

Legislative Update



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For Immediate Release:

Good afternoon,

The Legislature is on day 60 of 121 day session. We are at the half-way point folks. This week the Senate Finance Committee heard the following bills: SB 236: Grants to Disaster Victims, SB 21 Strategic Plans for State Agencies, SB 243: Alaska Energy Authority Governance, SB 116: Associate and Professional Counselors, SB 118: Critical Natural Resources Reports and HB 148: Ak Performance Scholarship Eligibility. The committee also moved SB 127: Taxation Vehicle Rentals Subpeonas. SB 127 is now in the Senate Rules committee and is scheduled before the full Senate.

In addition, the Committee received presentations from the Department of Revenue on the annual Spring Revenue Forecast. This report informs the Legislature if revenue to the state is projected to go up or down. The committee also heard from the Division of Office and Management and Budget on the Governor's amendments to the FY25 Operating, Capital and Supplemental budgets.

This week, the Senate approved SB 68: Public Notice for State Actions/Hearings and SB 161: Tax Exemption For Farm Use Land. These bills will now be transferred to the House for their consideration.

The House and the Senate met in a Joint Session on Tuesday to consider approving or not approving Governor Dunleavy's 12 Executive Orders (E.O.) he sent to the Legislature in January. The Legislature has 60 days to approve, by Concurrent Resolution, to not allow an E.O. to go into effect. If a concurrent resolution is not approved, the E.O. becomes law. On Tuesday, the Legislature considered 12 resolutions. Four resolutions failed, thus four E.O.s become law, they are:

E.O. 125 – transfer the functions of the Alaska Council on Emergency Medical Services to the Department of Health.

E.O. 133 – transfer the functions of the Criminal Justice Information Advisory Board to the Department of Public Safety.

E.O. 134 – transfer the functions of the Recreation Rivers Advisory Board to the Department of Natural Resources.

E.O. 135 – transfer the functions of the Alaska Safety Advisory Council to the Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

The remaining eight concurrent resolutions were approved, thus **keeping** these boards and councils functioning. They are E.O. 124 – the Capture, Possession, Transport of native exotic game, **E.O. 126 – the Wood Tikchik State Park Management Council**, E.O. 127 – the Professional Standards of message therapy, E.O. 128 – the Alaska Energy Authority, E.O. 129 – the Licensure Professional Standards of barbers and hairdressers, E.O. 130 – the Board of Certified Direct Entry Midwives, E.O. 131 – the Alaska Marine Highway Operations Board, and E.O. 132 – the Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve. I would like to thank all the folks who called or sent an email in support of keeping the Wood Tikchik State Park Management Council. Your voice counts!

Monday, the Legislature will meet in a Joint Session to consider a veto override of SB 140: EDU Internet/Charter/Trans/Funding/BSA. I encourage hitting the green button!

Senator Hoffman and Senator Bishop listen to a fiscal summary update and scenarios from Legislative Finance Director Alexi Painter. Chief of Staff Tim Grussendorf for Senator Hoffman in the back ground



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