

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

March 28, 2007
Volume 1 - Issue 7

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 services in the State of Alaska.

Current Status of Moving Bills:



Held Committee Referrals and Bill Hearings:

Senate Bill 100:

Involuntary Commitment for Substance Abuse

Tuesday, March 27th State Capitol held and heard in Senate State Affairs Committee

DHSS Senate Finance Budget Subcommittee:

Wednesday, March 28th State Capitol Budget close-out

Senate Bill 1:

Increase Amount of Base Student Allocation

Wednesday, March 28th State Capitol held and heard in Senate Special Committee on Education

House Bill 29:

Safe Haven for Infants

Wednesday, March 28th State Capitol held and heard in House HES

Senate Bill 1:

Increase Amount of Base Student Allocation

"An Act relating to the base student allocation used in the formula for state funding of public education; and providing for an effective date."

03/28 held & heard (S) SED; referred to Community & Regional Affairs

Info: http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_complete_bill.asp?session=25&bill=SB1

Senate Bill 100:

Substance Abuse/Mental Health Programs

"An Act relating to substance abuse and mental health disorder prevention and treatment programs; and relating to long-term secure treatment programs for persons with substance abuse or co-occurring substance abuse and mental health disorders."

03/27 held & heard in (S) State Affairs; awaiting next committee

Info: http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_complete_bill.asp?session=25&bill=SB100

Senate Joint Resolution 3:

Medicare Rates in Alaska

Relating to the effect of Medicare rates on senior citizens' access to healthcare; and urging the United States Congress to increase Medicare rates for Alaska.

03/26 moved out of (S) HES

03/28 referred to (S) Rules

Info: http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_complete_bill.asp?session=25&bill=SJR3

House Bill 18:

Post-Secondary & Other Edu. Programs

"An Act amending the functions and powers of the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education; and relating to the repayment provisions for medical education and post-secondary degree program participants."

3/28 passed legislature & signed by Governor

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

Senate Bill 93:

Professional Counselors

"An Act relating to licensed professional counselors; and relating to the unlicensed use of the title 'professional counselor'."

03/21 passed Senate

3/22 referred to (H) Rules Committee

Info:

http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_complete_bill.asp?session=25&bill=SB93

Senate Joint Resolution 1:

Medical Assistance for Children

Relating to reauthorization of federal funding for children's health insurance; and encouraging the Governor to support additional funding for and access to children's health insurance.

03/14 passed Senate

03/31 scheduled for (H) HES

Info:

http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_complete_bill.asp?session=25&bill=SJR1

Senate Concurrent Resolution 4:

Public Health/Health Compact

Relating to public health and a health compact.

03/28 passed Final Passage in Senate

Info:

http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_bill.asp?session=25&bill=scr+4

House Bill 29:

Safe Haven For Infants

"An Act relating to infants who are safely surrendered by a parent shortly after birth."

03/12 moved out of (H) Judiciary

03/29 scheduled for (H) Finance hearing

Info:

http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_complete_bill.asp?session=25&bill=HB29

House Bill 136:

Dental Hygienists

“An Act relating to dental hygienists.”

03/27 moved out of (H) Finance

03/28 referred to (H) Rules

Info:

http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_complete_bill.asp?session=25&bill=HB136

House Bill 178:

Employment of People with Disabilities

“An Act relating to the Governor's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities; and providing for an effective date.”

03/20 moved out of (H) HES

03/26 referred to (H) Finance

Info:

http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_complete_bill.asp?session=25&bill=HB178

House Bill 95:

Approp: Operating Budget/Loans/Funds

“An Act making appropriations for the operating and loan program expenses of state government, for certain programs, and to capitalize funds; making appropriations under art. IX, sec. 17(c), Constitution of the State of Alaska; & providing for an effective date.”

03/28 passed House & referred to (S) Finance

Info:

http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_complete_bill.asp?session=25&bill=HB95

House Concurrent Resolution: 3

Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Relating to proclaiming April of 2007 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

03/28 passed legislature & signed by Governor

Info:

http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_complete_bill.asp?session=25&bill=HCR3

House Bill 140:

Medical Assistance Eligibility:

“An Act expanding medical assistance coverage for eligible children and pregnant women; relating to the poverty guideline and cost sharing for certain recipients of medical assistance; and providing for an effective date.”

03/15 held & heard in (H) HES

Info: http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_complete_bill.asp?session=25&bill=HB140

House Bill 198:

Senior Assistance Payment Program

“An Act establishing the Alaska senior assistance payment program; repealing the senior care and longevity bonus payment programs; and providing for an effective date.”

03/22 moved out of (H) HES

03/26 referred to (H) Finance

Info:

http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_complete_bill.asp?session=25&bill=HB198

House Bill 96:

Appropriation: Mental Health Budget

“An Act making appropriations for the operating and capital expenses of the state's integrated comprehensive mental health program; and providing for an effective date.”

03/28 passed House & referred to (S) Finance

Info: http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_bill.asp?session=25&bill=hb+96

Signed by Governor this week:

Wednesday, March 28th:

Today, Governor Palin signed *House Bill 18*, relating to post-secondary and other educational programs and *House Concurrent Resolution 3*, proclaiming April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month.



Upcoming Bill Hearing **Schedule Details:**

Date:

Thu. March 29th 1:30pm
SB: 29 Safe Haven For Infants

House Finance
Room 519 State Capitol

Thu. March 29th 1:30pm
Presentation:

Healthcare in the Workplace
Senate Health, Education & Social
Services Committee
Senate Finance 532 State Capital

Sat. March 31st 12:30pm
SJR I: Medical Assistance

for Children
Senate Health, Education & Social
Services Committee
Room 106 State Capital

If you have any Questions or Comments, please contact:

Karolina Bednarska
GCDSE Legislative Intern
E-mail: Karolina_Bednarska@health.state.ak.us
Telephone: (907) 269-8462

Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education
3601 C Street
PO Box 240249
Anchorage, AK. 99524-0249