

Governor's Council on Disabilities & Special Education Legislative Update



Tuesday, January 20th began the first 26th 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.

Volume 3, Issue 6

Friday, April 10, 2009

Conference Committee Commenced!

HB 81 and HB 83, the operating budget bills, have moved *out* of the Senate and are now in the Conference Committee. **Thank you** for your efforts last week to let the members of the committee know what you think.

The legislative session is now in what is known as the **24-hour rule**, which means that committees are allowed to publish notice of bills to be heard just 24 hours ahead of the meeting instead of the requisite five days. Bills will be moving fast and furiously for any last-minute business as committees start to shut down at the end of this week, except for the Finance committees.

There will no longer be any chances for public testimony, although **you can still contact your legislators** personally if you have any concerns. To find their addresses and phone numbers, visit this site: <http://w3.legis.state.ak.us/index.php> and click on the House or Senate tab.

REMEMBER! Any bills that remain unpassed will go on to the next legislative session to be considered. If the bill you have been following does not pass, remember that you can still talk to your legislator about it for the second session of the 26th Legislature.

HB 206: High School Assessment/Postsecondary Class

This bill would build on the requirement for 11th graders to take the WorkKeys career assessment test by having them take it again before graduation, and putting their scores on their transcripts and graduation certificates. This motivates students to improve specific skills and make their scores meaningful for employment or college qualification.

The bill would also allow students who take and pass all three sections of the High School Graduation Qualifying Exam (HSGQE) to take college credits or vocational school credits at the expense of the school district until they graduate. This allows students to work toward a college degree while still in high school, helping to maintain academic interest and achievement after the HSGQE.

Sponsor(s): (H) Education Committee

Status: 3/25 introduced & referred to (H) Education; 4/03 heard & held

Link to Bill Text:

http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_fulltext.asp?session=26&bill=HB206



Held Committee Referrals and Bill Hearings

HB 59:

Pre-elementary School Programs/plans
April 6 heard & held

HB 9:

Capital Punishment
April 9 heard & moved out of committee
April 10 referred to (H) Finance

HB 29:

Minimum Wage
April 6 scheduled but not heard

SB 1:

Minimum Wage
April 8 **PASSED HOUSE**

SB 61:

Mandatory Universal Health Insurance
April 9 heard & held

HB 89:

Vocational Rehab Committee
April 8 heard & moved out of committee

Current Status of Bills in All Legislative Updates

Senate Bills:

SB 1: Minimum Wage

4/08 PASSED SENATE & transmitted to (H) Finance

SB 28: Public Education of Homeless Students

1/21 referred to (S) Education

SB 32: Medicaid Rate Review

4/06 PASSED SENATE
4/08 referred to (H) H&SS

SB 38: Pharmacy Benefits Managers, Managed Care

4/06 referred to (S) Labor & Commerce

SB 44: Safe Abandonment of Infants

1/21 referred to (S) H&SS

SB 61: Mandatory Universal Health Insurance

4/09 heard & held

SB 82: Medicaid for Adult Dental Services

2/04 referred to (S) Finance

SB 83: Vocational Rehabilitation Committee

2/06 referred to (S) Finance

SB 102: Raise Compulsory School Age/Truancy

3/30 referred to (S) Finance

SB 105: Foster Care/CINA/Education of Homeless

4/06 heard and moved out of (S) Education

SB 109: Repeal Secondary School Exit Exam

4/01 heard & held

SB 112: Pre-elementary School Programs/Plans

2/17 referred to (S) Education

SB 122: Prekindergarten School Programs/Plans

2/23 referred to (S) Education

SCR 1: Brain Injury Awareness Month—March 2009

3/11 signed by Governor as Legislative Resolve 2

House Bills:

HB 9: Capital Punishment

4/10 moved to (H) Finance

HB 26: Medicaid for Adult Dental Services

3/27 PASSED HOUSE
3/30 referred to (S) Finance

HB 29: Minimum Wage

4/06 scheduled but not heard

HB 59: Pre-Elementary School Programs and Plans

4/10 referred to (H) Finance

HB 62: Medical Assistance Eligibility / Premiums

1/20 referred to (H) Health & Social Services

HB 69: Early Childhood Education: Rating and Visits

4/03 cosponsor Munoz added

HB 81: State Operating Budget

4/08 conference committee appointed

HB 83: Mental Health Operating Budget

4/08 conference committee appointed

HB 89: Vocational Rehabilitation Committee

4/10 referred to (H) H&SS

HB 105: STEP

4/07 heard & referred to (H) Finance

HB 125: Minimum Wage

2/11 referred to (H) Labor & Commerce

HB 126: Foster Care/CINA/Education of Homeless

3/12 referred to (H) H&SS

HB 187: Private Autism Insurance Coverage

3/24 heard & held

HJR 16: Disabled Veteran Procurement Preference

4/06 referred to Rules

Upcoming Committee Hearings

April 11

9:00am

HB 105: STEP

(H) Finance

Room 519 State Capitol

2:00pm

HB 81 & HB 83: Operating Budgets

Conference Committee

Room 532 State Capitol

April 13

3:00am

HB 81 & HB 83: Operating Budgets

Conference Committee

Room 532 State Capitol

1:30pm

SB 105: Foster Care/
CINA/Education of

Homeless

(S) H&SS

Room 205 State Capitol

April 14

8:00am

HB 81 & HB 83: Operating Budgets

Conference Committee

Room 532 State Capitol

3:00pm

SB 32: Medicaid Rate Review

(H) H&SS

Room 106 State Capitol

Meetings are teleconferenced, and can be found at:

<http://www.ktoo.org/gavel/>

For more information about upcoming hearings, please link to:

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

If you have any Questions or Comments, please contact:

Katie Bringold

GCDSE Legislative Intern

E-mail: katherine.bringold@alaska.gov

Telephone: (907) 269-8462

Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education

3601 C Street

PO Box 240249

Anchorage, AK 99524-0249