

Hot Sheet

May 16th, 2019



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MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

**Community Coffee Hour -
Reps. Wool and Hopkins
May 19th**

**11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Alaska Coffee Roasting Co.
4001 Geist Rd, Ste 2,
Fairbanks**

This is a great opportunity to tell them to stand strong for Alaskans, for a budget that works for us all.

June 1st

On this day, the Department of Administration must send out pink slip notices to public employees if an operating budget has not been passed.

BILL PASSED!

SB 75: CDL AGE

Sen. Costello's bill that lowers the age to obtain a CDL from 19 to 18 is on its way to the Governor for his signature. This bill will help put apprentices to work sooner.

Special Session

Since the House and Senate both gavelled out of the first regular session of the 31st Legislature late on May 15th without passing an operating budget among other pieces of legislation, Governor Dunleavy immediately called them into a 30 day special session that began today. The only bills up for discussion are those on the Executive Proclamation: HB 39 (Operating Budget), HB 40 (Mental Health Budget), SB 19 (Capital Budget), HB 49 (Crime bill), and a new bill on education appropriations submitted by the Governor.

HB 39/40: For the purposes of the special session, the conference committee appointed in the regular session is still handling the budget bills. They have already decided on many compromises between the Senate and House versions of the budget. This includes settling on a \$7.3 M cut to Pioneer Homes (the smallest cut), a \$40 M cut to the marine highway system, keeping funding for WWAMI, and 100% school bond debt reimbursement for example. Many important items remain open for discussion. A meeting to continue discussion on the operating and mental health budgets has yet to appear on the calendar, but will be expected soon.

****NOW IS THE TIME TO REACH OUT TO YOUR LEGISLATOR AND URGE THEM TO SUPPORT A BUDGET THAT PROTECTS ESSENTIAL SERVICES AND THAT INCLUDES A REASONABLY-SIZED DIVIDEND.****

SB 19: The Capital Budget was still in House Finance when the regular session ended. Hearings on this bill are scheduled next week in House Finance.

HB 49: The Senate's version of the crime bill was not accepted by the House. The conference committee on HB 49 was established shortly before the regular session ended. The members are Senators Hughes, Shower, and Wielechowski as well as Representatives Claman, Kopp, and Pruitt. On the very first day of the special session, this conference committee met, agreed to certain changes in the bill, and voted to move it out of committee. This means the conference committee's version of HB 49 will go before both bodies for a vote. According to House Speaker Edgmon, the House will vote on it this upcoming Monday, May 20th. This bill will have a hefty fiscal note which is not yet dealt with the operating budget.

Education Funding (SB1001, HB1001): On the first day of special session, the Governor introduced bills in both bodies that would appropriate \$30,000,000 to districts for public education and pupil transportation for FY 20 while repealing previous action taken by the legislature to forward fund education. As this is a complicated issue as to disagreements over school funding mechanisms and constitutionality, the discussions on these bills will be educational in their own right.

The Senate and House Bills

The adjournment of the regular session means that the vast majority of bills that were introduced this session will have to wait until the second regular session of the 31st Legislature to be taken up once again. We will continue to monitor all the bills from this session as well as a few new bills that were introduced right at the end:

- HB 156 : Public School and University Health Insurance - Rep. Vance
- HB 169: Occup. Licensing, Apprenticeship, Minimum Wage, Lobbying - Rep. Eastman
- HB 175: API Management Board - Rep. Spohnholz
- SB 125: Student Transportation Planning - Sen. Shower
- SB 126: School District Consolidation - Sen. Shower