

Legislative Update



March 8, 2024



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For Immediate Release:

Greetings,

It is day 53 of this 121 day session, almost to the ½ way point. I apologize for not having a newsletter out last week. COVID hit the building, including my office, which put our office on lock down to keep it from spreading further. Fortunately, most of my staff have tested negative this week.

This week the Senate Finance Committee heard the following bills: SB 197: Residential Building Code, SB 183: Worker's Comp Benefits Guaranty Fund, SB 189: Extend Alaska Commission on Aging, HB 120: Hunt/Fish License for Nonresident Student and SCR 10: Joint Legislative Seafood Industry Task Force.

The full Senate considered and approved the following bills: SB 24 includes mental health education in the existing K-12 health curriculum to inform students of vital information about mental health symptoms, resources, and treatment. The legislation requires the Department of Education and Early Development and Department of Family and Community Services, in conjunction with the Department of Health, to coordinate with representatives of national, state, and tribal mental health organizations to develop curriculum guidelines. In addition, the Senate considered SB 147, improves the efficiency, fairness, and predictability of Alaska's reemployment system, enhancing support for injured workers and fostering a more resilient workforce for zero-cost to the state. Key provisions of SB 147, shifts focus on return-to-work, updates reimbursement rates, and simplifies processes and reduces bureaucratic hurdles. And finally, the Senate also approved SJR 17: Extend Deadline for American Rescue Plan-Homeless Children Youth Funds. The Legislature is requesting Congress extend these funds for one-year to September 2025. These bills move to the House for their consideration.

36th Annual Coastal Conference 1A Basketball Tournament

Congratulations to the boys **Kipnuk Falcons** for prevailing against the **Tuntutuliak Blue Jays** in overtime 61-53 in a packed Warrior Dome in Bethel. The girls division show the **Napaskiak Hawks** take on the **Tuntutuliak Blue Jays** for the 1A regional title. The Hawks beat the Blue Jays 55-48.

Executive Orders

The House and the Senate have agreed to meet in Joint Session on March 12 to address the 12 Executive Orders. This is the largest number of Executive Orders ever issued by a Governor. There has been immense attention paid to these Executive Orders, with the public urging rejection of most of them. Thank you to everyone who emailed or spoke in committee hearings about your concerns and opposition to them.



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

[Welcome to the 2024 PFD Online Application \(alaska.gov\)](https://www.alaska.gov/pfd)

Senator Hoffman met with Jay Sandford from Port Alsworth
on Wednesday, February 28th, 2024