



# House Speaker Bryce Edgmon's *Legislative Update*



Volume XI, No. 14

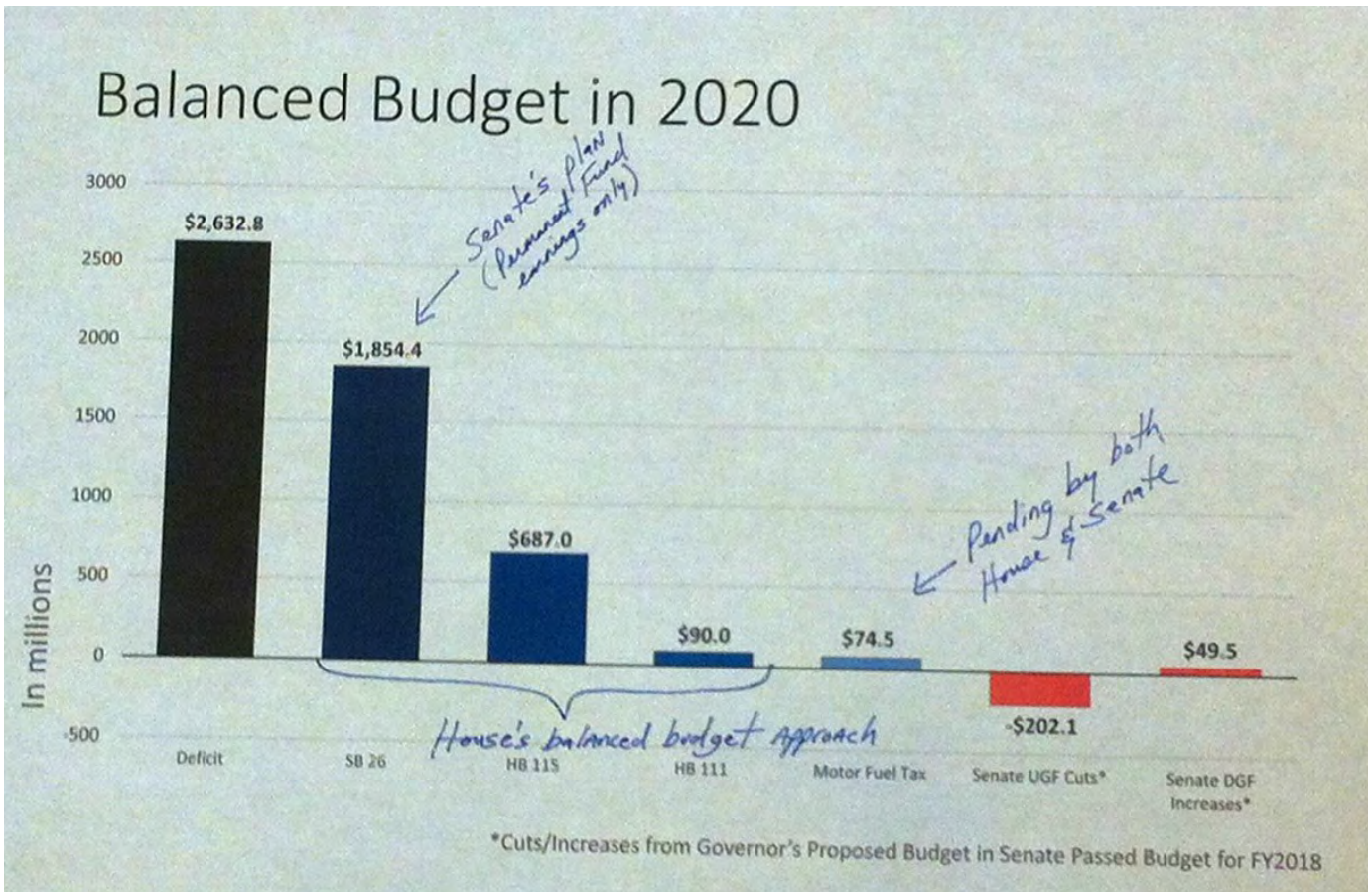
April 21st, 2017

## With Full Fiscal Solution Passed by the House, Stage Set for Discussions with Senate



I'm proud to report that the Alaska House Majority Coalition has honored the promise we made to Alaskans back in the fall to create and pass to the Senate a balanced and comprehensive fiscal plan this legislative session.

Last Sunday we passed HB 115, the Education Funding Act, to raise new revenues to be steered toward maintaining a quality education for Alaskan children. This



This graph shows our deficit on the left, in black, and SB26 (the Permanent Fund restructuring), HB 115 (the Education Funding Act), and HB 111 (the Oil & Gas Tax Credits fix) in dark blue. You can see that SB 26 alone leaves a more than half-billion-dollar deficit. However, when it is combined with the other components of the House Majority Coalition fiscal plan, the deficit is completely eliminated.

broad-based, progressive revenue measure is the fourth pillar of the Coalition's plan to put the state's fiscal crisis behind us this year, with a solution that fully and fairly eliminates the budget deficit.

The other components of the plan include:

- Reductions we made to HB 57, the Operating Budget—cuts that were carefully considered in order to maintain the value and efficacy of essential services and programs.
- Our House version of SB 26, a bill restructuring the Permanent Fund in a way that protects PFDs long into the future while making some earnings available to fund crucial state services.
- HB 111, which further reduces state spending by reforming an oil & gas tax credit system that the state simply cannot afford. In doing so, this bill continues to incentivize future exploration and production on the North Slope and further improves the business climate by providing greater certainty for industry.

In creating the Alaska House Majority Coalition's plan, we have made tough decisions that have been put off for too long. To put an end to harmful uncertainty and to protect Alaskan jobs and economies in communities large and small, we have mapped out a return to stability and sustainability for the state.

As you're certain to have noticed, we are now working beyond the statutory 90-day session and have entered into the 121 days allowed by the state Constitution. Given the historic significance of the challenges under consideration here, it should come as no surprise that it's taking us longer than 13 weeks to finish our work.

The stage is now set for negotiations with the Senate and continued talks with Governor Walker on all these items. We hope that our Senate partners will recognize the necessity for a plan that completes the job this year, rather than settling for half-measures that only prolong or worsen harm to the economy.

It is also my hope that our discussions will be productive from the get-go. So long as we all keep the wellbeing of Alaska topmost as our objective, then I'm certain we will reach agreement sooner rather than later.



Last week former Unalaska Mayor Shirley Marquardt, left, dropped by to say hello. Here Shirley is pictured with Rep. Louise Stutes, of Kodiak, who is the Majority Whip for the House Majority Coalition.



St. Paul-born Juneau resident Martin Stepetin, Sr., had family visiting from St. Paul this week. Pictured L to R: Kaiya Stepetin, Martin, Benjamin Stepetin, Cassandra Bourdukofsky, Olivia Honor Pauline Stepetin, and Nathan Bourdukofsky.

Sheila Ring, of Naknek, was in Juneau with the Rural Development Program through UAF.



## Make your voice heard...

(S)LABOR & COMMERCE  
Apr 24 **Monday** 1:30 PM  
HB 115 EDUCATION FUNDING ACT;

(S)RESOURCES Standing Committee  
Apr 24 **Monday** 2:00 PM  
HB 111 OIL & GAS PRODUCTION  
TAX;PAYMENTS;CREDITS

(S)LABOR & COMMERCE  
Apr 25 **Tuesday** 9:00 AM  
HB 115 EDUCATION FUNDING ACT

(H)FISHERIES Special Committee  
Apr 25 **Tuesday** 10:00 AM  
HB 188 COMM. FISH. ENTRY PERMITS;  
LOANS; TRUSTS

(H)HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES  
Apr 25 **Tuesday** 3:00 PM  
HB 215 DHSS: PUBLIC HEALTH FEES  
HB 234 EXTEND ALASKA HEALTH  
CARE COMMISSION HB 236 EXTEND  
SENIOR BENEFITS PAYMENT PROGRAM

(S)RESOURCES Standing Committee  
Apr 25 **Tuesday** 3:30 PM

HB 111 OIL & GAS PRODUCTION  
TAX;PAYMENTS;CREDITS

(H)FINANCE Standing Committee  
Apr 25 **Tuesday** 4:00 PM  
HB 177 AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES  
HB 74 DRIVER'S LICENSE & ID CARDS &  
REAL ID ACT

-- **Public Testimony** <Time Limit 2  
Minutes> Testimony should begin at 4:30  
PM. Please arrive 30 min. early for sign-in  
process - Call 465-4648 for call-in num-  
ber - All Off Net callers must hang up  
immediately after testifying to keep lines  
open - Meeting can be accessed online at  
www.akleg.gov - Submit written testimo-  
ny to housefinance@akleg.gov

(S)LABOR & COMMERCE  
Apr 25 **Tuesday** 5:00 PM  
**HB 115 EDUCATION FUNDING ACT**  
**Public Testimony** <Limited to 2  
Minutes> -- Please Sign-in at Your Local  
LIO No Later Than 6:30pm. Limited  
Number of Off-Net Phone Lines Availa-  
ble. Must be Arranged Through Chair's  
Office Prior to Hearing. Contact by  
Phone: 907-465-4968

(S)LABOR & COMMERCE  
Apr 26 **Wednesday** 5:00 PM

**HB 115 EDUCATION FUNDING ACT**  
**Public Testimony** <Limited to 2  
Minutes> -- Please Sign-in at Your Local  
LIO No Later Than 6:30pm. Limited  
Number of Off-Net Phone Lines Availa-  
ble. Must be Arranged Through Chair's  
Office Prior to Hearing. Contact by  
Phone: 907-465-4968

(H)FINANCE Standing Committee  
Apr 27 **Thursday** 1:30 PM  
HB 159 OPIOIDS; PRESCRIPTIONS; DA-  
TABASE;LICENSES  
HB 25 INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR  
CONTRACEPTIVES

(S)LABOR & COMMERCE  
Apr 27 **Thursday** 5:00 PM  
**HB 115 EDUCATION FUNDING ACT**  
**Public Testimony** <Limited to 2  
Minutes> --Please Sign-in at Your Local  
LIO No Later Than 6:30pm. Limited  
Number of Off-Net Phone Lines Availa-  
ble, Must be Arranged Through Chair's  
Office Prior to Hearing. Contact by  
Phone: 907-465-4968

(S)RESOURCES Standing Committee  
Apr 28 **Friday** 2:00 PM  
+= HB 111 OIL & GAS PRODUCTION  
TAX;PAYMENTS;CREDITS

## Keep in Contact

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