



District 37

Legislative Update

This week's community highlight: the beautiful City of Unalaska

February 7, 2020

It's hard to believe it is already the 18th Legislative Day. Three weeks in and the pace in the Capitol is picking up quickly. Find some items below that I think you might be interested in and an "on deck" list of things for the week ahead.

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Majority on
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the icons



You can also email
me directly at
Rep.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.gov

- The supplemental FY20 budget has been released by the governor. It is the largest supplemental the legislature has ever faced at \$262 million. If approved with no changes, this would all but wipe out any cuts made to the budget last year. I'm still reviewing the supplemental and anticipate changes along the way. You can find the bill [here](#), and you can watch the Office of Management and Budget present it to the House Finance Committee [here](#).
- The supplemental budget does contain some money for ferries, but we have yet to be assured by the administration that it is enough to get boats back in the water within the next month. With every boat except the Lituya tied up, the soonest service may return is in April. The House Transportation Committee is tackling the Marine Highway issue head on and I expect recommendations from both the House and Senate to address these extreme service issues. You can watch a presentation from the Alaska Municipal League on the AMHS [here](#).

Right: Visiting with the Aleutians East Borough Mayor Alvin Osterback, Administrator Anne Bailey, and Assistant Administrator Mary Tesche





I spoke to the Southeast Conference with House Members

- Department of Administration Commissioner Tshibaka presented before the House Finance Subcommittee on the status of department and the REAL ID program. REAL ID is a federally mandated program that seeks to establish minimum security standards for licenses. As many of you know, our friends and neighbors in rural Alaska don't always have easy access to DMV's or access at all. Even more frustrating is the stringent paperwork requirements to get a REAL ID, paperwork we know that can sometimes be hard to come by. I hope the Commissioner will take some of what she heard this week back to the department and consider a program to ensure that all Alaskans, rural and urban, are given a level playing field on which to comply with this federal standard. You can watch her talk about that effort [here](#). I currently have staff following this issue and we are trying to come up with solutions for District 37.



Speaking with Reps. Spohnholz and Thompson on the House Floor

- We recently passed a resolution honoring the life and work of former Representative and Senator Bettye Davis. Senator Davis was the first black woman elected to the Alaska House (the first black woman in the house was appointed, her name was Blanche McSmith) and the first black woman elected and to serve in the Alaska Senate. I served with Senator Davis and was always bowled over by her dedication to this state. She served as the chair of the State Board of Education and Early Development, served on the Anchorage Assembly in the 80s and 90s, and continued to serve on the Anchorage School Board after she left the State Senate. To recognize this incredible commitment to Alaska, I was honored to vote yes on a proposal to dedicate a committee room, Capitol 106, as the Senator Bettye J. Davis room. You can watch the floor session approving the resolution [here](#).

Please don't hesitate to get in touch with any issues or concerns and remember, I work for you.

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All the best,

PS My office is trying out a new idea. Each newsletter we'd like to highlight a community in the district. District 37 is a large district with so much to appreciate. I hope you'll consider sending us some pictures of your community so that we can show our district off to everyone.

On Deck Next Week...

Next week House Finance is scheduled to meet

Monday – Friday 1:30 PM

The committee's main focus will be on [HB 205](#) (Operating Budget) and [HB 206](#) (Mental Health Budget)

Monday, February 10

House Resources – 1:00 PM

[HB 138](#) – National Resource Water Designation

House Judiciary – 1:00 PM

[HB 201](#) – Defense of Public Officer: Ethics Complaint

[HJR 15](#) – Constitutional Amendment: Votes Needed for Veto Override

[HB 133](#) – Juveniles: Justice, Facilities, Treatment

House Finance – 1:30 PM

FY121 Dept Budget Overviews – Marine Highway Update

Tuesday, February 11

House Tribal Affairs – 8:00 AM

Presentation: Alaska Tribal Health Compact by Natasha Singh, Tanana Chiefs Conference

Senate Education – 9:00 AM

[SB 6](#) – Pre-k/Elementary Education Programs/Funding; Reading

House State Affairs – 3:00 PM

[HB 74](#) – Repeal Ocean Rangers Program

Wednesday, February 12

Senate Education – 9:00 AM

[SB 6](#) – Pre-k/Elementary Education Programs/Funding; Reading

House & Senate Joint Session 11:00 AM

State of Judiciary Address by the Honorable Joel H. Bolger, Chief Justice

[HJR 25](#) – Ensure Access into Denali Park

House Judiciary – 1:45 PM

[HJR 15](#) – Constitutional Amendment: Votes Needed for Veto Override

[HB 133](#) – Juveniles: Justice, Facilities, Treatment

House Labor & Commerce – 3:15

[HB 91](#) – Naturopaths: Licensing; Practice

[SB 106](#) – Homeowner/Renter Insurance Renewal

Legislative Council – 5:00 PM

Ratification of Charity Events, FY19 Legislature Audit, FY21 Legislature Budget, Contract Approvals

Thursday, February 13

Senate Education – 9:00 AM

[SB 6](#) – Pre-k/Elementary Education Programs/Funding; Reading

House & Senate Joint Session 11:00 AM

House Fisheries – 11 AM

[HB 199](#) – Fisheries Rehabilitation Permits

[HB 218](#) – Salt Water Fishing: Operators/Guides

House Transportation – 1:00 PM

[HB 185](#) – Registration of Boats: Exemption

House Health & Social Services – 3:00 PM

Presentation – “Coronavirus: Alaska’s Response and Preparedness” by Dr. Anne Zink, DHSS

House State Affairs – 3:00 PM

Presentation: Alaska Rehabilitation & Reentry Report Overview by Laura Brooks

Friday, February 14

House Resources – 1:00 PM

[HB 138](#) – National Resource Water Designation