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## HB 7 – Interactive Computer Service Content Restrict

1/8/2019 – Profile Released; by Rep. Rauscher

2/18/2021 – Introduced; Referred to the House State Affairs, Labor & Commerce, and Judiciary Committees

According to the title of the bill, [HB 7](#) relates to “*restrictions placed on users of interactive computer services based on content or viewpoint, and adding unlawful acts to the Alaska Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Act.*” [“[Interactive computer service](#) is defined as, “*any information service, system, or access software provider that provides or enables computer access by multiple users to a computer server, including specifically a service or system that provides access to the Internet and such systems operated or services offered by libraries or educational institutions.”]*

Under HB 7, interactive computer services that represent themselves as having neutral, impartial, or nonbiased content will be prohibited from:

- Blocking the user’s content
- Censoring the user’s content
- Banning the user from using the service
- Removing the user’s content
- Blocking or partially blocking the user or the user’s content in a way that is not readily apparent to the user
- Removing the user from a social media platform
- Requiring the viewer to take more steps to view the user’s content than are required to view the content from other users
- Removing the ability of the user’s content to earn advertising income
- Otherwise restricting the speech or content of the user on the service

New Information (1/15/2021): From a 1/13/2021 [interview](#) with Jeff Kosseff, assistant professor of cybersecurity law at the United States Naval Academy, on internet speech and the moderation of social media. The interview was largely about [47 U.S. Code Section 230](#). In the interview, Professor Kosseff stated:

*“So there are a lot of things Section 230 is not, but the most important thing is that Section 230 and the First Amendment are different. And there are many things that the First Amendment protects and has always protected. And suddenly it is being blamed on Section 230. Most importantly, the ability of a private party to decide whose speech they want to distribute. That is something that is protected by the First Amendment regardless of whether we have Section 230....And that gets to sort of my next big pet peeve about the current debate, in that I don’t, you don’t, nobody has a First Amendment right to force Twitter or Facebook or any platform to carry their speech.”*

## **HB 15 – Temporary Permits & Licenses; Military License**

1/8/2019 – Profile Released; by Reps. Thompson, Prax, Nelson, McCabe

2/18/2021 – Introduced; Referred to the House Labor & Commerce and Education Committees

[HB 15](#) requires the Dept. of Education & Early Development to issue preliminary teacher's certificates, within 30 days of receipt of a complete application, to active duty members of the armed forces or a spouse of an active duty member who meets the requirements of [AS 14.20.015](#).

HB 15 also allows for temporary permits and licenses for teachers and teacher's aides who are occupational therapists or teachers who are students enrolled in accredited occupational therapy programs. [*This section of the bill is a little complicated for me, so you should see the bill for details.*]

## **HB 17 – Discrimination: Gender ID; Sexual Orientation**

1/8/2019 – Profile Released; by Reps. Josephson, Hopkins, Tarr, Hannan, Drummond Schrage, Spohnholz, Kreiss-Tomkins

2/18/2021 – Introduced; Referred to the House State Affairs and Judiciary Committees

[HB 17](#) prohibits discrimination on the basis of gender identification, gender expression, or sexual orientation, including by the state and political subdivisions of the state.

HB 17 defines gender identity or expression as, “*having or being perceived as having or expressing a gender, self-image, appearance, or behavior that is different from that traditionally associated with the sex assigned to that person at birth.*”

## **HB 18 – Teachers: National Board Certification**

1/8/2019 – Profile Released; by Rep. Kreiss-Tomkins

2/18/2021 – Introduced; Referred to the House State Affairs and Education Committees

3/2/2021 – Heard and held in the House State Affairs Committee

3/4/2021 – Heard and held in the House State Affairs Committee; public testimony

3/9/2021 – Heard in and moved from the House State Affairs Committee; now in the House Education Committee

[HB 18](#) requires public schools to display in a prominent location the name of each teacher at that school who has achieved national board certification. It is the goal of the legislature that by the year 2025 at least four percent of public school teachers in the state will have achieved national board certification.

### **HB 19 – Limited Teacher Certificates; Languages**

1/8/2019 – Prefile Released; by Reps. Kreiss-Tomkins, Fields

2/18/2021 – Introduced; Referred to the House Education and Labor & Commerce Committees

4/9/2021 – Scheduled to be heard in the Senate Education Committee

[HB 19](#) allows the Dept. of Education & Early Development to issue limited language immersion teacher certificates, valid only in the area of expertise for which it is issued, to teach students enrolled in a language immersion program. See [the bill](#) for restrictions and requirements.

### **HB 24 – School Employee Breaks: Nursing Mothers**

1/8/2019 – Prefile Released; by Rep. Hopkins, Tarr

2/18/2021 – Introduced; Referred to the Education and Labor & Commerce Committees

[HB 24](#) requires school districts to give nursing mothers reasonable break times and a location to express milk for one year after giving birth. School districts are not required to pay teachers while they are on break, except as may be otherwise required by contract.

School districts are not required to comply with the provisions in HB 24 if the district employs fewer than 50 people and if the difficulty and expense of meeting the requirements are significant in relation to the district's financial resources and would cause the district undue financial hardship.

### **HB 25 – Public Schools: Social/Emotional Learning**

1/8/2019 – Prefile Released; by Reps. Hopkins, Spohnholz, Zulkosky

2/18/2021 – Introduced; Referred to the House Education and State Affairs Committees

3/29/2021 – Heard and held in the House Education Committee

[HB 25](#) requires the Dept. of Education & Early Development State Board to adopt statewide standards for instruction in social-emotional learning.

### **HB 43 – Extend Special Education Service Agency**

1/8/2019 – Prefile Released; by Rep. Story

2/18/2021 – Introduced; Referred to the House Education and Finance Committees

3/17/2021 – Heard and held in the House Education Committee

3/26/2021 – Heard in and moved from the House Education Committee; public testimony; Reps. Cronk, Drummond, Hopkins, Story, & Zulkosky recommended

the bill pass; Reps. Gillham & Prax made no recommendation; now in the House Finance Committee

[HB 43](#) extends the sunset date of the Special Education Service Agency to June 30, 2029. [SB 19](#) is an almost identical senate bill. The only difference is that SB 19 has a retroactive effective date in case the bill doesn't pass before the current SESA sunset date.

### **HB 48 – Alaska Performance Scholarship; Eligibility**

1/8/2019 – Profile Released; by Reps. Story, Fields

2/18/2021 – Introduced; Referred to the House Education and Finance Committees

[HB 48](#) allows Alaska Performance Scholarships to be awarded to applicants who've completed a core academic curriculum that includes career and technical education.

### **HB 49 – Appropriation: Early Literacy Programs**

1/8/2019 – Profile Released; by Rep. Story

2/18/2021 – Introduced; Referred to the House Education and Finance Committees

[HB 49](#) appropriates \$20,225,000 from the general fund for early literacy programs, to be distributed to school districts based on adjusted average daily membership. The money would be distributed over two fiscal years:

- \$10 million in FY22
- \$10,225,000 in FY23

HB 49 requires school districts to report how they used the money to the Dept. of Education & Early Development by January 15, 2022. DEED would then be required to report that information to the legislature by January 31, 2022.

### **HB 53 – Military Children School Residency Waiver**

1/8/2019 – Profile Released; by Reps. McCarty, Rauscher, Tuck

2/18/2021 – Introduced; Referred to the House Military & Veterans' Affairs and Education Committees

3/4/2021 – Heard and held in the House Military & Veterans' Affairs Committee

3/9/2021 – Heard in and moved from the House Military & Veterans' Affairs Committee; public testimony; now in the House Education Committee

[HB 53](#) requires school districts to consider students to be a resident of the district and admit the student to a public school in the district if a parent or guardian of the student is serving as an active duty member of the armed forces or a member of the National Guard and is transferred or pending transfer to a military installation in the state.



## **HB 57 – Funds Subject to CBR Sweep Provision**

1/15/2021 – Prefile released; by Reps. Josephson, Kreiss-Tomkins  
2/18/2021 – Introduced; Referred to the House Judiciary and Finance Committees  
3/17/2021 – Heard and held in the House Judiciary Committee  
3/19/2021 – Heard and held in the House Judiciary Committee; public testimony  
3/29/2021 – Heard and held in the House Judiciary Committee; public testimony  
4/5/2021 – Scheduled to be heard in the House Judiciary Committee  
4/7/2021 – Scheduled to be heard in the House Judiciary Committee

[HB 57](#) exempts numerous funds from the constitutional requirement to be swept into the Constitutional Budget Reserve at the end of the fiscal year. Included in the list of funds to be exempt are:

- The Fund for Improvement of School Performance
- The Curriculum Improvement and Best Practices Fund
- The School Construction Grant Fund
- The Major Maintenance Grant Fund
- The Public Education Fund
- The Memorial Education Revolving Loan Fund

See the [PowerPoint](#) for HB 57 for further explanation on the bill. Hearings on this bill won't be covered, but I'll keep you updated on it.

## **HB 60 – Public Schools: Mental Health Education**

1/15/2021 – Prefile Released; by Reps. Claman, Fields, Zulkosky, Spohnholz, McCarty  
2/18/2021 – Introduced; Referred to the Education and Finance Committees  
3/31/2021 – Heard and held in the House Education Committee

[HB 60](#) directs the Dept. of Education & Early Development to develop guidelines for instruction in mental health, and encourages school districts to include mental health in their health education programs. In developing guidelines, DEED must consult with the Dept. of Health & Social Services and representatives of national and state mental health organizations.

## **HB 67 – Approp: K-12 Acad. Recovery from Covid-19**

1/15/2021 – Prefile Released; by Reps. Story, Drummond  
2/18/2021 – Introduced; Referred to the House Education and Finance Committees

[HB 67](#) makes an appropriation of \$20 million from the general fund to school districts to support student recovery from academic losses as a result of COVID-19. The money will be distributed as grants to school districts based on the adjusted average daily

membership.

School districts will be required to report to the Dept. of Education & Early Development by January 15, 2022 how they used the funds, and DEED will be required to report that information to the legislature by January 31, 2022.

### **HB 68 – FY21 Fast Track Supplemental Budget**

2/18/2021 – Introduced; by the Rules Committee at the request of the Governor;  
referred to the House Finance Committee

3/3/2021 – Hearing Cancelled: ~~Scheduled to be heard in the House Finance Committee~~

3/11/2021 – Heard and held in the House Finance Committee

[HB 68](#) is the FY21 supplemental budget. [SB 48](#) is the senate version. HB 68 takes \$4 million in funding from the Higher Education Investment Fund to pay for prosecutor recruitment and housing to address the sexual assault and sexual abuse of a minor case backlog ([page 8, Project Detail by Agency](#)). The Higher Education Investment Fund was established to pay for Alaska Performance Scholarships, an initiative of Governor Sean Parnell.

The bill also contains \$928,000 for School Finance & Facilities. According to the [transaction detail](#), *“This FY2021 Supplemental need is for unrestricted general funds to address the shortfall within the School Finance and Facilities component. The School Finance and Facilities component has \$928,500 in inter-agency receipt authorization. This amount is 100% tied to the School Debt Reimbursement Program, of which \$785,000 or 85% comes from UGF and \$143,500 or 15% comes from the School Fund (DGF). When the School Debt Reimbursement program was vetoed for FY2021, all the interagency receipts became uncollectable, leaving an unintended shortfall within the School Finance and Facilities component. These funds pay for the five Facilities positions whose work is to administer school capital projects that include state funding in order to ensure cost-effective execution of projects and provides guidance to districts pertaining to school facility planning, design, construction, and operations. The Facilities section manages State of Alaska educational assets, including land and buildings. Each year the Facilities section produces the prioritized School Construction and Major Maintenance Grant Fund lists which addresses statewide needs for school capital projects.”*

There is a reduction of \$69,200 for the Technical and Vocational Education Program. The transaction detail states, *“The Department of Labor and Workforce Development (DOLWD) manages the TVEP administration, including projecting available revenue for distribution. DOLWD's revised TVEP distribution in FY2021 assumes a fund balance of \$12,623.7 [in thousands], of which \$12,102.8 is available for grant distribution. This*



*is a reduction in fund balance of \$1,731.0. The Galena Interior Learning Academy's distribution as set by AS 23.15.835(d), is \$484.1, or 4 percent of total receipts available.”*

## **HB 69 – FY22 Operating Budget**

2/18/2021 – Introduced; by the Rules Committee at the request of the Governor;  
referred to the House Finance Committee

3/1/2021 – Heard and held in the House Finance Committee; overview

3/2/2021 – Heard and held in the House Finance Committee; governor’s budget  
amendments overview

3/3/2021 – Heard and held in the House Finance DEED Subcommittee; DEED  
overview

3/4/2021 – Heard and held in the House Finance Committee; DEED, Enrollment, &  
Covid-19 relief funding overviews

3/5/2021 – Heard and held in the House Finance DEED Subcommittee; Innovation &  
Education Excellence Div. overview

3/8/2021 – Heard and held in the House Finance DEED Subcommittee; Executive  
Administration and Finance & Support Services overviews

3/10/2021 – Heard and held in the House Finance DEED Subcommittee; continuation  
of 3/8 hearing; Libraries, Archives & Museums overview

3/12/2021 – Heard and held in the House Finance DEED Subcommittee; ACPE,  
ASCA, and PTPC overviews

3/15/2021 – Heard and held in the House Finance DEED Subcommittee; Mt.  
Edgumbe High School overview

3/18/2021 – Heard and held in the House Finance Committee; reverse sweep  
presentation

3/19/2021 – Heard and held in the House Finance DEED Subcommittee; Covid-19  
relief funds overview

3/22/2021 – Heard and held in the House Finance DEED Subcommittee; early learning  
coordination

3/24/2021 – Heard and held in the House Finance DEED Subcommittee;  
consideration of amendments & governor's requested changes

3/26/2021 – Heard in and moved from the House Finance DEED Subcommittee;  
subcommittee report forwarded to the full House Finance Committee

4/6/2021 – Scheduled to be heard in the House Finance Committee; closeout reports

4/7/2021 – Scheduled to be heard in the House Finance Committee; closeout reports

4/8/2021 – Scheduled to be heard in the House Finance Committee; **public testimony**

4/9/2021 – Scheduled to be heard in the House Finance Committee; **public testimony**

4/10/2021 – Scheduled to be heard in the House Finance Committee; **public  
testimony**

[HB 69](#) is the FY22 operating budget. [SB 49](#) is the senate version of the bill. It includes

\$1,193,475,200 for the foundation formula, which is fully funded, although it's a decrease of about \$19.8 million due to projected enrollment decreases. There is \$71,435,893 for pupil transportation. The changes from the FY21 budget include a proposal for the state board to only meet in person once annually, instead of four times annually. This would save \$21,500.

There is \$1,382,100 for the Governor's Council on Disabilities & Special Education.

Some of the funding for the Dept. of Education & Early Development's operating budget includes:

- \$225,867,300 in federal funds
- \$20,791,000 in impact aid
- \$21,502,300 from the Higher Education Investment Fund

HB 69 includes \$41,771,980 for school bond debt reimbursement, and \$17,119,000 for the REAA & Small Municipal School District Fund.

HB 69 contains \$142,665,000 as an additional state contribution for the defined benefit account of the Teachers Retirement System (TRS).

Position changes at DEED from FY21 to the governor's proposed FY22 budgets are:

- Transfer position to Student and School Achievement from Executive Administration to align position with funding: Education Policy Coordinator, range 27, located in Anchorage
- Reflect non-perm position in Executive Administration component: Project Coordinator, range 18, located in Juneau
- Delete position as workload has decreased and remaining duties have been absorbed by other positions: Accounting Tech I, range 12, located in Juneau
- Transfer position to Student and School Achievement from State Systems of Support to perform work related to school effectiveness programs: Education Specialist II, range 21, located in Anchorage
- Delete position as duties have been absorbed by other positions: Head Lifeguard, range 13, located at Mt. Edgecumbe
- Transfer position to Department of Administration for Statewide Procurement Consolidation: Procurement Specialist, range 18, located in Juneau
- Delete position as duties have been absorbed by other positions: Education Associate II, range 15, located in Juneau
- Libraries, Archives & Museums, Delete vacant positions as duties have been absorbed by other positions:

- Librarian I, range 16, located in Juneau
- Museum Protection and Visitor Services Assistant, range 11, located in Juneau
- Museum Protection and Visitor Services Assistant, range 11, located in Sitka
- Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education/Alaska Student Loan Corporation: Delete vacant positions that are no longer needed:
  - Full-time Customer Service Spec III, range 13, located in Juneau
  - Program Coordinator, range 18, located in Anchorage
  - Customer Service Spec III, range 15, located in Juneau
  - Documents Processor, range 11, located in Juneau
  - Customer Service Supervisor, range 16, located in Juneau Program Assistant, range 14, located in Anchorage
  - Accountant, range 18, located in Juneau
  - Lead/Analyst III, range 18, located in Juneau
  - Loan Services Supervisor, range 18, located in Juneau
  - Customer Service Spec III, range 13, located in Juneau
  - Business Lead/Analyst III, range 18, located in Juneau
  - Program Coordinator, range 18, located in Anchorage
  - Programmer/Analyst, range 22, located in Anchorage

All the [operating budget reports](#) are on the Legislative Finance Division's website.

## **HB 70 – FY22 Capital Budget**

2/18/2021 – Introduced; by the Rules Committee at the request of the Governor; referred to the House Finance Committee

[HB 70](#) is the FY22 Capital Budget. [SB 50](#) is the senate version of the bill. HB 70 contains \$2.25 million for Teacher, Health, & Public Safety Professionals Housing. It does not contain funding for any school projects.

## **HB 71 – FY22 Mental Health Budget**

2/18/2021 – Introduced; by the Rules Committee at the request of the Governor; referred to the House Finance Committee

3/1/2021 – Heard and held in the House Finance Committee

3/2/2021 – Heard and held in the House Finance Committee

3/4/2021 – Heard and held in the House Finance Committee

3/8/2021 – Heard and held in the House Finance Committee

3/9/2021 – Heard and held in the House Finance Committee

3/17/2021 – Heard and held in the House Finance Committee

3/18/2021 – Heard and held in the House Finance Committee

4/8/2021 – Scheduled to be heard in the House Finance Committee; **public testimony**  
4/9/2021 – Scheduled to be heard in the House Finance Committee; **public testimony**  
4/10/2021 – Scheduled to be heard in the House Finance Committee; **public testimony**

[HB 71](#) is the FY22 Mental Health Budget. [SB 51](#) is the senate version. It contains the following amounts for education:

- \$627,800 for Student and School Achievement
- \$403,000 for the Governor’s Council on Disabilities & Special Education

### **HB 76 – Extending Covid-19 Disaster Emergency**

2/18/2021 – Introduced; by the Rules Committee at the request of the Governor; referred to the House Health & Social Services and Finance Committees  
2/19/2021 – House Health & Social Services Committee referral removed; referred to the House Finance Committee  
2/26/2021 – Meeting Cancelled: ~~Scheduled to be heard in the House Finance Committee, 1:30 p.m.~~  
3/2/2021 – Heard and held in the House Health & Social Services Committee  
3/4/2021 – Heard and held in the House Health & Social Services Committee; invited and public testimony  
3/9/2021 – Heard in and moved from the House Health & Social Services Committee; invited and public testimony  
3/11/2021 – Heard and held in the House Finance Committee  
3/15/2021 – Heard and held in the House Finance Committee; public testimony  
3/19/2021 – Heard and held in the House Finance Committee  
3/22/2021 – Heard in and moved from the House Finance Committee  
3/26/2021 – Passed the house by a vote of 22 yeas, 15 nays, 3 excused  
3/29/2021 – Heard and held in the Senate Finance Committee  
3/30/2021 – Heard and held in the Senate Finance Committee  
4/6/2021 – Scheduled to be heard in the Senate Finance Committee

[HB 76](#) extends Governor Dunleavy’s January 15, 2021 declaration of a public health disaster emergency in response to Covid-19 to September 30, 2021 or until the commissioner of the Dept. of Health & Social Services certifies to the governor that there is no longer an outbreak of Covid-19 or an imminent threat of an outbreak in the state, whichever is earlier. The transmittal letter states that “*The bill includes a number of important provisions to protect the public and economic health of the State residents during this unprecedented public health emergency period.*”

The Dept. of Education & Early Development will not have the authority to allow

school districts to exceed the 10 percent fund balance without a disaster declaration, because suspension of statutes and/or regulations is allowed during the time of a disaster declaration (page 6 of DEED's [FAQ for CRRSA](#) fund use).

### **HB 78 – Funding for Correspondence Programs**

2/18/2021 – Introduced; by the Rules Committee at the request of the Governor;  
referred to the House Education and Finance Committee

[HB 78](#) would increase state funding for correspondence students from 90 percent of average daily membership (ADM) to 100 percent. [SB 58](#) is the senate version of the bill. In addition, the ADM of correspondence students would be included in the funding formula before the multipliers for special needs students and secondary vocational and technical instruction are applied to the ADM of the district.

The estimated annual cost of HB 78 is \$35,544,300. Page 3 of [Fiscal Note 1](#) shows a breakdown of how much additional funding each school district will receive.

### **HB 84 – FY21 Supplemental Budget**

2/18/2021 – Introduced; by the Rules Committee at the request of the Governor;  
referred to the House Finance Committee

3/3/2021 – Meeting Cancelled: ~~Scheduled to be heard in the House Finance Committee~~

3/11/2021 – Heard and held in the House Finance Committee

[HB 84](#) makes supplemental appropriations, reappropriations, and other appropriations. [SB 68](#) is the senate version of the bill. The education appropriations in the bill are:

- \$330,000 for a Mt. Edgecumbe High School Master Plan
- \$240,000 for a Statewide School Capital Funding Forecast Database

### **HB 88 – Equal Pay & Minimum Wage Act**

2/18/2021 – Introduced; by Reps. Tarr, Spohnholz, Hopkins; referred to the House  
State Affairs and Labor & Commerce Committees

[HB 88](#) increases the minimum wage to \$15 an hour, effective January 1, 2022, and is adjusted annually for inflation after that.

### **HB 93 – G.O. Bonds: State Infrastructure Projects**

2/18/2021 – Introduced; by the House Rules Committee at the request of the  
Governor; referred to the House Finance Committee

3/30/2021 – Heard and held in the House Finance Committee

[HB 93](#) relates to the issuance of general obligation bonds for state infrastructure

projects. [SB 74](#) is the senate version of the bill. The bill totals \$356,405,952 and requires voter approval. The election would occur 90 to 120 days after adjournment of the first regular session of this legislature.

[Fiscal Note 2](#) states that of the \$356,405,952 that HB 93 would cost, \$354,632,788 is for project costs, while \$1,773,164 is for costs associated with issuing the bonds. The fiscal note analysis states:

*“This fiscal note assumes that the proposed projects will be eligible for tax-exempt financing. There may be adjustments to this assumption required after the state's bond counsel reviews the project list. To the extent projects are not tax-exempt eligible, financing costs will increase to Alternative Minimum Tax or taxable rates. Two key limits associated with tax-exempt bond issues are that an issuer must be able to track all funds, including any investment earnings on unspent proceeds, to final expenditure on an allowed public capital project and that all funds resulting from the bond issuance are expended within three years of the bond sale. Due to these limitations it is anticipated that the authorization would require careful state oversight of the proposed municipal projects and potentially require multiple bond issues. This fiscal note assumes a single bond sale that would close in July 2021 to provide funding as quickly as possible.”*

Education projects in HB 93 are ([page 2](#)):

- \$9 million for Houston Middle School replacement
- \$25 million for the Major Maintenance Grant Fund for School Major Maintenance
- \$7,882,000 for Mt. Edgecumbe High School repairs

The projects on the Dept. of Education & Early Development's most recent School Major Maintenance Grant Fund list are [here](#). There are 108 projects on the list, with a total state share of \$ \$187,285,413. They are listed in order of priority.

Replacement of Houston Middle School is not on DEED's [School Construction Grant Fund list](#). There are 17 projects on that list, with a total state share of \$162,305,916. Houston Middle School was destroyed in the November 30, 2018 earthquake that hit southcentral Alaska.

## **HB 108 – Concurrent Secondary & Trade School**

2/22/20201 – Introduced; by Reps. McCarty, Tuck, McKay, Johnson, Shaw, Thompson, LeBon, Cronk, Gillham, Kurka, Rasmussen, Kreiss-Tomkins, Vance; referred to the House Education, Labor & Commerce, and Finance Committees

4/9/2021 – Scheduled to be heard in the House Education Committee



[HB 108](#) adds a new clause to AS 14.07.020(a) that states the Dept. of Education & Early Development shall *“provide opportunities to participate in concurrent vocational education, training, and on-the-job trade experience programs to students over 14 years of age enrolled in public secondary schools.”*

HB 108 adds six new sections under AS 14.35 that establish a new state policy. The policy states:

*“It is the policy of this state to provide public secondary school students over 14 years of age the opportunity to participate in concurrent vocational education, training, and on-the-job trade experience programs from nonsectarian agencies providing industry-standard instruction.”*

One section under the new policy requires DEED to negotiate contracts with agencies providing industry-standard instruction and certifications to offer concurrent vocational education, training, and on-the-job trade experience programs for students enrolled in a public secondary school. See [the bill](#) for program requirements. One of the requirements of the programs is that they meet industry standards for apprenticeship or journeyman or equivalent certification, based on agency accredited national, regional, or programmatic instruction standards.

The bill requires DEED to enroll students in programs who are over 14 years of age who submit an application. If there is not enough room in a program for all students who apply, then students shall be selected for the program by random drawing. Schools are required to pay any tuition for the program. [*This U.S. Dept. of Labor [webpage](#) says, “Applicants for apprenticeship programs must be at least 16 years old and meet the program sponsor’s qualifications.”*]

## **HB 129 – Alaska Performance Scholarship Amount**

3/8/2021 – Introduced; by Rep. Fields; referred to the House Education and Finance Committees

[HB 129](#) changes the amount of the Alaska Performance Scholarship award to:

- First award level: an amount equal to the average annual cost of resident tuition and fees at the University of Alaska (currently \$4,755)
- Second award level: an amount equal to 75 percent of the average annual cost of resident tuition and fees at the University of Alaska (currently \$3,566)
- Third award level: an amount equal to 50 percent of the average annual cost of resident tuition and fees at the University of Alaska (currently \$2,378)

## **HB 132 – School Apprenticeship Programs; Tax Credits**

3/8/2021 – Introduced; by the House Labor & Commerce Committee; referred to the House Labor & Commerce, Education, and Finance Committees

3/15/2021 – Heard and held in the House Labor & Commerce Committee

3/22/2021 – Heard in and moved from the House Labor & Commerce Committee; invited and public testimony

4/9/2021 – Scheduled to be heard in the House Education Committee

The full title of [HB 132](#) is, “*An Act relating to technical education and apprenticeships; relating to concurrent vocational education, training, and on-the-job trade experience programs for students enrolled in public secondary schools; relating to child labor; and providing for an effective date.*” More details on this legislation will be provided after the first hearing.

Some of the documents for HB 132 are:

- [Sponsor Statement](#)
- [Sectional Analysis](#)
- [PowerPoint Presentation](#)

According to the Sponsor Statement, HB 132:

- Establishes tax credits for employers participating in Registered Apprenticeship.
- Strengthens collaboration between the Departments of Labor and Education to support apprenticeship and other career and technical education programs.
- Encourages provision of dual credit so high school students in CTE programs and apprentices have more opportunities to earn college credit while pursuing their careers.

2/24/2021: Staff to House Labor & Commerce Committee Chair Zack Fields said in an email that, “The changes eliminated Rep. McCarty’s [HB 108](#), made the tax credit refundable, and specified language so that it only [applies] to ‘certified apprenticeship’ programs. At this point, the bill expands apprenticeship programs, school to apprenticeship, dual credit, & CTE for Alaskan students.”

## **HB 147 – Rural Definition Teacher Education Loan Program**

3/24/2021 – Introduced; by Rep. Zulkosky; referred to the House Education and Finance Committees

HB 147 changes the definition of “rural community” for the Teacher Education Loan Program. The language in the bill is (with current language struck out and new language bolded):

“ ‘rural’ means a community ~~with a population of 5,500 or less~~ that is not connected by a road or rail to Anchorage or Fairbanks **or a community** with a population of 1,500 or less that is connected by road or rail to Anchorage or Fairbanks.”

### **SB 6 – RIP for Public Employees/Teachers**

1/8/2021 – Profile Released; by Sen. Kawasaki

1/22/2021 – Introduced; referred to the Education, Labor & Commerce, and Finance Committees

3/15/2021 – Heard and held in the Senate Education Committee

3/22/2021 – Heard in and moved from the Senate Education Committee; committee substitute adopted; now in the Senate Labor & Commerce Committee

4/7/2021 – Scheduled to be heard in the Senate Labor & Commerce Committee; invited **& public testimony**

[SB 6](#) allows employers to establish a temporary, voluntary retirement incentive program for defined benefit members of PERS and TRS (Public Employees’ Retirement System and Teachers’ Retirement System). The intent is to increase state savings and possibly help prevent layoffs by letting high-cost, more senior employees retire early. See [the bill](#) or the three documents posted in BASIS for more details. There are a number of documents posted in BASIS, including:

- [Sponsor Statement](#)
- [Sectional Analysis](#)
- [Legislative Research Report](#)

The Senate Education Committee adopted a committee substitute adopted directs the Dept. of Administration commissioner to deny an application by a teacher if doing so would create an undue hardship for the school district.

### **SB 8 – Pre-K/Elementary Education Programs/Funding; Reading**

1/8/2021 – Profile Released; by Sens. Begich, Kawasaki, Gray-Jackson

1/22/2021 – Introduced; referred to the Education and Finance Committees

2/3/2021 – Sens. Kawasaki & Gray-Jackson added as co-sponsors

2/15/2021 – Heard and held in the Senate Education Committee

2/19/2021 – Heard and held in the Senate Education Committee

2/22/2021 – Meeting Cancelled: ~~Scheduled to be heard in the Senate Education Committee~~

3/1/2021 – Heard and held in the Senate Education Committee; invited testimony

3/3/2021 – Heard and held in the Senate Education Committee; invited and public testimony

[SB 8](#) is this year's iteration of [SB 6](#) from last year. There are two documents posted in BASIS for SB 8: a [Sponsor Statement](#) and a [Sectional Analysis](#). The 5-page Sectional Analysis explains clearly what each section of the bill will do.

The title of SB 8 is: *“An Act relating to early education programs provided by school districts; relating to school age eligibility; relating to funding for early education programs; establishing early education programs and a voluntary parent program; relating to the duties of the Dept. of Education & Early Development; relating to certification of teachers; establishing a reading intervention program for public school students enrolled in grades kindergarten through three; establishing a reading program in the Dept. of Education & Early Development; establishing a teacher retention working group; and providing for an effective date.”*

New Information (1/15/2021): From an email from the sponsor's staff:

*“SB 8 builds off the Senate Education, Senate Finance, and House Education Committee hearings from the 31<sup>st</sup> Legislature, incorporating feedback from stakeholders, legislators, and community advocates.”*

### **SB 15 – Open Meetings Act; Penalty**

1/8/2021 – Profile Released; by Sen. Costello

1/22/2021 – Introduced; referred to the Community & Regional Affairs and Judiciary Committees

2/25/2021 – Heard and held in the Senate Community & Regional Affairs Committee

3/4/2021 – Heard and held in the Senate Community & Regional Affairs Committee

3/9/2021 – Heard in and moved from the Senate Community & Regional Affairs Committee; public testimony

3/17/2021 – Heard and held in the Senate Judiciary Committee

3/22/2021 – Heard and held in the Senate Judiciary Committee

3/31/2021 – Heard and held in the Senate Judiciary Committee; invited and public testimony

[SB 15](#) institutes a fine not to exceed \$1,000 for violations of the Open Meetings Act by members of a governmental body, including school board members. It does not apply to members of the legislature or the judiciary.

The Anchorage Daily News has a March 17, 2021 [article](#) on how this bill would affect school districts, municipalities, and local boards and commissions. It would prohibit electronic meetings; institute fines of up to \$1,000 for members of school boards, municipalities, and members of local boards and commissions who did not meet in person, who did not take public testimony in person, or who did not give proper notice

under the Alaska Public Open Meetings Act; and would require the Alaska Public Offices Commission (APOC) to investigate every complaint against members of school boards, municipalities, and local boards and commissions, incurring an estimated cost to APOC of more than \$400,000 annually.

The fiscal note from APOC states,

*"Enactment of SB 15 will require an increase in APOC staffing due to the number of boards, commissions and service areas subject to the Open Meetings Act that will be under APOC jurisdiction. For example, the State of Alaska has 133 boards and commissions, the Municipality of Anchorage has 45, and the City and Borough of Juneau has 32. Even smaller communities have boards, commissions and service areas; for example, Unalaska has 4, Bethel has 8, and Nome has 6."*

Community councils are excluded from SB 15. [AS 39.50.200](#) lists the positions that would fall under SB 15. The positions include school board members, the DEED State Board, the University Board of Regents, the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education, and the Alaska State Council on the Arts. Here's [a link to the documents](#) associated with SB 15.

Legislators and the legislature are exempt from SB 15, even though the legislature has prohibited in-person testimony since last session.

### **SB 16 – Equal Pay/Living Wage Act; Sex Discrimination**

1/8/2021 – Profile Released; by Sens. Begich, Gray-Jackson

1/22/2021 – Introduced; referred to the Labor & Commerce, Judiciary, and Finance Committees

[SB 16](#) prohibits wage discrimination on the basis of sex and increases the minimum wage to \$15 an hour, effective January 1, 2022. After that, the minimum wage will be adjusted annually for inflation.

### **SB 17 – Energy Efficiency & Policy: Public Buildings**

1/8/2021 – Profile Released; by Sen. Begich

1/22/2021 – Introduced; referred to the Community & Regional Affairs, Labor & Commerce, and Finance Committees

2/25/2021 – Heard and held in the Senate Community & Regional Affairs Committee

3/30/2021 – Heard and held in the Senate Community & Regional Affairs Committee; invited and public testimony

4/8/2021 – Scheduled to be heard in the Senate Community & Regional Affairs Committee

[SB 17](#) sets a goal that by 2026 the state will have entered into \$100 million in energy service performance contracts for public facilities, including schools, that will result in savings on energy costs. The bill requires the Dept. of Transportation & Public Facilities to perform an energy audit of each public school at least once every seven years. This excludes charter schools. The bill also has a goal that at least 50 percent of the energy used by state and state-funded facilities, including public schools, be obtained from clean energy sources. See [the bill](#) for more details.

### **SB 18 – Class Size Reduction Grant Program**

1/8/2021 – Prefile Released; by Sen. Begich

1/22/2021 – Introduced; referred to the Education and Finance Committees

[SB 18](#) directs school districts to adopt policies setting the maximum class size for each grade. SB 18 establishes a class size reduction grant program in the Dept. of Education & Early Development. See [the bill](#) for details on the grant program.

### **SB 19 – Extend Special Education Service Agency**

1/8/2021 – Prefile Released; by Sens. Stevens, Hughes, Begich, Gray-Jackson, Kawasaki, Micciche, Holland, Revak

1/22/2021 – Introduced; referred to the Education and Finance Committees

2/5/2021 – Heard and held in the in the Senate Education Committee; testimony by invitation only

2/15/2021 – Heard in and moved from the Senate Education Committee; all committee members recommended the bill pass; a committee substitute was adopted that changes the bill's sunset date from June 30, 2028 to June 30, 2029

3/2/2021 – Heard and held in the Senate Finance Committee; invited and public testimony

3/8/2021 – Scheduled but not heard in the Senate Finance Committee

3/22/2021 – Heard and held in the Senate Finance Committee

3/24/2021 – Heard in and moved from the Senate Finance Committee

3/29/2021 – Passed the senate by a vote of 15 yeas, 0 nays, 5 excused; transmitted to the house

3/31/2021 – Read for the first time in the house and referred to the House Finance Committee

[SB 19](#) extends the sunset date of the Special Education Service Agency to ~~June 30, 2028~~ June 30, 2029 (with a committee substitute adopted by the Senate Education Committee on March 15, 2021). The Senate Finance Committee increased SESA's funding from \$18.65 times the number of students in the state ADM to \$23.13 times the number of students in the state ADM (with a committee substitute adopted by the Senate Finance



Committee on March 22, 2021). SB 19 is not quite identical to [HB 43](#), as SB 19 has a retroactivity clause that makes the bill retroactive to June 30, 2021. HB 43 does not have a retroactivity clause.

There are a number of [documents](#) posted in BASIS for the bill. The [Sponsor Statement](#) states, “*SESA was created to assist Alaska school districts to serve children with low incidence disabilities. Technical assistance, provided by specialists with advanced training and specialized disability experience, is provided at no cost to school districts.*” The [Sectional Analysis](#) explains the bill sections. There is a [PowerPoint](#) from the presentation to the Senate Education Committee on 2/5/2021 by SESA. There is [an audit](#) by the Div. of Legislative Audit that analyzes SESA and recommends that the legislature extend SESA’s sunset date to June 30, 2029, the maximum allowed by statute.

### **SB 20 – Out Of State Teacher Reciprocity**

1/8/2021 – Profile Released; by Sen. Stevens

1/22/2021 – Introduced; referred to the Education and Finance Committees

3/15/2021 – Heard and held in the Senate Education Committee

3/19/2021 – Heard in and moved from the Senate Education Committee; invited and public testimony; Sens. Begich, Holland, Micciche, and Stevens recommended the bill pass

3/29/2021 – Heard and held in the Senate Finance Committee

4/6/2021 – Scheduled to be heard in the Senate Finance Committee

[SB 20](#) requires the Dept. of Education & Early Development to issue teacher certificates to people who hold a valid teacher certificate issued by another state, who have had a background check, and who have paid the required fee.

New Information (1/15/2021): From the sponsor’s staff in an email:

*“The premise behind SB 20 is to lower barriers-to-entry, to address the teacher shortage we have in Alaska. It seeks to improve opportunities for teachers legitimately certified and in good standing in other states, to be able to more readily apply their teaching credentials in Alaska, and begin teaching here more quickly. Incoming certified teachers are of course expected to continue their training in such things as AK cultural awareness and history, but SB 20 would allow a reasonable time frame to complete such work after they begin teaching in their field.”*

There are a [Sponsor Statement](#) and a [Sectional Analysis](#) posted in BASIS.

## **SB 32 – College Credit For High School Students**

1/8/2021 – Profile Released; by Sen. Stevens, Micciche, Gray-Jackson, Costello, Begich, Wielechowski, Reinbold, Kawasaki

1/25/2021 – Introduced; referred to the Education and Finance Committees

3/8/2021 – Heard and held in the Senate Education Committee

3/17/2021 – Heard in and moved from the Senate Education Committee; invited and public testimony; Sens. Begich, Holland, Hughes, Micciche, and Stevens recommended the bill pass

3/22/2021 – Heard and held in the Senate Finance Committee; invited and public testimony

3/29/2021 – Heard in and moved from the Senate Finance Committee; committee substitute requires UA to make Middle College program available to school districts, but doesn't require school districts to participate; Sens. Bishop, Stedman, Wielechowski, & Wilson recommended the bill pass

4/7/2021 – Will be in 3<sup>rd</sup> reading on the Senate Calendar and up for final passage

[SB 32](#) establishes the Alaska middle college program, allowing students to enroll in University of Alaska courses and earn dual credit. The bill requires the university to enter into agreements with school districts that have eligible students interested in participating in the program. However, the agreement can be that school districts will not have a middle college program, so the bill doesn't make programs mandatory.

An agreement between the university and a school district must outline how costs will be shared between the university and the school district. See [the bill](#) for details on student eligibility and course and instructor requirements.

SB 32 requires the Dept. of Education & Early Development annual report to the legislature to include information on the Alaska middle college program.

There is a [Sponsor Statement](#) and a [Sectional Analysis](#) posted in BASIS, along with [a number of documents](#).

3/29/2021: The Senate Finance Committee adopted a committee substitute that requires the University of Alaska to make their Middle College Program available to school districts, but school districts are not required to participate in the program.

## **SB 34 – State-Tribal Education Compact Schools**

1/8/2021 – Profile Released; by Sen. Stevens

1/25/2021 – Introduced; referred to the Education and Judiciary Committees

[SB 34](#) allows the commissioner of the Dept. of Education & Early Development to

enter into compacts with federally recognized tribes in the state for the establishment of state-tribal education compact schools. [The bill](#) lays out the process for establishing compacts, funding, and rules governing the schools.

State-tribal education compact schools may not charge tuition and may not limit admission other than by age group, grade level, or capacity, but they may give preference to tribal members and siblings of already enrolled students if there are more applicants for admission than there is capacity. State-tribal education compact schools are required to provide special education and related services for children with disabilities.

Under SB 34, employees of state-tribal education compact schools are state employees, and the school may give employment preference to members of federally recognized tribes.

### **SB 36 – University of Alaska Regents Reporting Requirements**

1/25/2021 – Introduced; referred to the Senate Education and Finance Committees; by Sens. Stevens, Hughes, Micciche, Costello, Wielechowski, Begich, Gray-Jackson

3/8/2021 – Heard and held in the Senate Education Committee

3/17/2021 – Heard in and moved from the Senate Education Committee; invited and public testimony; Sens. Begich, Holland, Hughes, Micciche, and Stevens recommended the bill pass

3/22/2021 – Heard and held in the Senate Finance Committee; invited and public testimony

3/29/2021 – Heard in and moved from the Senate Finance Committee

4/7/2021 – Will be in 3<sup>rd</sup> reading on the Senate Calendar and up for final passage

[SB 36](#) institutes new reporting requirements for the University of Alaska. The [Sectional Analysis](#) and [the bill](#) show that:

- Section 1: Adds to existing statute that the report on teacher training and retention that is submitted to the legislature every two years (by the 30<sup>th</sup> legislative day of the first regular session) be given to the senate secretary and the chief clerk of the house of representatives, and that the legislature be notified that the report is available.
- Section 2: Requires the University of Alaska to submit ~~a semiannual report on the status of all its accreditations to the legislature by the 30<sup>th</sup> legislative day of each regular session and on or by July 1 of each year.~~ a report to the legislature every other year on the status of its accreditations (changed with the adoption of the Senate Education Committee substitute).
- The University of Alaska will be required to present the accreditation reports to the legislature during a hearing.

## **SB 37 – Teachers & Public Employees Retirement Plans**

1/8/2021 – Profile Released; by Sen. Kiehl

1/25/2021 – Introduced; referred to the Labor & Commerce and Finance Committees

[SB 37](#) allows certain employees of PERS and TRS to choose between a defined contribution or a defined benefit retirement plan.

The bill also allows restoration of tenure rights in the district from which a teacher was retired due to a disability under [AS 14.25.130](#) if the disability has been removed or the teacher's health has been restored by rehabilitation, restorative education, or training. Tenure rights will be restored at such time as an opening for which the teacher is qualified becomes available. See the bill for more details.

## **SB 39 – Ballot Custody/Tampering; Voter Reg; Mail**

1/8/2021 – Profile Released; by Sen. Shower

1/25/2021 – Introduced; referred to the State Affairs and Judiciary Committees

1/28/2021 – Heard and held in the Senate State Affairs Committee

2/2/2021 – Heard and held in the Senate State Affairs Committee

2/9/2021 – Heard and held in the Senate State Affairs Committee

2/11/2021 – Heard and held in the Senate State Affairs Committee

2/16/2021 – Heard and held in the Senate State Affairs Committee

2/18/2021 – Meeting cancelled: Senate State Affairs Committee

2/25/2021 – Heard and held in the Senate State Affairs Committee

3/16/2021 – Heard and held in the Senate State Affairs Committee

3/18/2021 – Scheduled but not heard in the Senate State Affairs Committee

3/30/2021 – Scheduled but not heard in the Senate State Affairs Committee

4/8/2021 – Scheduled to be heard in the Senate State Affairs Committee

There are seven documents for [SB 39](#) in BASIS: A [Sponsor Statement](#), a [Sectional Analysis](#) from the sponsor, a [Sectional Analysis](#) from Legislative Legal Services, and [four fiscal notes](#). Some of the things SB 39 would do are:

- Nullify [Ballot Measure 1](#) from 2016, ending automatic voter registration when people apply for a Permanent Fund Dividend. [*Ballot Measure 1 was approved by a vote of 158,392 votes for the measure, and 90,284 votes against it.*]
- Prohibit elections from being certified until each original ballot and record is accounted for.
- Prohibit absentee voting by fax.
- Require a witness signature on absentee ballots.
- Criminalize ballot collection except in very limited circumstances. Exceptions are a person may collect a ballot from one other person who is a family member,

household member, or a caregiver of the voter. [*The 9<sup>th</sup> U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals [ruled a similar law](#) in Arizona unconstitutional. The U.S. Supreme Court [will hear arguments](#) in the case on March 2.*]

- Prohibit municipalities, with the exception of home rule municipalities, from having by-mail elections.
- Section 25 of the bill repeals provisions in statute authorizing the director of the Div. of Elections to conduct elections held at a time other than the general, party primary, or municipal election by mail. [***I believe this would ban REAA elections run by the Div. of Elections, but I want to emphasize that I've been unable to get confirmation on that.***]
  - REAA school districts that have elections by mail which are conducted by the Div. of Elections, and that would be affected by this are:
    - REAA 5 Section III of the Kuspuk School District
    - REAA 12 Section III of the Yukon-Koyukuk School District
    - REAA 13 Sections I & III of the Yukon Flats School District
    - REAA 16 Sections I – III of the Alaska Gateway School District
    - REAA 17, Copper River School District

2/14/2021: There have been no other documents posted in BASIS that clarify whether or not Section 25 would impact REAA elections. I will keep you updated as to whether SB 39 affects REAA elections or not, but won't be covering hearings on the bill.

## **SB 42 – Virtual and Early Education; Reading**

1/15/2021 – Profile Released; by Sen. Hughes

1/25/2021 – Introduced; referred to the Education and Finance Committees

2/15/2021 – Heard and held in the Senate Education Committee

2/19/2021 – Scheduled but not heard in the Senate Education Committee

2/22/2021 – Meeting Cancelled: ~~Scheduled to be heard in the Senate Education Committee~~

The full title of [SB 42](#) is:

*“An Act relating to early education programs provided by school districts; relating to course credit for students; relating to annual reports regarding school district performance and school district employees; relating to school age eligibility; relating to funding for early education programs; establishing early education programs and a voluntary parent program; relating to the duties and powers of the Department of Education and Early Development; relating to school operating fund reserves; relating to certification of teachers; relating to the Professional Teaching Practices Commission; relating to a virtual education consortium; establishing a reading intervention program for public school*

*students enrolled in grades kindergarten through three; establishing a reading program in the Department of Education and Early Development; establishing a teacher retention working group; and providing for an effective date.”*

This is the same bill that Sen. Hughes introduced in 2019 as [SB 79](#), which was then rolled into [SB 114](#), neither of which passed the legislature.

2/14/2021: There are now a number of [documents](#) associated with SB 42, including a [Sponsor Statement](#), a [Sectional Analysis](#), and six fiscal notes.

### **SB 48 – FY21 Fast Track Supplemental Budget**

1/25/2021 – Introduced; by the Rules Committee at the request of the Governor; referred to the Finance Committee

[SB 48](#) is the FY21 supplemental budget. SB 48 takes \$4 million in funding from the Higher Education Investment Fund to pay for prosecutor recruitment and housing to address the sexual assault and sexual abuse of a minor case backlog ([page 8, Project Detail by Agency](#)). The Higher Education Investment Fund was established to pay for Alaska Performance Scholarships, an initiative of Governor Sean Parnell.

The bill also contains \$928,000 for School Finance & Facilities. According to the [transaction detail](#), *“This FY2021 Supplemental need is for unrestricted general funds to address the shortfall within the School Finance and Facilities component. The School Finance and Facilities component has \$928,500 in inter-agency receipt authorization. This amount is 100% tied to the School Debt Reimbursement Program, of which \$785,000 or 85% comes from UGF and \$143,500 or 15% comes from the School Fund (DGF). When the School Debt Reimbursement program was vetoed for FY2021, all the interagency receipts became uncollectable, leaving an unintended shortfall within the School Finance and Facilities component. These funds pay for the five Facilities positions whose work is to administer school capital projects that include state funding in order to ensure cost-effective execution of projects and provides guidance to districts pertaining to school facility planning, design, construction, and operations. The Facilities section manages State of Alaska educational assets, including land and buildings. Each year the Facilities section produces the prioritized School Construction and Major Maintenance Grant Fund lists which addresses statewide needs for school capital projects.”*

There is a reduction of \$69,200 for the Technical and Vocational Education Program. The transaction detail states, *“The Department of Labor and Workforce Development (DOLWD) manages the TVEP administration, including projecting available revenue for distribution. DOLWD's revised TVEP distribution in FY2021 assumes a fund balance*



*of \$12,623.7 [in thousands], of which \$12,102.8 is available for grant distribution. This is a reduction in fund balance of \$1,731.0. The Galena Interior Learning Academy's distribution as set by AS 23.15.835(d), is \$484.1, or 4 percent of total receipts available.”*

## **SB 49 – FY22 Operating Budget**

- 1/25/2021 – Introduced; by the Rules Committee at the request of the Governor;  
referred to the Senate Finance Committee
- 2/9/2021 – Heard and held in the Senate Finance Committee
- 2/11/2021 – Heard and held in the Senate Finance Committee; DEED FY22 budget  
overview & formula walk-through
- 2/18/2021 – Heard and held in the Senate Finance DEED Subcommittee
- 2/25/2021 – Meeting Cancelled: ~~Scheduled to be heard in the Senate Finance DEED  
Subcommittee~~
- 3/2/2021 – Heard and held in the Senate Finance DEED Subcommittee
- 3/4/2021 – Meeting Cancelled: ~~Scheduled to be heard in the Senate Finance DEED  
Subcommittee~~
- 3/9/2021 – Meeting Cancelled: ~~Scheduled to be heard in the Senate Finance DEED  
Subcommittee~~
- 3/11/2021 – Meeting Cancelled: ~~Scheduled to be heard in the Senate Finance DEED  
Subcommittee~~
- 3/17/2021 – Heard and held in the Senate Finance Committee; public testimony
- 3/18/2021 – Heard and held in the Senate Finance Committee; public testimony

[SB 49](#) is the FY22 operating budget. It includes \$1,193,475,200 for the foundation formula, which is fully funded, although it's a decrease of about \$19.8 million due to projected enrollment decreases. There is \$71,435,893 for pupil transportation. The changes from the FY21 budget include a proposal for the state board to only meet in person once annually, instead of four times annually. This would save \$21,500.

There is \$1,382,100 for the Governor's Council on Disabilities & Special Education.

Some of the funding for the Dept. of Education & Early Development's operating budget includes:

- \$225,867,300 in federal funds
- \$20,791,000 in impact aid
- \$21,502,300 from the Higher Education Investment Fund

SB 49 includes \$41,771,980 for school bond debt reimbursement, and \$17,119,000 for the REAA & Small Municipal School District Fund.

SB 49 contains \$142,665,000 as an additional state contribution for the defined benefit account of the Teachers Retirement System (TRS).

Position changes at DEED from FY21 to the governor's proposed FY22 budgets are:

- Transfer position to Student and School Achievement from Executive Administration to align position with funding: Education Policy Coordinator, range 27, located in Anchorage
- Reflect non-perm position in Executive Administration component: Project Coordinator, range 18, located in Juneau
- Delete position as workload has decreased and remaining duties have been absorbed by other positions: Accounting Tech I, range 12, located in Juneau
- Transfer position to Student and School Achievement from State Systems of Support to perform work related to school effectiveness programs: Education Specialist II, range 21, located in Anchorage
- Delete position as duties have been absorbed by other positions: Head Lifeguard, range 13, located at Mt. Edgecumbe
- Transfer position to Department of Administration for Statewide Procurement Consolidation: Procurement Specialist, range 18, located in Juneau
- Delete position as duties have been absorbed by other positions: Education Associate II, range 15, located in Juneau
- Libraries, Archives & Museums, Delete vacant positions as duties have been absorbed by other positions:
  - Librarian I, range 16, located in Juneau
  - Museum Protection and Visitor Services Assistant, range 11, located in Juneau
  - Museum Protection and Visitor Services Assistant, range 11, located in Sitka
- Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education/Alaska Student Loan Corporation: Delete vacant positions that are no longer needed:
  - Full-time Customer Service Spec III, range 13, located in Juneau
  - Program Coordinator, range 18, located in Anchorage
  - Customer Service Spec III, range 15, located in Juneau
  - Documents Processor, range 11, located in Juneau
  - Customer Service Supervisor, range 16, located in Juneau Program Assistant, range 14, located in Anchorage
  - Accountant, range 18, located in Juneau
  - Lead/Analyst III, range 18, located in Juneau
  - Loan Services Supervisor, range 18, located in Juneau
  - Customer Service Spec III, range 13, located in Juneau
  - Business Lead/Analyst III, range 18, located in Juneau

- Program Coordinator, range 18, located in Anchorage
- Programmer/Analyst, range 22, located in Anchorage

All the [operating budget reports](#) are on the Legislative Finance Division's website.

2/11/2021: There are a large number of [documents](#) posted in BASIS that are associated with this Senate Finance Committee hearing on DEED's FY22 operating budget and funding that school districts have received through the CARES and CRRSA Acts.

### **SB 50 – FY22 Capital Budget**

- 1/25/2021 – Introduced; by the Rules Committee at the request of the Governor; referred to the Finance Committee
- 2/3/2021 – Heard and held in the Senate Finance Committee
- 3/17/2021 – Heard and held in the Senate Finance Committee; public testimony
- 3/18/2021 – Heard and held in the Senate Finance Committee; public testimony

[SB 50](#) is the FY22 Capital Budget. SB 50 contains \$2.25 million for Teacher, Health, & Public Safety Professionals Housing. It does not contain funding for any school projects.

### **SB 51 – FY22 Mental Health Budget**

- 1/25/2021 – Introduced; by the Rules Committee at the request of the Governor; referred to the Finance Committee
- 2/9/2021 – Heard and held in the Senate Finance Committee
- 3/17/2021 – Heard and held in the Senate Finance Committee; public testimony
- 3/18/2021 – Heard and held in the Senate Finance Committee; public testimony

[SB 51](#) is the FY22 Mental Health Budget. It contains the following amounts for education:

- \$627,800 for Student and School Achievement
- \$403,000 for the Governor's Council on Disabilities & Special Education

### **SB 56 – Extending Covid-19 Disaster Emergency**

- 1/25/2021 – Introduced; by the Rules Committee at the request of the Governor; referred to the Health & Social Services, Labor & Commerce, and Finance Committees
- 2/2/2021 – Heard and held in the Senate Health & Social Services Committee
- 2/4/2021 – Heard and held in the Senate Health & Social Services Committee
- 2/8/2021 – Scheduled but not heard in the Senate Labor & Commerce Committee
- 2/9/2021 – Heard in and moved from the Senate Health & Social Services Committee
- 2/10/2021 – Heard in and moved from the Senate Labor & Commerce Committee

2/12/2021 – Floor motion to discharge SB 56 from the Senate Finance Committee failed by a vote of 6 yeas, 11 nays

2/15/2021 – Meeting Cancelled: ~~Scheduled to be heard in the Senate Finance Committee~~

3/24/2021 – Heard and held in the Senate Finance Committee

3/29/2021 – Heard and held in the Senate Finance Committee

SB 56 extends Governor Dunleavy's January 15, 2021 declaration of a public health disaster emergency in response to Covid-19 to September 30, 2021 or until the commissioner of the Dept. of Health & Social Services certifies to the governor that there is no longer an outbreak of Covid-19 or an imminent threat of an outbreak in the state, whichever is earlier. The transmittal letter states that "*The bill includes a number of important provisions to protect the public and economic health of the State residents during this unprecedented public health emergency period.*"

The Dept. of Education & Early Development will not have the authority to allow school districts to exceed the 10 percent fund balance without a disaster declaration, because suspension of statutes and/or regulations is allowed during the time of a disaster declaration (page 6 of DEED's [FAQ for CRRSA](#) fund use).

### **SB 58 – Funding for Correspondence Programs**

1/29/2021 – Introduced; by the Rules Committee at the request of the Governor; referred to the Education and Finance Committees

3/5/2021 – Heard and held in the Senate Education Committee

[SB 58](#) would increase state funding for correspondence students from 90 percent of average daily membership (ADM) to 100 percent. In addition, the ADM of correspondence students would be included in the funding formula before the multipliers for special needs students and secondary vocational and technical instruction are applied to the ADM of the district.

The estimated annual cost of SB 58 is \$35,544,300. Page 3 of [Fiscal Note 1](#) shows a breakdown of how much additional funding each school district will receive.

### **SB 68 – FY21 Supplemental Budget**

2/3/2021 – Introduced; by the Rules Committee at the request of the Governor; referred to Finance Committee

2/8/2021 – Heard and held in the Senate Finance Committee

[SB 68](#) makes supplemental appropriations, reappropriations, and other appropriations. The education appropriations in the bill are:

- \$330,000 for a Mt. Edgecumbe High School Master Plan
- \$240,000 for a Statewide School Capital Funding Forecast Database

### **SB 72 – Secondary School Civics Education**

2/5/2021 – Introduced; by Sens. Stevens, Begich, Hughes, Micciche; referred to the Education and Community & Regional Affairs Committees

3/10/2021 – Heard and held in the Senate Education Committee

3/19/2021 – Heard and held in the Senate Education Committee; invited and public testimony

3/24/2021 – Heard in and moved from the Senate Education Committee; committee substitute adopted; all members recommend the bill pass

3/30/2021 – Heard and held in the Senate Community & Regional Affairs Committee

4/8/2021 – Scheduled to be heard in the Senate Community & Regional Affairs Committee; invited & public testimony

~~SB 72 requires students to get at least 60 percent of the 128 questions of the civics portion of the U.S. naturalization test correct in order to graduate from high school. If a student meets the requirements of SB 72, schools must document that on the student's transcript. A student with a disability may receive a waiver from this requirement from the governing body.~~

~~SB 72 also requires the Dept. of Education & Early Development State Board to include in its annual report to the legislature a description of the civics education curriculum in the state public school system and the passage rate of the examination required by SB 72. The bill has an effective date of July 1, 2022.~~

3/24/2021: The Senate Education Committee adopted a committee substitute that rewrote SB 72. **The bill now:**

- Requires the DEED State Board to develop and periodically review a statewide civics education curriculum and assessment that include government, citizenship, and the history of systems of government used in the United States and the state.
- The curriculum and assessment must include systems of government used by Alaska Natives.
- Districts may use the curriculum to educate students in civics.
- Students are required to take the exam in order to graduate, but there is no minimum required score. Students with a disability may receive a waiver from taking the exam.
- If a student has taken the assessment that must be noted on the student's transcript.
- Districts must report to the state:

- Which civics classes are offered in their district, and
- Data on student performance on the assessment.
- The DEED State Board must report to the legislature:
  - A description of the state civics education curriculum,
  - The civics courses that are offered in each school district, and
  - Student performance on the assessment, by district.

## **SB 74 – G.O. Bonds: State Infrastructure Projects**

2/5/2021 – Introduced; by the Senate Rules Committee at the request of the Governor; referred to the Transportation and Finance Committees

2/25/2021 – Meeting Cancelled: ~~Scheduled to be heard in the Sen. Transportation Committee~~

3/2/2021 – Heard and held in the Sen. Transportation Committee

3/9/2021 – Heard and held in the Sen. Transportation Committee

3/11/2021 – Heard and held in the Sen. Transportation Committee; public testimony

3/18/2021 – Heard and held in the Sen. Transportation Committee

3/23/2021 – Heard in and moved from the Sen. Transportation Committee; the bill is now in the Senate Finance Committee

[SB 74](#) relates to the issuance of general obligation bonds for state infrastructure projects. The bill totals \$356,405,952 and requires voter approval. The election would occur 90 to 120 days after adjournment of the first regular session of this legislature.

3/23/2021: the Senate Transportation Committee moved SB 74 with a committee substitute that changed the school projects from the top \$25 million in projects on the School Major Maintenance List to cherry picking certain projects from the list. The changes to the bill were made in an amendment sponsored by committee chair Sen. Robert Myers. The projects chosen from the list were projects 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 12, 16, and 18. You can view [the entire list here](#). Here's a [link to the amendment](#) that made those changes. The amendment is on pages 5 and 6. In addition to the projects from the Major Maintenance List, the bill still contains funding for Houston Middle School Replacement and Mt. Edgecumbe High School repairs.

[Fiscal Note 2](#) states that of the \$356,405,952 that SB 74 would cost, \$354,632,788 is for project costs, while \$1,773,164 is for costs associated with issuing the bonds. The fiscal note analysis states:

*“This fiscal note assumes that the proposed projects will be eligible for tax-exempt financing. There may be adjustments to this assumption required after the state's bond counsel reviews the project list. To the extent projects are not tax-exempt eligible, financing costs will increase to Alternative Minimum Tax or taxable rates. Two key limits associated with tax-exempt bond issues are that an*



*issuer must be able to track all funds, including any investment earnings on unspent proceeds, to final expenditure on an allowed public capital project and that all funds resulting from the bond issuance are expended within three years of the bond sale. Due to these limitations it is anticipated that the authorization would require careful state oversight of the proposed municipal projects and potentially require multiple bond issues. This fiscal note assumes a single bond sale that would close in July 2021 to provide funding as quickly as possible.”*

Education projects in SB 74 are ([page 2](#)):

- \$9 million for Houston Middle School replacement
- \$25 million for the Major Maintenance Grant Fund for School Major Maintenance (The Sen. Transportation Committee substitute named specific projects on the
- \$7,882,000 for Mt. Edgecumbe High School repairs

The projects on the Dept. of Education & Early Development’s most recent School Major Maintenance Grant Fund list are [here](#). There are 108 projects on the list, with a total state share of \$ \$187,285,413. They are listed in order of priority.

Replacement of Houston Middle School is not on DEED’s [School Construction Grant Fund list](#). There are 17 projects on that list, with a total state share of \$162,305,916. Houston Middle School was destroyed in the November 30, 2018 earthquake that hit southcentral Alaska.

#### **SB 80 – Public Schools: Mental Health Education**

2/12/2021 – Introduced; by Sen. Gray-Jackson; referred to the Senate Education, Health & Social Services, and Finance Committees

3/10/2021 – Heard and held in the Senate Education Committee

3/19/2021 – Heard and held in the Senate Education Committee; invited and public testimony

3/22/2021 – Heard in and moved from the Senate Education Committee with a committee substitute

4/6/2021 – Scheduled to be heard in the Senate Health & Social Services Committee; invited & **public testimony**

[SB 80](#) is identical to [HB 60](#). The bill directs the Dept. of Education & Early Development to develop guidelines for instruction in mental health, and encourages school districts to include mental health in their health education programs. In developing guidelines, DEED must consult with the Dept. of Health & Social Services and representatives of national and state mental health organizations and Tribal health organizations.

3/22/2021: The Senate Education Committee substitute removes the names of specific organizations that will be consulted and just specifies that representatives of national and state mental health organizations and Tribal health organizations will be consulted.

### **SB 111 – Early Education; Reading Intervention**

3/24/2021 – Introduced; by the Senate Education Committee; referred to the Senate Education and Finance Committees

3/26/2021 – Heard and held in the Senate Education Committee

3/29/2021 – Heard and held in the Senate Education Committee

3/31/2021 – Heard and held in the Senate Education Committee

4/7/2021 – Scheduled to be heard in the Senate Education Committee; invited & public testimony

4/9/2021 – Scheduled to be heard in the Senate Education Committee; invited & public testimony

4/10/2021 – Scheduled to be heard in the Senate Education Committee; public testimony

See the [Sponsor Statement](#) and [Sectional Analysis](#) for information on [SB 111](#). The bill is intended to replace two other reading/Pre-K/virtual education bills: [SB 8](#) (Sen. Begich’s bill) and [SB 42](#) (Sen. Hughes’s bill).

### **SB 112 – Student Transportation Planning**

3/26/2021 – Introduced; by Sen. Shower; referred to the Senate Education and Transportation Committees

[SB 112](#) states that pupil transportation regulations adopted by the Dept. of Education & Early Development “*must require implementation of a bus logistics plan that increases efficiency of school transportation using an airline or other private sector spoke and wheel type of model to reduce multiple individual runs on the same routes and proactive planning of school schedules to ensure maximum efficiency.*”

### **SJR 10 – Constitutional Amendment: In-Person Public Education**

2/3/2021 – Introduced; Sen. Costello; referred to the Senate Education and Judiciary Committees

[SJR 10](#) adds to the Alaska Constitution a provision stating that, “*Public schools shall provide the opportunity for in-person education unless a disaster declaration is in effect.*”

A constitutional amendment must pass each body of the legislature by a two-thirds vote:

27 people in the house, and 14 people in the senate. If it passes the legislature, it will then be placed on the ballot at the next general election, at which it must get a majority of the votes cast.