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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

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

[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 – Profile Released; by Reps. Kreiss-Tomkins, Fields

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

[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 – Profile 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 – Profile Released; by Rep. Hopkins

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

[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 – Profile Released; by Rep. Story

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

3/17/2021 – Scheduled to be heard in the House Education 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

[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 60 – Public Schools: Mental Health Education

1/15/2021 – Profile Released; by Reps. Claman, Fields

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

[HB 60](#) is identical to [SB 80](#). 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.

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 – Scheduled to be heard in the House Finance DEED Subcommittee; Mt. Edgecumbe High School overview

3/18/2021 – Scheduled to be heard in the House Finance Committee; reverse sweep presentation

3/19/2021 – Scheduled to be heard in the House Finance DEED Subcommittee; Covid-19 relief funds overview

[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 – Scheduled to be heard in the House Finance Committee

3/18/2021 – Scheduled to be heard in the House Finance Committee

[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 – Scheduled to be heard in the House Finance Committee; **PUBLIC TESTIMONY**

[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; 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

[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, McCabe, Cronk, Gillham, Rauscher, Kurka, Merrick, Rasmussen, Kreiss-Tomkins; referred to the House Education, Labor & Commerce, and Finance Committees

[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 – Scheduled to be heard in the House Labor & Commerce 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.

SB 6 – RIP for Public Employees/Teachers

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

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

3/15/2021 – Scheduled to be heard in the Senate Education Committee

[SB 6](#) allows employers to establish a retirement incentive program for defined benefit members of PERS and TRS (Public Employees' Retirement System and Teachers' Retirement System). See [the bill](#) for details.

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

1/8/2021 – Prefile 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 31st Legislature, incorporating feedback from stakeholders, legislators, and community advocates.”

SB 15 – Open Meetings Act; Penalty

1/8/2021 – Prefile 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 – Scheduled to be heard in the Senate Judiciary Committee

[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.

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

1/8/2021 – Prefile 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 – Prefile 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

[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

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; the bill’s sunset date was changed 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

[SB 19](#) extends the sunset date of the Special Education Service Agency to June 30, 2028. 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.

SB 19 was heard and held in the Senate Education Committee on 2/5/2021. The sponsor recommended at the hearing that SB 19 be amended to change the sunset date to June 30, 2029. He stated it was an error that the bill only extends the sunset date to June 30, 2028. There are four [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.

3/5/2021 – Sens. Micciche and Stevens said in a press availability that they are looking at slightly increasing the funding formula for SESA.

SB 20 – Out Of State Teacher Reciprocity

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

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

3/15/2021 – Scheduled to be heard in the Senate Education Committee

3/19/2021 – Scheduled to be heard in the Senate Education Committee; invited and **PUBLIC TESTIMONY**

[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. The word “*preliminary*” is removed in reference to issuing the person a teacher certificate.

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.”

SB 32 – College Credit For High School Students

1/8/2021 – Prefile Released; by Sen. Stevens, Micciche, Gray-Jackson

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 – Scheduled to be heard in the Senate Education Committee; invited and **PUBLIC TESTIMONY**

[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. Agreements must allow any eligible student to participate.

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.

SB 34 – State-Tribal Education Compact Schools

1/8/2021 – Prefile 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

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

3/17/2021 – Scheduled to be heard in the Senate Education Committee; invited and **PUBLIC TESTIMONY**

[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 30th 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 30th legislative day of each regular session and on or by July 1 of each year.
- 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 – Prefile 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 – Prefile 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 – Scheduled to be heard in the Senate State Affairs Committee

3/18/2021 – 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 9th 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 – Prefile 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 – Scheduled to be heard in the Senate Finance Committee; **PUBLIC
TESTIMONY**

3/18/2021 – Scheduled to be heard 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 – Scheduled to be heard in the Senate Finance Committee; **PUBLIC TESTIMONY**

3/18/2021 – Scheduled to be heard 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 – Scheduled to be heard in the Senate Finance Committee; **PUBLIC TESTIMONY**

3/18/2021 – Scheduled to be heard 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~~

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; referred to the Education and Community & Regional Affairs Committees

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

3/19/2021 – Scheduled to be heard in the Senate Education Committee; invited and **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.

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 – Scheduled to be heard in the Sen. Transportation 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.

[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
- \$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

2/12/20201 – 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 – Scheduled to be heard in the Senate Education Committee; invited and **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.

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.