

House Speaker Bryce Edgmon's *Legislative Update*



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Progress Continues toward Adjournment



There were good signs this week that the Legislature is on track to finish the 2018 session within the time limit allowed by the State Constitution. Productive negotiations continue between all concerned to reach the set of agreements necessary to reach adjournment.

The Senate took a notable step on Wednesday when its Finance Committee adopted a new version of SB 142, the Capital Budget. (The House version of the bill is HB 284.) The new Committee Substitute includes funding for several infrastructure and maintenance grants and programs that previously were in SB 140/HB 282. Those bills are known as the “Contingent” Capital Budget, because the projects they list would only be funded if some form of a broad based tax were passed to pay for them.



Speaker Edgmon chatting with HD 37's Sen. Lyman Hoffman, co-chair of the Senate Finance Committee, on Wednesday.

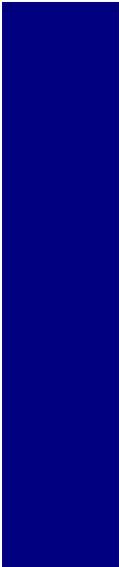
With a good portion of that spending now included in the conventional capital bill, less will be lost if the contingent bill does not pass the Legislature.

Also this week, the Conference Committee for SB 26—the Permanent Fund restructuring bill—met briefly to request “limited powers of free conference.” With that request subsequently granted, the committee now has a bit more latitude to move forward with negotiating a compromise between the House and Senate versions of the bill.

Meanwhile, House Finance devoted several meetings to an evaluation of HB 331, a bill that would allow the state to get off the books what it owes to small oil & gas developers in the form of tax credits. Through bonding at no cost to the state, the money could be payed up front in a way that would stimulate exploration

and job creation, since the companies would be required to reinvest within Alaska what they're paid for the credits.

Going forward, House and Senate Finance Committees will continue to meet daily to consider major policies as well as “personal legislation”—bills



sponsored by individual legislators. Lower committees in both houses are meeting more irregularly, as need arises for particular bills to move forward.

All this leads to a steady stream of legislation feeding the House and Senate floor calendars, which will likely grow markedly longer as the conclusion of the session approaches.

Legislature Honors DeeDee Jonrowe



On Thursday legendary Alaskan musher DeeDee Jonrowe was presented with a legislative citation celebrating her many extraordinary life accomplishments, including being tied with Rick Swenson for the most Iditarod starts ever, at 36. DeeDee announced her retirement from the Iditarod following this year's race.



Speaker Edgmon making remarks at the presentation. Also pictured, L to R: Rep. Colleen Sullivan-Leonard (R-Wasilla), Rep. Mark Neuman (R-Big Lake), DeeDee, and House Minority Leader Charisse Millett (R-Anchorage), one of the prime sponsors of DeeDee's citation.

On Deck Next Week...

Working hard
toward
adjournment.

Keep in Contact

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