

Capitol Currents

2nd Session of the 27th Alaska State Legislature

Week One / Reporting Period of January 17th — January 22, 2012
(Committee Hearings for the week of January 23)

The 2nd session of the Legislature gaveled in this past week. The makeup of both the House and the Senate remain the same as last year. For a current list of legislators and contact information, click on: <http://w3.legis.state.ak.us/docs/pdf/whoswho.pdf>

There were quite a few pre-filed bills and since then several new pieces of legislation that have been introduced. Listed below are highlights from those bills of interest.

Listed first on this report though will be any pertinent bills from last session that are scheduled for committee hearings this week. *Take note - new bills might already be on the hearing list as well.* I will also list any meetings that may be of interest.

For a current list of committees and their membership, click on:
<http://w3.legis.state.ak.us/docs/pdf/commlist.pdf>

If you are planning to testify it is a good idea to check the committee calendar the day of the hearing as sometimes a bill is rescheduled at the last minute.

The link for an updated Finance Sub-committee list will be given in a subsequent report when it is made available.

GOVERNOR'S CORNER

- Read Governor Sean Parnell's State of the State address at:
<http://gov.alaska.gov/parnell/press-room/full-press-release.html?pr=6011>

- View the FY13 Budget at:
<http://omb.alaska.gov/html/budget-report/fy-2013-budget/proposed.html>

- The 2011 Annual Report of the Alaska Health Care Commission was transmitted to the Governor and Legislature on January 15, and is now available on the web at:
<http://hss.state.ak.us/healthcommission/2011commissionreport.htm>

The next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for Thursday, March 8th along with Friday, March 9th and will be held in Anchorage. The exact location and agenda will be available in the coming weeks.

NEW BILLS 2nd SESSION / REPORTING PERIOD - thru 1/22

BUDGET

The key budget bills for this session are as follows:

Capital Budget — HB 283 / SB 160

Operating Budget — HB 284 / SB 161

Mental Health Budget — HB 285 / SB 162

ELECTIONS

HB 244 - CORPORATIONS NOT "PERSONS" IN ELECTIONS

CURRENT STATUS: (H) STA THEN JUD

STATUS DATE: 01/17/12

SPONSOR(s): REPRESENTATIVE(s) KAWASAKI, TUCK, GARDNER, GARA, Miller, Kerttula

TITLE: "An Act providing that for-profit corporations and limited liability companies organized in this state are not persons for purposes of influencing the outcomes of public office elections, initiatives, referendums, or recalls."

CONTENTS: The Title of this bill spells out what this act would accomplish.

HEALTH CARE

HB 259 - PHARMACY AUDITS

CURRENT STATUS: (H) L&C THEN FIN

STATUS DATE: 01/17/12

SPONSOR(s): REPRESENTATIVE(s) MUNOZ, P.WILSON

TITLE: "An Act establishing procedures and guidelines for auditing pharmacy records; and providing for an effective date."

CONTENT: Adds intent language to establish standards for the audit of pharmacy records and the also spells out what is involved in said audit.

HB 266 - PRACTICE OF NATUROPATHY

CURRENT STATUS: (H) L&C

STATUS DATE: 01/17/12

SPONSOR(s): REPRESENTATIVE(s) MUNOZ, TUCK, THOMPSON, Kerttula

TITLE: "An Act relating to the practice of naturopathy; and providing for an effective date."

CONTENT: Clarifies what a naturopath may prescribe, including medicine that is derived from or is a concentrate of or is an extract of a plant, tree, root, moss, fungus or other natural substance if the medicine is not a controlled substance.

HB 275 - RETIREE BENEFITS: COLORECTAL/DRUG BENEFITS

CURRENT STATUS: (H) L&C THEN FIN

STATUS DATE: 01/17/12

SPONSOR(s): REPRESENTATIVE(s) LYNN, Gara

TITLE: "An Act requiring that a policy of group health insurance offered by the state and certain local governments include coverage for colorectal screening, allow retirees to choose between brand-name and generic drug products, and limit certain prescription drug benefit payments to an amount based on the cost of the generic drug product."
CONTENTS: Increases the use of generic drugs and requires insurance policies to cover colorectal screenings for retired public employees. Brand name prescriptions would still be covered under certain conditions.

SB 144 - STATE IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM

CURRENT STATUS: (S) HSS THEN FIN

STATUS DATE: 01/17/12

SPONSOR(s): SENATOR(S) GIESSEL, OLSON

TITLE: "An Act temporarily reinstating the child and adult immunization program in the Department of Health and Social Services; and providing for an effective date."

CONTENT: The intent of this legislation is clearly stated in the Title.

SB 172 - CARE DIRECTIVES/DO NOT RESUSCITATE ORDERS

CURRENT STATUS: (S) HSS THEN JUD

STATUS DATE: 01/20/12

SPONSOR(s): SENATOR(S) DYSON, Davis, Coghill, McGuire, Olson

TITLE: "An Act relating to health care decisions, including do not resuscitate orders."

CONTENT: One provision provides additional language that a health care provider may decline to comply with an individual instruction or a health care decision for reasons of conscience, except that a health care provider may not decline to comply with a do not resuscitate order that is consistent with this chapter for reasons of conscience.

GOVERNMENT

SB 155 EXTENDING CERTAIN BOARDS & COMMISSIONS (Companion - HB 279)

CURRENT STATUS: (S) L&C THEN FIN

STATUS DATE: 01/17/12

SPONSOR(s): RULES BY REQUEST OF LEG BUDGET & AUDIT

TITLE: "An Act extending the termination dates of the Board of Nursing, the Board of Dental Examiners, the Board of Barbers and Hairdressers, the Big Game Commercial Services Board, the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board, and the Alaska Seismic Hazards Safety Commission; and providing for an effective date."

CONTENT: All documents pertaining to the companion bill are posted at:

http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_documents.asp?session=27&bill=HB279

The companion sponsor statement will reflect each new sunset date for these boards or commissions. It also provides an exemption from the provision of law that prohibits a bill from reestablishing more than one board or commission.

FLOOR CALENDAR

Another handy link is: http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/h_s_calendars.asp?session=27

By going to this site on a daily basis, you'll be able to check and see if any legislation you're interested in is scheduled for a floor vote in either the House or the Senate.

COMMITTEE HEARINGS

(S)FINANCE

Jan 24 Tuesday 9:00 AM SENATE FINANCE 532

FY 13 Budget Overview and Fiscal Summary

Legislative Finance Division Director David Teal

(H)FINANCE

Jan 24 Tuesday 1:30 PM HOUSE FINANCE 519

Overview: Dept. of Health & Social Services

(S)FINANCE

Jan 25 Wednesday 9:00 AM SENATE FINANCE 532

SB 39 - U.S. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION COMPACT

(H)EDUCATION

Jan 27 Friday 8:00 AM CAPITOL 106

HB 282 - MILITARY TRAINING CREDIT/TEMP. LICENSE

SB 8 - STUDENT QUESTIONNAIRES AND SURVEYS

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