

Legislative Update



February 16, 2024



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For Immediate Release:

Good afternoon,

Week five and most things are rolling along. This week, the Senate Finance Committee heard the following bills: SB 120: Extend Education Tax Credits, SB 91: Telehealth: Multi-Disciplinary Care Team, SB 132: Employment Tax for Education Facilities, SB 56: Ak Performance Scholarship Eligibility, SB 141: Naming Raymond & Esther Conquest Bridge and SB 24: Public Schools Mental Health Education.

The committee approved and moved the following bills to the full Senate for consideration: SB 56: Ak Performance Scholarship Eligibility, SB 141: Naming Raymond & Esther Conquest Bridge and SB 24: Public Schools Mental Health Education.

The House and the Senate met in a joint session to receive the annual address to the Legislature from US Senator Lisa Murkowski. I conveyed to her the concerns I am hearing from folks from around the state, that we, (the state and the federal government) need to work harder on making living in Alaska more affordable, from energy costs, housing, and everyday commodities, such as food. She agreed with me.

School boards from across the state visited the Capitol this week. I want to thank everyone for their advocacy and their sharing of their districts funding needs and facility maintenance issues. The Legislators and the Administration has a long road ahead to come to an agreement.

Public Testimony in Senate Finance: Next week in Senate Finance the committee will hear public testimony on SB 186– FY 25 Operating Budget, SB 187– FY 25 Capital Budget, and SB 188—FY 25 Mental Health Budget. Public Testimony will be chunked by region. On Thursday, February 22nd at 9am Alaska’s from Nome, Bethel, Kotzebue, Utqiagvik, Unalaska, & Dillingham will have an opportunity to voice your concerns or praise for what you would like to see in the FY 25 budget. Because of the sheer volume of callers handled during public testimony, Legislative Information Offices are asking to please call in by 10:15am on the 22nd to get on the record. If you can't reach your local legislative information office to testify there is an offnet options for people to call in toll free at 1-844-586-9085.



Left to Right: Madeline Aguillard Superintendent of Kuspuk School District

Josh Gill Principle at Ayaprun Elitnaurvik in Bethel

Senator Hoffman & Mrs Hoffman

Unalaska Superintendent Kim Hanisch

**Apply for you 2024 PFD Deadline to apply Is
March 31, 2024**

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