

# 2016 CAPITOL CURRENTS

29<sup>th</sup> Alaska State Legislature ~ 2<sup>nd</sup> Session

Eleventh Edition – 4/4 to 4/10/16

~ One Week to Go - or So ~

## HIGHLIGHTS

Long-planned construction work on the Alaska Capitol probably will force lawmakers out of the building if they need extra time.

Workers will begin four-hour drilling sessions within days of the scheduled end, April 17. A delay could cost \$33,000 each day legislators aren't out.

Several rank-and-file lawmakers said they oppose the \$32.5 million purchase offer made by legislative leaders for their Anchorage office building, leaving some to wonder if the deal can be closed.

**SB 53** passed the Legislature. Next stop the Governor for his signature. As professional nursing evolved, so did the need for updated statutes.

The bill combines nurse practitioners, certified nurse-midwives, certified clinical nurse specialist, and nurse anesthetists into a single category, Advance Practice Registered Nurse. (APRN)

With the passage of **HB 122**, the House has voted to limit the governor's ability to accept and spend federal funding the legislature didn't appropriate during the session. It also extends the amount of time he must wait to use the funds.

The move comes after Governor Walker expanded Medicaid – without legislative approval - by accepting additional federal dollars post-session.

A legal opinion from the Legislature's top lawyer called the language unenforceable.

Minority Democrats also unsuccessfully tried to force a vote on whether the Legislature should continue a challenge to Governor Walker's actions.

A state court judge dismissed the case last month and entered a final judgment Tuesday. Some legislative leaders say the lawsuit was undertaken with the expectation it would go to the Alaska Supreme Court.

House State Affairs dusted off **SB 6** that eliminates daylight savings time, and moved it. It also asks the federal transportation department to change Alaska Time to Pacific Standard Time.

Representative Kurt Olson, a six-term legislator from Soldotna, won't run for re-election. Rep. He has been the chair of House Labor & Commerce since he started.

This past week was declared **Public Health Week in Alaska**. All Alaskans were encouraged to help families, friends, neighbors, co-workers, and leaders better understand the importance of public health and make a commitment to improve their own health and well - being.

## **BUDGET ISSUES**

Conference Committee members have been appointed - Senators Kelly, MacKinnon, Huffman, Representatives Neuman, Thompson, & Garr.

Once a conference committee on the operating budget is convened, the Legislature requires only one day's notice before a committee hearing; normal rules require five.

The Alaska Senate's Republican president says his caucus still plans to redesign the Alaska Permanent Fund to help solve the budget crisis, and he's met with the House Democratic minority leader to broker a session-ending compromise.

Lawmakers plan to unveil hybrid legislation that combines elements of Permanent Fund restructuring proposals offered by Governor Walker and Senator McGuire.

The Senate Finance Committee took up the capital budget this past week. Funding for infrastructure projects has been pared back significantly the last two years.

Alaskans who receive a PFD would pay a 35 percent tax on it under **HB 376**, proposed by the House Labor and Commerce Committee. The sponsor says the bill is meant as a fallback if legislators fail to reach agreement on a plan to turn the permanent fund into a revenue stream.

## **EDUCATION ISSUES**

U of A President Jim Johnson presented two draft budget proposals to close a projected budget gap, both cutting hundreds of jobs across the system and adding new tuition increases.

The Senate has approved **SB 174** allowing Alaskans to carry concealed weapons on the campuses of the University of Alaska system. The decision was 13-5, with two senators absent. The House is next.

The University estimates it will spend \$1.3 million to establish security at the more than 400 facilities statewide should **SB 174** become law.

Senate Finance Committee co-chair Anna MacKinnon said Friday the committee would not move a bill ending a scholarship program for high-performing Alaska students. Not sure if this is the final answer.

Teachers could be fired, doctors could face sanctions from the State Medical Board and abortion services providers could be liable for civil penalties if **SB 191** or **HB 352** become law.

**SB 191** has been stalled in Senate Judiciary since March 16<sup>th</sup>, so the Chair of House Education has started hearing the companion bill, **HB 352**.

## **HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES ISSUES**

New federal funding is headed to Alaska to help expand substance abuse treatment. As part of a \$94 million injection of funding, five clinics in the state will see a combined total of more than \$1.76 million.

The governor proclaimed April 2016 as: Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness Month in Alaska, and encourages all Alaskans to create a safe and nurturing environment for children.

He also has proclaimed April 2016 as Autism Awareness Month in Alaska, and encourages all Alaskans to educate themselves about autism.

## **PUBLIC SAFETY ISSUES**

The Alaska Senate approved sweeping changes to the state's criminal sentencing structure.

The Alaska Criminal Justice Commission created a 21-point plan released in December. The Legislature, led by Senator Coghill - who sat on the commission - turned the plan into **SB 91**.

It represents an abandonment of tough-on-crime programs that called for increasing jail sentences as a deterrent. Alaska's prison population has grown by 27 percent.

The overall goal of the bill is to reduce the number of people who return to prison after being jailed for the first time. A study shows two-thirds of Alaskans will end up in jail again on another offense.

**SB 91** reduces penalties for lesser offenses and encourages nonviolent offenders to be released on bail. The bill now goes to the House. It's scheduled in Judiciary on Monday.

House HSS moved **HB 334**. The bill repeals the "rebuttable presumption" placed into law twelve years ago to ensure that those individuals with a history of domestic violence were held accountable and the children protected.

In another proclamation, the Governor stated that April was also Sexual Assault Awareness Month, and asks all Alaskans to take a stand against sexual assault.

## **GOVERNOR'S CORNER**

<http://gov.alaska.gov>

The Alaska Judicial Council has forwarded four names to Governor Walker for the Alaska Supreme Court seat now held by Justice Dana Fabe, who plans to retire.

They are Susan Carney, an attorney with the Office of Public Advocacy in Fairbanks; Anchorage private practice attorney Jahna Lindemuth; Anchorage Superior Court Judge Andrew Guidi, and Juneau Superior Court Judge Philip Pallenberg.

## **BILLS ON THE MOVE**

~ Below are pertinent bills that had hearings or other action this past week ~

## **SENATE COMMITTEE OR FLOOR ACTION**

### **SB 8 / Industrial Hemp Production Licenses**

[http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get\\_complete\\_bill.asp?session=29&bill=SB8](http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_complete_bill.asp?session=29&bill=SB8)

Version 29-LS0195\H - Heard and held Senate Finance on 4/9.

### **SB 91 / Omnibus Criminal Law & Procedure; Corrections (Floor action!)**

[http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get\\_complete\\_bill.asp?session=29&bill=SB91](http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_complete_bill.asp?session=29&bill=SB91)

Version 29-LS0541\Y.A - Passed Senate on 4/2 with vote of 16-2.

Scheduled for hearing in House Judiciary on 4/10 and 4/11.

### **SB 103 / Residential Psychiatric Education Funding (Floor action!)**

[http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get\\_complete\\_bill.asp?session=29&bill=SB103](http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_complete_bill.asp?session=29&bill=SB103)

Version 29-LS0733\G - Passed Senate on 4/7 with vote of 11-6. Referred to House Finance.

**SB 113 / New Drugs for the Terminally Ill**

[http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get\\_complete\\_bill.asp?session=29&bill=SB113](http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_complete_bill.asp?session=29&bill=SB113)

Version 29-LS0783\E - Scheduled public testimony in Senate Judiciary on 4/11.

**SB 156 / Insurance Coverage for Contraceptives**

[http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get\\_complete\\_bill.asp?session=29&bill=SB156](http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_complete_bill.asp?session=29&bill=SB156)

Version 29-LS11444\P - Heard and held Senate Labor & Commerce on 4/5.

**SB 165 / Alcoholic Beverage Control Board; Minors; Alcohol (Floor action!)**

[http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get\\_complete\\_bill.asp?session=29&bill=SB165](http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_complete_bill.asp?session=29&bill=SB165)

Version 29-LS1384\H.A - Passed the Senate on 4/8. Referred to House Labor & Commerce.

**SB 175 / Pharmacy Benefits Managers**

[http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get\\_complete\\_bill.asp?session=29&bill=SB175](http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_complete_bill.asp?session=29&bill=SB175)

Version 29-LS1110\E - Moved from Senate Labor & Commerce on 4/5. Referred to Finance.

**SB 201 / Pharmacy Board and Employees; Drug Distribution/Manufacturing**

[http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get\\_complete\\_bill.asp?session=29&bill=SB201](http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_complete_bill.asp?session=29&bill=SB201)

Version 29-LS1482\A - Moved from Senate Labor & Commerce on 4/5.

Heard/held Finance on 4/9.

**SJR 12 / Constitutional Amendment: Elected Attorney General**

[http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get\\_complete\\_bill.asp?session=29&bill=SJR12](http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_complete_bill.asp?session=29&bill=SJR12)

Version 29-LS0095\W - Moved from Senate Judiciary on 4/6. Heard and held Finance on 4/9.

**HB 27 / DHSS Duties; CINA; Foster Care; Adoption**

[http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get\\_complete\\_bill.asp?session=29&bill=HB27](http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_complete_bill.asp?session=29&bill=HB27)

Version 29-LS0176\G.A - Scheduled Senate HSS on 4/11.

**HB 75 / Marijuana Registration; Clubs; Muni's; Local Option Election**

[http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get\\_complete\\_bill.asp?session=29&bill=HB75](http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_complete_bill.asp?session=29&bill=HB75)

Version 29-LS0345\AA - Conference Committee appointed on 4/5 and 4/6.

**HB 275 / Indigenous Peoples Day**

[http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get\\_complete\\_bill.asp?session=29&bill=HB275](http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_complete_bill.asp?session=29&bill=HB275)

Version 29-LS1333\W.A - Referred to Senate State Affairs on 4/4.

**HB 324 / Violent Crimes Compensation Board Membership**

[http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get\\_complete\\_bill.asp?session=29&bill=HB324](http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_complete_bill.asp?session=29&bill=HB324)

Version 29-LS1479\W - Move from Senate State Affairs on 4/5. Referred to Rules.

**HOUSE COMMITTEE OR FLOOR ACTION**

**HB 234 / Insurance Coverage for Telemedicine**

[http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get\\_complete\\_bill.asp?session=29&bill=HB234](http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_complete_bill.asp?session=29&bill=HB234)

Version 29-LS1251\A - Heard/held House L&C on 4/6. Scheduled for public testimony on 4/11.

**HB 237 / Interstate Medical Licensure Compact**

[http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get\\_complete\\_bill.asp?session=29&bill=HB237](http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_complete_bill.asp?session=29&bill=HB237)

Version 29-LS1100\A - Heard and held House Finance on 4/7.

**HB 308 / Child Safety Seat Installation Liability**

[http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get\\_complete\\_bill.asp?session=29&bill=HB308](http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_complete_bill.asp?session=29&bill=HB308)

Version 29-LS1323\A - Moved from House Judiciary on 4/6. Rules to calendar on 4/10.

**HB 324 / Violent Crimes Compensation Board Membership**

[http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get\\_complete\\_bill.asp?session=29&bill=HB324](http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_complete_bill.asp?session=29&bill=HB324)

Version 29-LS1479\W - Moved from Senate State Affairs on 4/5. Referred to Rules.

**HB 334 / Child Custody; Domestic Violence; Child Abuse**

[http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get\\_complete\\_bill.asp?session=29&bill=HB334](http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_complete_bill.asp?session=29&bill=HB334)

Version 29-LS1409\I - Moved from House HSS on 4/6. Scheduled Judiciary on 4/9.

**HB 345 / Insurance Coverage for Contraceptives**

[http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get\\_complete\\_bill.asp?session=29&bill=HB345](http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_complete_bill.asp?session=29&bill=HB345)

Version 29-LS1503\E - Moved from House HSS on 4/6. Referred to Finance.

**HB 352 / Limit Abortion Service Providers in Schools**

[http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get\\_complete\\_bill.asp?session=29&bill=HB352](http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_complete_bill.asp?session=29&bill=HB352)

Version 29-LS1526\A - Heard and held House Education on 4/6.

**HJR 29 / Call Federal Constitutional Convention: Term Limits**

[http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get\\_complete\\_bill.asp?session=29&bill=HJR29](http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_complete_bill.asp?session=29&bill=HJR29)

Version 29-LS1322\A - Moved from House Judiciary on 4/4. Referred to Rules.

**HJR 30 / Post Traumatic Stress Injury**

**(Floor action!)**

[http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get\\_complete\\_bill.asp?session=29&bill=HJR30](http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_complete_bill.asp?session=29&bill=HJR30)

Version 29-LS1483\P - Passed House on 4/9 on vote of 35-1. Transmitted to Senate.

**HCR 4 / U.S. Countermand Convention Delegates**

[http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get\\_complete\\_bill.asp?session=29&bill=HCR4](http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_complete_bill.asp?session=29&bill=HCR4)

Version 29-LS0250\N - Moved from House State Affairs on 4/6. Rules to calendar on 4/10.

**SB 6 / Eliminate Daylight Saving Time**

[http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get\\_complete\\_bill.asp?session=29&bill=SB6](http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_complete_bill.asp?session=29&bill=SB6)

Version 29-LS0111\S - Moved from House State Affairs on 4/8. Referred to Finance.

**SB 53 / Advanced Practice Registered Nurses**

**(Floor action!)**

[http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get\\_complete\\_bill.asp?session=29&bill=SB53](http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_complete_bill.asp?session=29&bill=SB53)

Version 29-LS0043\P - Passed House on 4/4. Senate concurred on 4/6.

Awaiting transmittal to the Governor.

**SB 74 / Medicaid Reform/PFD/HSAS/ER Use/Studies**

[http://www.akleg.gov/basis/get\\_complete\\_bill.asp?session=29&bill=SB74](http://www.akleg.gov/basis/get_complete_bill.asp?session=29&bill=SB74)

Version 29-LS0692\U.A - Heard and held House Finance on 4/7. Further scheduled on 4/9.

**SB 89 / Parent Rights: Education; School Absence**

[http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get\\_complete\\_bill.asp?session=29&bill=SB89](http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_complete_bill.asp?session=29&bill=SB89)

Version 29-LS0735\L - Heard and held House HSS on 4/7.

Further scheduled on 4/12 with public testimony.

**SB 174 / Registration of Firearms; Knives by U. of Alaska (Floor action!)**

[http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get\\_complete\\_bill.asp?session=29&bill=SB174](http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_complete_bill.asp?session=29&bill=SB174)

Version 29-1306\G - Passed Senate on 4/7, with a vote of 13-5.

Referred to House Education and Judiciary.

**SCR 16 / Special Session to be Held on Road System**

[http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get\\_complete\\_bill.asp?session=29&bill=SCR16](http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_complete_bill.asp?session=29&bill=SCR16)

Version 29-LS0906\W - Moved CS from House State Affairs on 4/7.

**SCR 20 / Sexual Assault Awareness Month: April 2016**

[http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get\\_complete\\_bill.asp?session=29&bill=SCR20](http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_complete_bill.asp?session=29&bill=SCR20)

Version 29-LS1519\A - Moved from House State Affairs on 4/7.

**COMMITTEE HEARINGS**

**(On 24-Hour Rule – check committee scheduled nightly)**

**MONDAY – April 11**

(HOUSE) EDUCATION Committee

8:00 AM Capitol Room 106

**SB 174 / Registration of Firearms/Knives by University of Alaska**

(HOUSE) JUDICIARY Committee

1:00 PM Gruenberg Room 120

**SB 91 / Omnibus Criminal Law and Procedure; Corrections**

(SENATE) HSS Committee

1:30 PM Butrovich Room 205

**HB 27 / DHSS Duties; CINA; Foster Care; Adoption**

(SENATE) JUDICIARY Committee

1:30 PM Beltz Room 105 (TSBldg)

**SB 113 / New Drugs for the Terminally Ill**

(HOUSE) LABOR & COMMERCE Committee

3:15 PM Barnes Room 124

**Confirmation Hearings:**

**Entry Midwives, Board of Nursing, Board of Pharmacy**

**HB 234 / Insurance Coverage for Telemedicine**

**TUESDAY – April 12**

(HOUSE) JUDICIARY Committee

1:00 PM Gruenberg Room 120

**SB 174 / Registration of Firearms; Knives by U. of Alaska**

**SB 112 / Adoption of Child in State Custody**

**SB 180 / Parent-Guardian/Child: Temporary Power of Attorney**

(HOUSE) HSS Committee

3:00 PM Capitol Room 106

**SB 72 / Designated Caregivers for Patients**

**SB 89 / Parent Rights: Education; School Absence**

### **WEDNESDAY – April 13**

(JOINT) HOUSE/SENATE EDUCATION Committees

8:00 AM Capitol Room 106

**Presentations: -**

- **Update on Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) State Plan Development –**  
by Dr. Susan McCauley, Interim Commissioner of Dept. of Education
- **Educating for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century** by Ted Dinthersmith

### **THURSDAY – April 14**

(HOUSE & SENATE) LEGISLATIVE BUDGET & AUDIT Committee

7:30 AM House Finance Room 519

**Interim Report: Status of Direct Entry Midwives Audit Recommendations**

### **FRIDAY – April 15**

(JOINT) SESSION

11:00 AM House Chambers

**Consideration of Governor’s Appointees**

### **SATURDAY – April 16**

### **SUNDAY – April 17**

Unknown – Check BASIS!

### **Website – Daily Committee Hearings**

April 11 – April 17, 2016

[http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get\\_hearing.asp?session=29&Chamb=B&Date1=04%2F11%2F2016&Date2=04%2F17%2F2016&Comty=&Root=&Sel=1&Button=Display](http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_hearing.asp?session=29&Chamb=B&Date1=04%2F11%2F2016&Date2=04%2F17%2F2016&Comty=&Root=&Sel=1&Button=Display)

**~ End of Report ~**

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