Wednesday, April 18, 2018 9:00 AM

HB 383 - TOURISM MARKET-ING:BOARD;ASSESSMENT;FUND

(S) FINANCE

Wednesday, April 18, 2018 9:00 AM

SB 62-REPEAL CERTIFICATE OF NEED PROGRAM

Thursday

(S)FINANCE

Apr 19 Thursday 1:30 PM

+ SB 127 CRIMINAL

LAW;PAROLE;PROBATION;SENTENCING

Friday

(S)FINANCE

Apr 20 Friday 9:00 AM

+HB 214 BREE'S LAW; DATING VIOLENCE PROGRAMS

Throughout the week both House and Senate Finance Committees are likely to hear bills previously scheduled or heard and bills scheduled under the 24-Hour Rule.

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