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**For Immediate Release: March 13th, 2026**

Good morning,

Today is the fifty-third day of this session. This week, the Senate Finance Committee heard and received public testimony on the following bills: SB 41: Public Schools: Mental Health Education, SB 130: Fisheries: Production Development Tax Credit and SB 274: Permanent Fund POMV Available for Appropriation. These bills remain in committee for further consideration.

The Senate Finance Committee also heard and received invited and public testimony on HB 78: Retirement Systems: Defined Benefit Option. This bill remains in committee. This bill remains in committee for further consideration. In addition, the committee received the following presentations, K-12 Major Maintenance from the Department of Education. A presentation from the State IT – Needs, Challenges and Solutions from the Office of Information Technology. The University of Alaska also presented their FY 27 Budget request to the committee.

This week, the Senate approved SB 23: Civics Education, SB 104: Vehicle/Boats Transfer on Death Title, HB 289: FY26 Operating, Capital and Supplemental Budget. These bills have now been transferred to the House for their consideration. In addition, the Senate approved the fifth extension of the 2025 West Coast Storm Disaster Declaration, HCR11.

As of today, Bethel musher, Pete Kaiser started as number 33 in the 2026 Iditarod, and he has moved up to the #7 position. Good luck Pete!

**Apply for your 2026 Permanent  
Fund Dividend. Deadline to apply is  
March 31st, 2026.**

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**Above:** Law Students from Duke University in Juneau for the Alaska Law Review.

**Left:** Constituents with SEIU 775 Union representing long term care workers, nursing home care, and residential services in the Northwest