

Governor's Council on Disabilities & Special Education Legislative Update



Tuesday, January 20th began the 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.

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Operating Budget Increments

The Conference Committee has passed its final motion regarding what is included in the operating budgets. Some increments that were discussed include:

Home and community-based service provider rate increase. Supports a rate increase for providers serving seniors and people experiencing developmental disabilities. \$1.2 million increase to the base of \$354,681,300.

Home and community-based waiver rates. Funding will allow rate increases from 4%—6% for assisted living homes. No increment included in the budget.

BTKH Technical Assistance. Funding for technical assistance, training, and on-going mentoring to improve delivery of integrated, family-driven, recovery-oriented services. The requested \$100,000 match to increase the base of \$11,341,500 was not adopted.

Infant Learning Program: Early childhood comprehensive system grants. Continues grant funding for early intervention services for young children (under age six) at risk of experiencing severe emotional disturbance (SED). The requested \$100,000 increment was not adopted.

Early learning coordination. Supports Head Start, other early learning projects. \$600,000.

Best Beginnings. Allows 40-60 new children and their families statewide to receive Head Start services. \$200,000 one time increment.

Infant Learning Program: Early childhood mental health learning network and coordinator. Funding to establish early childhood mental health learning network and provide grants for screening, intervention services. No change to the \$9,757,400 base.

Thank you for Your Efforts!

Thank you for following the 26th Legislature's progress these past few months. Starting next week, along with the results from this session, we will highlight some national bills that affect the disability community. Your attention has made a big difference in Alaska, and I hope you join us next year for the 26th legislature's second session.



Held Committee Referrals and Bill Hearings

HB 105:

STEP

April 15 **PASSED HOUSE**
April 16 referred to (S) Finance

HB 81 & HB 83:

Operating Budgets

April 11 heard & discussed
April 14 **PASSED** Conference
Committee

SB 105:

Foster Care/CINA/Education of Homeless

April 13 moved out of committee

SB 32:

Medicaid Rate Review

April 11 moved out of committee

HB 26:

Adult Dental Medicaid

April 16 referred to Rules

Current Status of Bills in All Legislative Updates

Senate Bills:

SB 1: [Minimum Wage](#)

4/16 heard & held

SB 28: [Public Education of Homeless Students](#)

1/21 referred to (S) Education

SB 32: [Medicaid Rate Review](#)

4/14 referred to (H) Finance

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](#)

4/14 long title replaced; referred to (S) Finance

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](#)

4/16 permanently filed 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**

4/16 referred to (S) Rules

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](#)

4/10 heard & moved out of committee

HB 81: [State Operating Budget](#)

4/15 PASSED

HB 83: [Mental Health Operating Budget](#)

4/15 PASSED

HB 89: [Vocational Rehabilitation Committee](#)

4/10 referred to (H) H&SS

HB 105: [STEP](#)

4/15 **PASSED HOUSE** & referred to (S)

HB 125: [Minimum Wage](#)

2/11 referred to (H) Labor & Commerce

HB 126: [Foster Care/CINA/Education of Homeless](#)

4/14 heard & held

HB 187: [Private Autism Insurance Coverage](#)

4/13 co-sponsor Rep. Kawasaki added

HJR 16: [Disabled Veteran Procurement Preference](#)

4/10 co-sponsor Rep. Tuck added

Upcoming Committee Hearings

There are no more upcoming committee hearings! The session has ended—go out and celebrate!

You can find the audio recordings for new and archived meetings 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?session=26

If you have any Questions or Comments, please contact:

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