

Capitol Currents

Session Two of the 26th Legislature runs January 19-April 18, 2010.

Week One - 85 LEGISLATIVE DAYS TO GO

The Senate welcomed John Coghill and the House welcomed Tammie Wilson and Neal Foster to their respective chambers. Coghill was appointed to the Senate seat vacated by Gene Therriault who took a job with the Parnell administration. Wilson was appointed to fill Coghill's seat in the house and Neal Foster was appointed to complete the term of his dad, former Representative Richard Foster. The House honored Richard Foster's life and work in the House on the opening day of session.

Based on the shifts in membership, the composition of several committees has changed. Rep. Foster's decision to stay with the minority added a minority seat to finance bringing the total to four. He was appointed to the committee and when Rep. Crawford stepped down Rep. Doogan was appointed in his place. Coghill's move to the senate opened the rules chair and Rep. Dahlstrom will fill that position. Follow the link under legislative committee assignments below to see all committee assignments.

Work over the interim was completed on the Thomas B. Stewart Legislative Office Building (the former Scottish Rites Temple). A skywalk connects the building to the Capitol. Offices in the building will include the clerk of the House of Representatives, the House and Senate records offices, House and Senate conference rooms, the Beltz committee room, the Senate Majority press office, the Budget and Audit office, Discovery Preschool and a public lounge. The lounge, an area in which groups of constituents can gather and plan their office visits, offers comfortable couches, wireless internet and a large-screen TV tuned to Gavel-to-Gavel.

127 bills and 11 resolutions were introduced this week.

Legislative Committee Assignments: Go to BASIS committee assignments list: http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/commbro_info.asp?session=26

NEW BILLS: *Look here for legislation introduced during the previous week. Click on the bill number to access the bill.*

GOVERNMENT

Bill: [HB 254](#)
Sponsor: Lynn
Title: Exec Branch Ethics Complaint Confidential
Referrals: H STA, JUD
Content: Requires the complainant to keep confidential the filing of the complaint and the contents of the complaint. If the attorney general determines that a

complainant has violated a confidentiality provision of this chapter, the attorney general shall immediately dismiss the complaint. Dismissal of a complaint under this subsection does not affect the right of any person other than the complainant to initiate a complaint based on the same factual allegations.

Bill: [HB 263](#)
Sponsor: Doogan
Title: Exec. Ethics: Confidentiality/Procedures
Referrals: H STA, JUD
Content: Requires a person filing a complaint, except in certain circumstances, to keep confidential the filing of the complaint and the contents of the complaint; requires the attorney general to immediately dismiss the complaint if it's determined that a complainant has violated a confidentiality; adds the subject of a complaint to the list of persons to whom the attorney general must provide a summary of the resolution of the complaint and specifies when that summary is to be kept confidential by all parties; adds the complainant to the list of persons who must hold information confidential during an investigation; does not require confidentiality of the complaint after service of the complaint/accusation has been made on the accused; and, requires the attorney general to promptly notice the complainant and the subject of the complaint when a complaint is served or dismissed in certain circumstances

Bill: [HJR 38](#)
Sponsor: P. Wilson
Title: Const. Am: Increase Number of Legislators
Referrals: H STA, JUD, FIN
Content: Increases the number of senators from 20 to 24 and the number of representatives from 40 to 48; increase would apply only to plans for redistricting and proclamations of redistricting adopted on or after January 1, 2011, and to the membership of legislatures subject to those redistricting plans and proclamations.

Bill: [SJR 26](#)
Sponsor: Dyson
Title: Parental Rights Amendment
Referrals: S JUD
Content: Resolves that the Alaska State Legislature affirms H. J. RES. 42, the Parental Rights Amendment to the United States Constitution, as presented to the United States Congress by Representative Peter Hoekstra of Michigan; and urges the members of the Congress to submit H. J. RES. 42, the Parental Rights Amendment, to the states for ratification

HEALTHCARE

Bill: [HB 277](#)
Sponsor: P. Wilson
Title: Certify Emergency Use of Epinephrine
Referrals: H HSS
Content: Requires the department of health and social services to establish a program to train and certify persons to administer epinephrine in emergency situations; allows the department to adopt regulations for the program.

Bill: [HB 282](#)
Sponsor: Munoz
Title: Naturopaths
Referrals: H L&C, HSS, JUD, FIN
Content: Establishes an Alaska Naturopathic Medical Board; authorizes medical assistance program coverage of naturopathic services; and amends the definition of 'practice of medicine'. The Board will establish a list of prescription drugs, controlled substances, vaccines, hormones, and medical devices that are consistent with naturopathic education and practice that may be prescribed and administered by a naturopath holding a prescription endorsement, and review the list of prescription drugs, controlled substances, vaccines, hormones, and medical devices annually and on request by the department; approve naturopathic medical programs; implement the continuing education requirements of AS 08.45.056(e) and 08.45.058; and adopt regulations as necessary.

Bill: [HB 309](#)
Sponsor: Thomas
Title: Dental Care Insurance
Referrals: H HSS, FIN
Content: Prohibits a health care insurer who provides coverage for dental care from including in the health care insurance plan or contract a provision that sets a minimum age for receiving dental care coverage or permits an insurer to limit a fee set by a dentist for a service unless the service is covered under the insurer's plan or contract; allows a health care insurer that provides coverage for dental care to set the maximum age for a person to receive coverage for dental care as a dependent.

Bill: [HJR 35](#)
Sponsor: Kelly, Keller
Title: Const Am: Health Care
Referrals: H HSS, JUD, FIN
Content: Adds a new subsection to Article I, sec. 15 of the Constitution of the State of Alaska: No law shall be passed that prohibits a person from or that penalizes a person for making direct payment to a health care provider for tendering health care services, or that prohibits or penalizes the purchase

of health care insurance from a privately owned health care insurance company. Except for a health care system that provides indemnity and medical benefits to injured workers, no law shall be passed that compels a person, employer, or health care provider to participate in a health care system or that penalizes a person, employer, or health care provider for declining to participate in a health care system.

Bill: [SB 197](#)
Sponsor: Dyson
Title: Emergency Contraceptives
Referrals: S HSS, JUD
Content: Allows pharmacists the right to refuse to refer, recommend, or dispense emergency contraceptives; providing immunity to a pharmacy for civil liability for a pharmacist's refusal to refer, recommend, or dispense emergency contraceptives; and prohibiting discrimination in employment against a pharmacist who refuses to refer, recommend, or dispense emergency contraceptives."

OTHER

Bill: [HB 259](#)
Sponsor: Keller
Title: Adult Public Assistance Eligibility
Referrals: H HSS, JUD, FIN
Content: Add a US citizenship requirement to the eligibility criteria; appears to restrict cost of living adjustments--when benefit amounts are increased at the federal level based on cost of living adjustments the state can pass along the increase to recipients only to the extent that federal funds are provided for the federal benefit; and, requires the department of health and social services to develop and implement a random and suspicion-based alcohol and illegal drug use testing program for recipients of adult public assistance. Recipients who test positive or who refuse to be tested may have their benefits suspended or denied.

Bill: [HB 260](#)
Sponsor: Keller
Title: Medicaid: Preventive Care/Disease Mgt.
Referrals: H HSS, FIN
Content: Gives the department of health and social services authority to ask for a waiver to provide preventive care and disease management services and to provide such services if the waiver is granted and the department receives allocations for that purpose

Bill: [HB 270](#)
[HB 286](#)
[SB 238](#)

Sponsor: Munoz, Seaton
Gara, Gruenberg
Davis
Title: Medicaid for Medical & Intermediate Care
Referrals: H HSS, FIN
H HSS, FIN
S HSS, FIN
Content: Amends the eligibility threshold for medical assistance for persons in a medical or intermediate care facility from a specific dollar amount (\$1,656 a month) to 300 percent of the supplemental security income benefit rate under 42 U.S.C. 1381 - 1383c (Title XVI, Social Security Act)

Bill: [SB 198](#)
Sponsor: Dyson
Title: Liability for Failure to Report Abuse
Referrals: S HSS, JUD
Content: Increases the penalty for failure to report by adding a civil liability penalty for damages proximately caused by the failure to report

UPDATES: *Look here to track bills of interest*

COMMITTEE SCHEDULE: *Look here for committee meetings for the coming week. Bill hearings OFTEN change. If you are planning to testify it is a good idea to check the committee calendar the day of the hearing. Go to BASIS Committee schedules: http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/hearing_form.asp?session=26*

Monday, January 25th

8:00am H DHS Fin Sub Governor's FY 11 budget proposal

Friday, January 29th

8:00am H DHS Fin Sub Division of Health Care Services: Medicaid

Download legislators contact information:

<http://w3.legis.state.ak.us/docs/pdf/whoswho.pdf>

Governor's Corner: *View the FY11 Budget*

http://www.gov.state.ak.us/omb/11_omb/budget/index_FY11_Operating.htm

Read the Governor's state of the state address

<http://gov.alaska.gov/parnell/press-room/full-press-release.html?pr=5246>

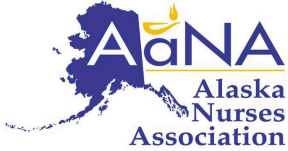
Upcoming Events:

January 30th, 10am-5pm: Alaska Women's Expo at Centennial Hall in Juneau

Free Admission. Explore fitness, food, fashion, finance, education, jewelry, employment and more—something for every woman! Presenter DeAnna Radaj, radio show host, author and owner of Bante Design will speak during the noon hour on “Top 10 Design Tips for Everyone and Every Space”. Support the Bartlett Regional Hospital Foundation and enjoy a day for Women! For more information call 463-5704

Legislative Fly-Ins

February 24-25th



March 30-31st



Contact Caren Robinson: dcc@alaska.net