

2017 CAPITOL CURRENTS

30th Alaska State Legislature ~ 1st Session

18th Edition – 5/15-5/20

~ Governor calls 1st Special Session of 30th Legislature~

HIGHLIGHTS

The House and Senate adjourned on May 17th without reaching agreements on the state's operating, mental health and capital budgets. The Governor immediately called them back into Special Session.

[Special Session Proclamation](#) The Special Session may last up to thirty days. Items placed on the call:

- Operating, Mental Health and Capital budgets
- Oil and gas tax credit reform
- Permanent Fund protection act
- Motor fuel tax
- Broad-based tax
- Opioids prescription and monitoring

Prior to adjournment, the legislature met in joint session to confirm the Governor's appointments to his cabinet and to state boards and commissions. Each nominee was confirmed with the exception of the appointment to the state Human Rights Commission.

BUDGET ISSUES

The conference committee held their organizational meeting prior to adjournment. Representative Seaton was appointed chair of the committee and Senator Hoffman was appointed as vice-chair. The motion sheets listing the differences between the House and Senate budgets can be found here: [Motion Sheets](#)

The conference committee asked for and was granted limited powers of free conference. Under limited powers the Conference Committee could adopt any amount between zero and the higher of the House or Senate version of each item subject to conference.

Seaton explained that the conference committee would operate under Uniform Rule 42. All action requires a majority vote from each body for adoption--Motions require two senators and two house members to pass.

Presentations made to House Finance over the last few weeks of session:

[OMB State Budget and the Economy](#) , OMB Director

[The Economy and Fiscal Policy](#) , Commissioner of Revenue

[Analysis of Alaska's Per Capita Budget](#) , OMB

[Comparing the Distributional Impact of Revenue Options in Alaska](#) , Taxation and Economic Policy

[The Nonprofit Sector: Economic Impact in Alaska](#) , Foraker Group

[Fiscal Impact on Children and Families Summary](#), ISER

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EDUCATION ISSUES

The Alaska State Museums, which are part of the Department of Education and Early Development were awarded the National Medal for Museum and Library Service. It is the nation's highest honor for museums and libraries. The Alaska State Museums comprise the Alaska State Museum in Juneau and the Sheldon Jackson Museum in Sitka.

BILLS ON THE MOVE

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

Bills in committee at the end of the first session will remain active over the interim and may continue on toward passage when the second session starts next January. A list of bills of interest and where they're sitting will be provided in the last Capitol Currents for this year.

BILLS PASSED BOTH HOUSES

[SCS HB16 \(RLS\)am S Driver's License Req.; Disability: ID & Training](#)

Passed Senate 5/15; House concurred with changes 5/17; Governor signed into law 5/19

The Senate amended HB 16 on the Floor to include elements of the Real ID Compliance bills and the Governor has already signed the bill into law. It will allow the state to begin the process of issuing Real ID-compliant forms of identification. At the signing, Governor Walker said, "The Department of Administration will move quickly to ensure that there are no disruptions in the everyday lives of our citizens."

HB 16 also allows Alaskans to designate on a driver's license or identification card that the carrier has a medically verified disability. This designation option will be available in late August. The law also requires training for police and village safety officers to recognize disabilities, and instructs officers on appropriate conduct when engaging with those with disabilities.

[HCS SB55\(RLS\) / Omnibus Crime and Corrections](#)

Passed the House; Senate concurred with House changes; awaiting transmittal to Governor 5/17

Clarifies and amends the following sections to the criminal justice codes--Marijuana penalties, victim notification, probation term lengths, administrative license revocations, referral for minor consuming, removing inflation adjustments, data reporting, and other minor and technical changes.

The RLS CS adds elements from HB 8 clarifying enforcement of foreign protective orders to bring state statutes into compliance with the federal Violence Against Women's Act and elements from HB 31 to require an inventory and report on untested sexual assault examination kits. The inventory must be completed by September 1, 2017, with a report and plan to address the untested kit backlog transmitted to the legislature by November 1, 2017.

COMMITTEE HEARINGS

Check the [Daily Schedule](#) after 5pm for the next day's hearings.

Special Session hearings will be restricted to only those items in the Governor's call.

~ End of Report ~

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