

Governor's Council on Disabilities & Special Education Legislative Update



Tuesday, January 20th began the 26th Alaska Legislative session in Juneau. During this session, the GODSE 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.

Volume 3, Issue 4

Friday, March 13, 2009

SB 112: Pre-elementary programs/plans

This bill would require the Department of Education and Early Development to develop a statewide early childhood education plan for students ages three and four. The plan would effectively and efficiently coordinate with, and/or expand existing pre-elementary programs, including Head Start. It would also build on the Board of Education early learning guidelines that support cost-efficient and optional pre-elementary programs.

Sponsor(s): Senate Education Committee

Status: 2/17 read & referred to Senate Education

Link to Bill Text:

http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_fulltext.asp?session=26&bill=SB112



Held Committee Referrals and Bill Hearings

HB 29:

Minimum Wage

March 9 heard & held
March 12 amended and referred to House Finance

SB 32:

Medicaid Rate Review

March 11 heard & held

HB 26:

Medicaid for Adult Dental Services

March 11 passed House Finance without amendments

HB 126:

Secondary Public Education of a Homeless Student

March 11 amended and moved out of House Education

SB 122: Pre-kindergarten programs, plans

This bill would require school districts to provide an optional pre-kindergarten program for students ages four and five. The Department of Education and Early Development would develop a model curriculum for the program.

Sponsor(s): Senators Davis, Kookesh

Status: 2/23 read & referred to Senate Education

Link to Bill Text:

http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_fulltext.asp?session=26&bill=SB122

HJR 16: Disabled Veterans' Procurement Preference

This resolution would ask President Obama to direct federal agencies in Alaska to fully comply with federal laws that establish a 3% preference in procuring sole-source contracts for small businesses owned and controlled by veterans disabled when in service to their country. It also calls on specific Congressional committees to hold hearings in D.C. and Alaska on the refusal or failure of federal agencies to meet the agency procurement goals and statutory contracting provisions.

Sponsor(s): Representatives Gatto, Dahlstrom, Lynn

Status: 2/09 read & referred to Military & Veterans' Affairs; 2/25 referred to Labor & Commerce

Link to Bill Text:

http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_fulltext.asp?session=26&bill=HJR16

HB 126, SB 105, SB 28: Public Education of Homeless

There are 3 bills in the legislature to help youth who are homeless receive a better education:

- **SB 28** requires that school districts, “to the extent feasible, comply with the requirements for continuing the public education of a homeless student in the student’s school of origin and for providing comparable education services during the homelessness.” The full text of the bill can be found here: http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_fulltext.asp?session=26&bill=SB28
- **SB 105** has similar requirements for continuing the education of homeless students. It also provides for tuition waivers and education loans to people who wish to attend a state-supported college and were in ‘out-of-home care’ (e.g., foster care, residential care, etc) for at least 6 months, at the age of 16 years or older. It also allows for medical assistance for youth in out-of-state care and extends independent living skills training to foster care recipients until they reach 21 years. The full text of the bill can be found here: http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_fulltext.asp?session=26&bill=SB105
- **HB 126** is the House companion bill to SB 105. The full text of the bill can be found here: http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_fulltext.asp?session=26&bill=HB126

Upcoming Committee Hearings

There are no hearings scheduled next week.

For more information, please link to:

http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/hearing_form.asp?session=26

Current Status of Bills in All Legislative Updates

Senate Bills:

SB 1: Minimum Wage

2/25 referred to Senate Finance

SB 28: Public Education of Homeless Students

1/21 referred to Senate Education

SB 32: Medicaid Rate Review

3/11 heard & held

SB 38: Pharmacy Benefits Managers, Managed Care

1/21 referred to Senate Health & Social Services

SB 44: Safe Abandonment of Infants

1/21 referred to Senate Health & Social Services

SB 61: Mandatory Universal Healthcare

1/21 referred to Senate Health & Social Services

SB 82: Medicaid for Adult Dental Services

2/04 referred to Senate Finance

SB 83: Vocational Rehabilitation Committee

2/06 referred to Senate Finance

SCR 1: Brain Injury Awareness Month—March 2009

3/11 awaiting transmittal to Governor

House Bills:

HB 9: Capital Punishment

1/20 referred to House Judicial

HB 26: Medicaid for Adult Dental Services

3/11 passed House Finance

HB 29: Minimum Wage

3/12 amended & referred to House Finance

HB 59: Pre-Elementary School Programs and Plans

1/20 referred to House Education

HB 62: Medical Assistance Eligibility / Premiums

1/20 referred to House Health & Social Services

HB 69: Early Childhood Education: Rating and Visits

1/20 referred to House Education

HB 89: Vocational Rehabilitation Committee

1/28 referred to House Labor & Commerce

HB 105: STEP

3/02 referred to House Labor & Commerce

HB 125: Minimum Wage

2/11 referred to House Labor & Commerce

If you have any Questions or Comments, please contact:

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