

Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education *Legislative Update*

February 7, 2007
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Tuesday, January 16th began the 25th Alaska Legislative session in Juneau. During this session, the GCDSE is keeping you up-to-date by monitoring legislative action and tracking bills that relate to issues concerning health, education, disabilities, and service in the State of Alaska.

Senate Bill 6: Hate Crimes, Discrimination & Tolerance Program

Senate Bill 6: Establishes separate crime when a person commits a crime against a victim because of his/her race, sex, color, creed, physical or mental disability, sexual orientation, ancestry, or national origin. This also allows parallel civil actions and punitive damages against perpetrators and parents of juvenile perpetrators.

Sponsor(s): Sen. Bettye Davis (D-K) Chair (S) HES Committee, Sen. Kim Elton (D-B)

Status: 1/16 Referred to Senate Health, Education & Social Services committee

Link to Bill Text:

http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_fulltext.asp?session=25&bill=SB6



Senate Bill 9: Repeal Secondary School Exit Exam

Senate Bill 9: Repeals statute (AS 14.03.075) which requires that all students in Alaska pass the high school exam to graduate.

Sponsor(s): Sen. Bettye Davis (D-K), Chair (S) HES Committee.

Status: 1/16 Referred to Senate Special Committee on Education

Link to Bill Text:

http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_fulltext.asp?session=25&bill=SB9

Held Committee Referrals and Bill Hearings:

House Bill 18 (CSHB 18): Postsecondary Medical & Other Education Programs

Tuesday, January 30th State Capitol Heard, amended and passed out of House Health, Education & Social Services Committee and referred to House Finance Committee

- Relates to post-secondary educational services and programs for Alaska residents
- Was amended to incorporate HB55: WWAMI Program

Sponsor(s): Rep. Kevin Meyer (R-30), Bob Lynn (R-31), Scott Kawasaki (D-9) Mike Kelly (R-7), Harry Crawford (D-21)

Link to Bill Text:

http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_fulltext.asp?session=25&bill=HB18

Senate Bill 27: Medical Assistance Eligibility

Senate Bill 27: Expands eligibility for medical assistance for children under the age of 19 and pregnant women when household income is less than 200 percent of the federal poverty guideline. Allows DHSS to require premiums or cost-sharing contributions for medical assistance for children under 19 when household income is between 150 and 200 percent of poverty line. This bill also expands eligibility to people on a medical or intermediate care facility whose income while in the facility does not

exceed 300 percent of the supplemental security income benefit rate under the Social Security Act.

Sponsor(s): Sen. Bettye Davis (D-K), Chair Senate Health & Social Services Committee

Status: 1/16 Referred to Senate Health, Education & Social Services Committee

Link to Bill Text:

http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_fulltext.asp?session=25&bill=SB27

House Bill 55: WWAMI Medical School

House Bill 55: Requires the Commissioner of Education to enter agreements to provide post-secondary education services and programs from the current 10 slots to at least 20 for Alaska residents who are pursuing a medical degree through the WWAMI program. Rep. Meyer's (R-30) **HB 18** is similar in nature to this bill and both offices are agreeing to work together to expand the WWAMI program.

Sponsor(s): Rep. Mike Kelly (R-7), Harry Crawford (D-21)

Status: 1/30 Heard and Held in House Health, Education & Social Services Committee

Link to Bill Text:

http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_fulltext.asp?session=25&bill=HB55

House Bill 68: Long-Range Fiscal Plan

House Bill 68: Requires the Legislature to adopt annually a long-range fiscal plan that ensures state revenue meets expenditures in the current and next four fiscal years. The plan must include specific proposals to balance revenue and expenditures.

Sponsor(s): Rep. Max Gruenberg (D-20), John Harris (R-12), Andrea Doll (D-4), Peggy Wilson (R-2) Chair (H) HES Committee, and Robert Buch (D-27)

Status: 1/16 Referred to House Ways & Means, scheduled for hearing 02/09/07

Link to Bill Text:

http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_fulltext.asp?session=25&bill=HB68



Upcoming Bill Hearing Schedule Details:

House Bill 81: Alaska Prescription Drug Force

House Bill 81: Creates a Prescription Drug Task Force within the Department of Health and Social Services.

Sponsor(s): Rep. David Guttenberg (D-8), Sharon Cissna (D-22), Max Gruenberg (D-20)

Status: 1/16 Referred to House Health, Education & Social Services Committee

Link to Bill Text:

http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_fulltext.asp?session=25&bill=HB81

Date:

Wed. February. 7th 1:30pm

**CSHB 18 - Postsecondary
Medical & Other Education
Programs**

House Finance Committee hearing
teleconference
Rm. 519 State Capitol

Date:

Fri. Febraury 9th 3:30pm

**House Bill 68 - Long-Range
Fiscal Plan**

House Ways & Means and Special
Finance Committee hearing tele-
conference Rm. 519 State Capitol

House Bill 82: Prescription Drug Discounts

House Bill 82: Relating to prescription drug discount pricing and placing requirements on pharmacies related to prescription drugs obtained through discount pricing. Requires the Department of Health and Social Service to conduct a study pertaining to prescription drug discounts and report the results to the Legislature.

Sponsor(s): Rep. David Guttenberg (D-8), Sharon Cissna (D-22), Max Gruenberg (D-20)

Status: 1/16 Referred to House Health, Education & Social Services Committee

Link to Bill Text:

http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_fulltext.asp?session=25&bill=HB82

If you have any Questions or Comments, please contact:

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