



Alaska's 30th Legislature First Session Starts

The Alaska Legislature is in the midst of crafting budget bills and considering new revenue while facing a \$3 billion deficit. However, each chamber is guided by its respective philosophy and often at odds with the other.

The House Majority has adopted a position that state services have been reduced beyond the point of diminishing returns while the Senate Majority continues a campaign to cut the operating budget.

HOUSE PASSES BUDGET

The House passed its version of an operating budget recently, though progress was slowed by hundreds of amendments on the floor from Minority members—a purposeful and largely allowable procedure to antagonize the Majority for HB 57 over which Republicans have had limited influence.

While HB 57 is a critically important budget document, it's also been a showcase of politics intersecting privilege as House Minority Republicans bristled at their subordinate role despite having the upper hand in the chamber's operation for decades.

The Minority grandstanding and repetition began in the House Finance Committee as subcommittee reports were read and opportunities to amend the budget amendments were offered. Along with proposals to remove funding for positions that were already decremented from the budget—effectively removing twice the amount per affected position—an amendment was passed by committee with intent language instructing the Alaska Division of Motor Vehicles to “outsource administrative and licensing services to private sector

business partners to the extent practicable.”

The privatization language alarmed ASEA and surprised other members of the House Majority. In the House a few days later, Rep. Andy Josephson (D-Anchorage) and three other representatives introduced an amendment from the floor to remove the DMV privatization language from the budget bill. The motion failed on a 20-20 vote, but was reconsidered and passed by a 21-19 margin. The DMV language was then removed from the final version of the House operating budget.

Some language added to the budget in House Finance Committee remained in the bill, specifically an amendment proposed by Rep. Neal Foster (D-Nome) making a contingent appropriation to continue operating the Nome Youth Facility if the cost of closing it exceeds the cost of keeping it open.

HB 57 will be transmitted to the Senate and will be referred to the Senate Finance Committee for consideration. The Governor's companion budget legislation also has been heard in Senate Finance over the last three weeks. The Senate will eventually pass its version of the budget bill and the task of reconciling House and Senate versions marks the turbulent, often rapid end to the session.

SENATE SUPPORTS EARNINGS DRAW

On March 15, the Senate passed SB 26, a bill authorizing annual appropriations of approximately \$2 billion from the Permanent Fund earnings reserve for use by the General Fund. Although promising, the bill

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Famous Words of Solidarity

“When morality comes up against profit, it is seldom that profit loses.” - Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm (D. -N.Y. 1969-1983)

“Capitalism is the extraordinary belief that the nastiest of men, for the nastiest of reasons, will somehow work for the benefit of us all.” - John Maynard Keynes (1883 - 1946) English economist, author, government official, editor, businessman

“We need to make this economy more competitive. But we need more high wages; we don't need a low-wage strategy, we need a high-wage strategy ...I'm not for repealing Davis-Bacon.” - President William Jefferson “Bill” Clinton (1993-2001) supporting the prevailing-wage law, 4.1995.

Solidarity Update

Did You Know?

Did You Know That:

That March is National Women's History Month and its roots go back as far as March 8, 1857. On that day, New York City factories staged a protest over working conditions. The first was observed in 1909 and in 1981 Congress established National Women's History Week to be celebrated the second week of March. In 1987, the Congress expanded the week to a full month.

- In 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed Executive Order 11246 —Discrimination by gender is added to affirmative action.

- In 1967, President Lyndon B. Johnson issued Executive Order 11375, which required all facilities, business, etc., receiving federal contracts to end discrimination on the basis of sex in hiring and employment.

- In 1968, the Civil Rights Act and the Fair Housing Act of 1968 prohibited discrimination by race, color, religion, and national origin. Sex was added in 1974. Disability and familial status were included in 1988. Before 1968, landlords could choose to not rent to a woman based on her sex.

- Up until 1974, a single women could not have a credit card in her own name. Today, 85% of all consumer purchases are made by women.

- In 1986, the Supreme Court found that "Sexual Harassment" is a form of illegal job discrimination.

- In 1997, the Supreme Court rules that college athletic programs must actively involve roughly equal numbers of men and women to qualify for federal funds.

- In 2005 and 2015, reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act allocates federal funds to aid victims.

- In 2005, the act allocates federal funds to aid victims, provides housing to prevent victims from becoming homeless, ensures victims have access to the justice system and creates intervention programs to assist children who witness domestic violence and to those at risk of domestic violence.

- In 2013, the new bill extends coverage to women on Native American tribal lands who are attacked by non-tribal residents, as well as lesbians and immigrants.

- In 2009, the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Restoration Act allows victims, usually women, of pay discrimination to file a complaint with the government against their employer within 180 days of their last paycheck.



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would establish a spending cap for state government and falls a billion dollars short of what it needs for current levels of service.

The spending cap proposed under SB 26 would limit appropriations to the General Fund to no more than \$4.1 million, approximately the amount currently appropriated for services and obligations.

The bill also sets the Permanent Fund Dividend distribution amount at \$1,000 for the next three years.

HEALTH INSURANCE AND PENSION

Legislation addressing health care benefits for survivors of certain public employee job classes who die in the line of duty has passed the House and made significant progress in the Senate. These developments generate hope that upcoming (H) L&C hearings on HB 83—restoring a Defined Benefit retirement system with opt-out election to participate in a Defined Contribution individual retirement plan—will lead to a floor vote and more.

The Senate's version of a survivors' insurance bill was amended in the State Affairs Committee to include a broader definition of job classes. The committee substitute for SB 48 defines peace officer to include airport police, correctional officers, probation officers, and university police. The bill has not yet been heard in the Senate Finance Committee.

HB 23, the house companion bill, was amended similarly in the House Finance Committee to define peace officer as also meaning regional public safety officer, correctional officer, and probation officer. SB 23 passed the House on a unanimous floor vote and was transmitted to the Senate where it received a sole referral to the Senate Finance Committee.

As with survivor benefits, ASEA believes there's an opportunity for passing a bill to

restore a Defined Benefit retirement system. Public employees in Alaska hired since July 1, 2006 have had money from their employer and their own paychecks deposited into an individual retirement account, subject to fees and market fluctuations. This is the extent of the State's commitment to employee retirement since the Legislature created Tier IV Defined Contribution retirement plan in 2005.

HB 83 provides a fix for the shortcomings of Tier IV by restoring a pension for existing employees who wish to convert their individual retirement accounts to credit in a pension plan and allowing new employees to opt-out of the pension system if a defined contribution is the benefit they prefer.

HB 83 will be heard in the House State Affairs Committee on March 25 and testimony from affected employees is critical for quick advancement toward a floor vote. Please contact ASEA Organizer Ryan Kopiasz (ryank@afscmelocal52.org) if you are interested in testifying on a bill to restore a predictable and personalized retirement for state employees.

The Legislature has either one month left or is halfway through its first session—depending on whether the 90-day or 120-day limit will be honored.

The real-time status of bills on which the ASEA Political Action Committee (PAC) has taken a position can be found here: <http://www.afscmelocal52.org/pac/bill-tracking>



Solidarity Update

Tracking Bills Of Interest To ASEA Members

The ASEA Political Action Committee (PAC) is an opportunity for all members to participate in political action at the state and local level. ASEA's Bill Tracking includes ASEA PAC recommendations regarding the benefit of legislative bills to public employees and all Alaskans.

The pending legislation below is a fraction of the many bills reviewed by ASEA PAC Directors. PAC Directors also solicit and evaluate responses from legislative and local office candidates to provide a list of endorsements to the ASEA membership.

If you are not already a contributor the ASEA PAC or to the Public Employees Organized to Promote Legislative Equality (PEOPLE),

please consider enrolling. A membership in PEOPLE automatically makes you a member of the ASEA/AFSCME Local 52 Political Action Committee.

As a member of the PAC, you can be elected to serve on it's Board of Directors. PAC by-laws have been amended to allow every PAC member to serve as a Director for their district. For more information, contact the ASEA Juneau Office, at 463-4949 or (800) 478-0049 toll free.

Please note all members are reminded to use personal email accounts when communicating with PAC directors, legislators and candidates for public office, or when sending emails containing messages of a political nature.

Pending Bills Supported by the ASEA PAC

Bill No.	Short Title	Sponsor(s)	Status	Next	PAC Position
HB 5	MED INS: DEPENDS. OF DECEASED FIRE/POLICE	MILLETT	(H) FIN	(H) RLS	Support
HB 11	RIP FOR PUBLIC EMPLOYEES/TEACHERS	KAWASAKI	(H) STA	(H) FIN	Support
HB 23	INS. FOR DEPENDS. OF DECEASED FIRE/POLICE	JOSEPHSON	(S) FIN	(H) RLS	Support
HB 26	NURSING MOTHERS IN WORKPLACE	TARR	(H) L&C	(H) RLS	Support
HB 30	PAID SICK LEAVE	TARR	(H) L&C	(H) FIN	Support
HB 37	PERS CREDIT/WORKERS COMP. POLICE & FIRE	JOSEPHSON	(H) FIN	(H) RLS	Support
HB 38	WORKERS' COMPENSATION: DEATH BENEFITS	JOSEPHSON	(H) L&C	(H) FIN	Support
HB 61	PERM. FUND:DEPOSITS;DIVIDEND;EARNINGS	RLS-GOVERNOR	(H) FIN	(H) RLS	Support
HB 63	TRANSFER DUTIES FROM DCCED	PRUITT	(H) STA	(H) FIN	<i>Oppose</i>
HB 69	REPEAL WORKERS' COMP APPEALS COMMISSION	RLS-GOVERNOR	(H) JUD	(H) RLS	Support
HB 71	NO ST. EMPLOYEE PAY INCREASE FOR 2 YRS	RLS-GOVERNOR	(H) STA	(H) FIN	<i>Oppose</i>
HB 79	OMNIBUS WORKERS' COMPENSATION	RLS-GOVERNOR	(H) L&C	(H) JUD	Support
HB 83	TEACHERS & PUB EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT PLANS	KITO	(H) L&C	(H) STA	Support
HB 92	APPROPRIATION LIMITS	TILTON	(H) JUD	(H) FIN	<i>Oppose</i>
HB 109	STATE EMPLOYEES: STATE RESIDENCY	CHENAULT	(H) STA	(H) JUD	<i>Oppose</i>
HB 115	INCOME TAX; PFD CREDIT; PERM FUND INCOME	FINANCE	(H) FIN	(H) RLS	Support
HJR 7	CONST. AM.: APPROPRIATION LIMIT	TILTON	(H) STA	(H) JUD	<i>Oppose</i>

Pending Bills Opposed by the ASEA PAC

Bill No.	Short Title	Sponsor(s)	Status	Next	PAC Position
SB 26	APPROP LIMIT & PER FUND:DIVIDEND;EARNINGS	RLS-GOVERNOR	(H) FIN	(H) RLS	Neutral
SB 29	REPEAL WORKERS' COMP APPEALS COMMISSION	RLS-GOVERNOR	(S) JUD	(S) FIN	Support
SB 31	NO ST. EMPLOYEE PAY INCREASE FOR 2 YRS	RLS-GOVERNOR	(S) FIN	(S) RLS	<i>Oppose</i>
SB 40	OMNIBUS WORKERS' COMPENSATION	RLS-GOVERNOR	(S) L&C	(S) FIN	Support
SB 48	INS. FOR DEPENDS. OF DECEASED FIRE/POLICE	COGHILL	(S) FIN	(S) RLS	Support
SB 52	TEACHERS & PUB EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT PLANS	EGAN	(S) CRA	(S) FIN	Support

Solidarity Up-

ASEA HEALTH TRUST NEWS



New Fairbanks Coalition Health Center Welcomes Patients

Whether you live in Fairbanks or are just passing through, as an ASEA Health Trust participant you can now receive high-quality, comprehensive primary care services at the new Coalition Health Center Clinic (CHC) in Fairbanks!

The Fairbanks CHC is available to eligible participants and their dependents, ages 2 and up.

- Normal Business Hours:
Monday – Friday, 7:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

- To schedule an appointment:
Call (907) 450-3300 or go to coalitionhealthcenter.com
- Walk-ins will be accepted Monday – Friday during the following hours:
8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.
3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
- Location: Ridgeview Business Park, 575 Riverstone Way, Unit 1 (near Parks Highway and Geist Road intersection)

Just like at the Anchorage CHC, there is no co-pay or deductible. The clinic can also fill many generic prescriptions written by CHC providers.

To expedite the transfer of your medical records, please stop by the CHC during business hours to complete a release of medical records prior to your appointment. Team members are onsite and available to assist you.

From the Desk Of The Executive Board President ~ Women's History Month

Sisters and Brothers,

March is Women's History Month! ASEA's Women's Issues Committee (WIC) was invited to attend the March 4-5, 2017, Oregon AFSCME Women's Committee's 2nd Annual Conference in Salem, Oregon. We were greeted with open arms by our Oregon Sisters. It was like being welcomed home by siblings who had been away for a long time. Their embrace was profound.

Keynote speakers at the Conference were Governor Kate Brown and House Majority Leader Jennifer Williamson. Governor Brown and Majority Leader Williamson updated us on what was happening in their Legislature. I was surprised to hear that some of their issues are similar to Alaska's issues. Oregon has passed a paid sick leave bill, is working on "vote by mail" and is also increasing the minimum wage. Oregon has a PERS system and Governor Brown has vowed to keep the promise made to retirees and to fight to make sure their retirement pensions are funded. They currently have a Three Tier system and support a Four Tier system for their State employees. Their legislative goals are education, good jobs with benefits and that all Oregon constituents have access to health care.

The two workshops presented at the Conference were (1) Making Your Voice Count and (2) Race and Gender Equity: Choosing to be an Ally were amazing. In the Making Your Voice Count workshop, I learned a

new term, "mansplaining," what it is about, how to do impromptu speeches, what qualities a union officer should have and lastly, 15 agreements women should aspire to follow as a Union leader. The Race and Gender Equity workshop was an eye opener because the subject matter touched on issues that seem to be taboo or unspoken; but are relevant topics for open and honest discussions, such as racism,

workplace retaliation, LGBTQ and choosing to be an Ally as opposed to being an advocate and the difference between the two. We were given definitions of racial and gender justice terms and ways to include statements of support of equity, inclusion and diversity in our workforce and workplaces. These two workshops were awesome! Sister Sierra Stewart, a 20-year-old, reported on her experience at the "Women's March on Washington" and spoke about her experience of being targeted for her beliefs of standing up for the rights of minorities, transgender students, the travel ban on Muslims, xenophobic hate crimes,

not letting people restrict her rights and meeting the mothers of the Black Lives Matters project. She also loved the positive charged chants.

In Solidarity and Friendship,
Dawn F. Bundick
ASEA/AFSCME Local 52 State President



Left to right: Nadine Lefebvre, Southeast Seat ASEA WIC committee; Oregon Governor Brown; Dawn Bundick, Chair and Central Seat ASEA WIC committee; Andrea Quintyne, Northern Seat ASEA WIC Chair

Governor Brown does not support a Four Tier system for their State employees. Their legislative goals are education, good jobs with benefits and that all Oregon constituents have access to health care.