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## **HB 7 – Interactive Computer Service Content Restrict**

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

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

5/5/2020 – House State Affairs Committee referral moved to after the Judiciary Committee referral

[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**

[Minutes, Audio, & Video](#)

[Documents](#)

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

4/30/2021 – Heard and held in the House Education Committee

**5/10/2021 – Scheduled to be heard in the House Education Committee; invited &  
public testimony**

[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**

[Minutes, Audio, & Video](#)

[Documents](#)

1/8/2019 – Profile Released; by Reps. Kreiss-Tomkins, Fields, Drummond, Zulkosky

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

4/9/2021 – Heard and held in the House Education Committee

4/12/2021 – Finance Committee referral replaces the Labor & Commerce Committee  
referral

4/12/2021 – Heard and held in the House Education Committee

4/16/2021 – Heard in and moved from the House Education Committee; committee  
substitute

**5/3/2021 – Heard and held in the House Finance Committee; introduction of the bill to  
the committee and public testimony**

**5/6/2021 – Heard in and moved from the House Finance Committee; the committee  
did not make any changes to the bill**

[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.

4/16/2021: An amendment was adopted in the House Education Committee that removes Section (f). Rep. Zulkosky said the language is looking to resolve an issue that doesn't exist: there are already safety measures in place that will preclude this type of certificate from being misused, since a school board must submit a request to the Dept. of Education & Early Development. She thinks world language teachers would be precluded from being able to misuse this certificate type, and that this certificate will only be used for indigenous language. She said the focus of this bill is not on world languages, but on Alaska indigenous languages. [*The full title of HB 19 is, "An Act relating to instruction in a language other than English, and establishing limited language immersion teacher certificates." Nowhere in the bill does it refer either to "world languages" or to "indigenous languages" now that Section (f) has been removed.*]

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

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

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**

[Minutes, Audio, & Video Documents](#)

1/8/2019 – Profile 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

4/12/2021 – Heard and held in the House Education Committee; invited & public testimony

4/14/2021 – Heard in and moved from the House Education Committee; no changes were made to the bill; now in the House State Affairs Committee

4/29/2021 – CANCELLED ~~Scheduled to be heard in the House State Affairs 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**

[Minutes, Audio, & Video Documents](#)

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; 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**

[Minutes, Audio, & Video Documents](#)

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

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

4/12/2021 – Heard and held in the House Education Committee

4/28/2021 – Heard and held in the House Education Committee

[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 – Prefile 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**

[Minutes, Audio, & Video](#)

[Documents](#)

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

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 with a committee substitute; public testimony

4/28/2021 – Heard and held in the House Education Committee

5/3/2021 – Heard in and moved from 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.

3/9/2021: The House Military & Veterans' Affairs Committee substitute for HB 53 changes the time period in which parents are required to give school districts proof of residency after a child begins school from within ten days of the first day of attendance to within 30 days of the first day of attendance.

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

[Minutes, Audio, & Video](#)

[Documents](#)

1/15/2021 – Profile 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 – Heard in and moved from the House Judiciary Committee; now in the House Finance Committee

4/7/2021 – CANCELLED: ~~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**

[Minutes, Audio, & Video Documents](#)

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

4/16/2021 – Heard and held in the House Education Committee; invited & public testimony

4/21/2021 – Heard in and moved from the House Education Committee with a committee substitute

[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.

4/21/2021: This language was in the original version of the bill, but was taken out in the House Education Committee substitute:

*“Health guidelines must provide standards for instruction in mental health and shall be developed in consultation with the Department of Health and Social Services and representatives of national and state mental health organizations.”*

This language is new language in the House Education Committee substitute:

*“Guidelines for developmentally appropriate instruction in mental health shall be*

*developed in consultation with the Department of Health and Social Services, regional tribal health organizations, 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**

[Minutes, Audio, & Video](#)

[Documents](#)

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**

[Minutes, Audio, & Video](#)

[Documents](#)

- 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. Edgecumbe 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 – Heard and held in the House Finance Committee; closeout reports
- 4/7/2021 – Heard and held in the House Finance Committee; closeout reports
- 4/8/2021 – Heard and held in the House Finance Committee; public testimony
- 4/9/2021 – Heard and held in the House Finance Committee; public testimony
- 4/10/2021 – Heard and held in the House Finance Committee; public testimony
- 4/20/2021 – CANCELLED ~~Scheduled to be heard in the Senate Finance DEED Subcommittee~~
- 4/21/2021 – Scheduled but not heard in the House Finance Committee (the week of 4/21 the committee will be considering amendments and then will move the bill from committee)
- 4/22/2021 – Scheduled but not heard in the House Finance Committee
- 4/22/2021 – CANCELLED ~~Scheduled to be heard in the Senate Finance DEED Subcommittee~~
- 4/23/2021 – Heard and held in the House Finance Committee
- 4/24/2021 – CANCELLED ~~Scheduled to be heard in the House Finance Committee~~
- 4/27/21 – CANCELLED ~~Scheduled to be heard in the House Finance Committee~~
- 4/27/2021 – CANCELLED ~~Scheduled to be heard in the Senate Finance DEED Subcommittee~~
- 4/28/2021 – CANCELLED ~~Scheduled to be heard in the House Finance Committee~~
- 4/29/2021 – Heard in and moved from the Senate Finance DEED Subcommittee; budget closeout (senate version, [SB 49](#))
- 4/29/2021 – Heard in and moved from the House Finance Committee; the committee considered amendments, but no education-related amendments were adopted
- 4/30/2021 – Read for the second time in the house; consideration of amendments; no education-related amendments were adopted
- 5/1/2021 – Read for the third time in the house; returned to second reading for consideration of more amendments; no education-related amendments were adopted
- 5/2/2021 – In third reading on House Calendar; returned to the House Rules Committee

5/3/2021 – CANCELLED Scheduled to be heard in the Senate Finance Committee;  
pending referral

5/4/2021 – CANCELLED Scheduled to be heard in the Senate Finance Committee;  
pending referral

5/5/2021 – CANCELLED Scheduled to be heard in the Senate Finance Committee;  
pending referral

5/6/2021 – CANCELLED Scheduled to be heard in the Senate Finance Committee;  
pending referral

5/7/2021 – CANCELLED Scheduled to be heard in the Senate Finance Committee;  
pending referral

5/10/2021 – On the House Calendar

5/11/2021 - Scheduled to be heard in the Senate Finance Committee; pending referral

5/12/2021 - Scheduled to be heard in the Senate Finance Committee; pending referral

5/13/2021 - Scheduled to be heard in the Senate Finance Committee; pending referral

5/14/2021 - Scheduled to be heard in the Senate Finance Committee; pending referral

5/15/2021 - Scheduled to be heard in the Senate Finance Committee; pending referral

[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.

4/23/2021: The House Finance Committee released their proposed FY22 operating budget ([HB 69](#)). Some of the items the bill includes are:

- \$358,707,000 for elementary and secondary school emergency relief III (page 69; American Rescue Plan Act funding)
- \$5 million for Pre-K grants (page 82)
- \$83,543,960 for school bond debt reimbursement (page 93)
- \$34,238,000 for the REAA and small municipal school district fund (page 96)
- \$193,494,000 to the Public Employees' Retirement System as an additional contribution (page 100)
- \$142,665,000 to the Teachers' Retirement System as an additional contribution (page 100)

On page 10 of the bill is intent language related to social emotion learning and reading intervention:

- “It is the intent of the legislature that federal funds be used to create statewide standards for instruction in social and emotional learning.”
- “It is the intent of the legislature that a baseline assessment of current practice in Alaska's 53 School Districts, including but not limited to adopted K-3 reading curriculum and assessment tools; Dyslexia screening tools; intervention strategies and timeline; frequency of parent teacher conferences for those students experiencing reading deficits; teacher and staff training offered to support K-3 reading instruction; and number of certificated K-3 teachers with reading endorsement. the Department is to provide a report of findings to the Finance co-chairs and the Legislative Finance Division on or before December 1, 2021, and notify the Legislature that the report is available.”

## **HB 70 – FY22 Capital Budget**

[Minutes, Audio, & Video Documents](#)

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

5/4/2021 – Heard and held in the House Finance Committee

5/5/2021 – Heard and held in the House Finance Committee

5/6/2021 – Heard and held in the House Finance Committee

5/7/2021 – CANCELLED ~~Scheduled to be heard in the House Finance Committee~~

5/10/2021 – Scheduled to be heard in the House Finance Committee

5/12/2021 – Scheduled to be heard in 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**

[Minutes, Audio, & Video](#)

[Documents](#)

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

4/6/2021 – Heard and held in the House Finance Committee; closeout reports

4/7/2021 – Heard and held in the House Finance Committee; closeout reports

4/8/2021 – Heard and held in the House Finance Committee; public testimony

4/9/2021 – Heard and held in the House Finance Committee; public testimony

4/10/2021 – Heard and held in the House Finance Committee; public testimony

4/21/2021 – Scheduled but not heard in the House Finance Committee

4/22/2021 – Scheduled but not heard in the House Finance Committee

4/23/2021 – Heard and held in the House Finance Committee

4/24/2021 – CANCELLED ~~Scheduled to be heard in the House Finance Committee~~

4/27/21 – CANCELLED ~~Scheduled to be heard in the House Finance Committee~~

4/28/2021 – CANCELLED ~~Scheduled to be heard in the House Finance Committee~~

4/29/2021 – Heard in and moved from the House Finance Committee

4/30/2021 – Read for the second time in the house

5/1/2021 – Not taken up ~~In 3<sup>rd</sup> reading on the House Calendar~~

5/2/2021 – In 3<sup>rd</sup> reading on the House Calendar

5/2/2021 – Returned to the House Rules Committee

5/3/2021 – Scheduled to be heard in the Senate Finance Committee

5/4/2021 – Scheduled to be heard in the Senate Finance Committee

5/5/2021 – Scheduled to be heard in the Senate Finance Committee

5/6/2021 – Scheduled to be heard in the Senate Finance Committee

5/7/2021 – Scheduled to be heard in the Senate 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**

[Minutes, Audio, & Video](#)

[Documents](#)

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 but not heard in the Senate Finance Committee

4/12/2021 – Heard and held in the Senate Finance Committee

4/14/2021 – Heard and held in the Senate Finance Committee

4/16/2021 – Heard in and moved from the Senate Finance Committee; now in the  
Senate Rules Committee and awaiting placement on the Senate Calendar

4/26/2021 – Read for the second time in the senate

4/28/2021 – Passed the senate by a vote of 14 yeas, 6 nays

4/28/2021 – House concurred with the changes made in the senate by a vote of 25 yeas,  
15 nays

4/30/2021 – Transmitted to the governor

**5/1/2021 – Signed by the governor**

[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).

4/16/2021: The Senate Finance Committee moved HB 76 with a committee substitute. The committee substitute still has a provision that removes the cap on school district fund balances, but they added a sunset on June 30, 2025, at which time the cap reverts to 10 percent. HB 76 is now in the Senate Rules Committee, awaiting placement on the Senate Calendar.

### **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**

[Minutes, Audio, & Video Documents](#)

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

3/3/2021 – 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, Snyder; 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**

[Minutes, Audio, & Video Documents](#)

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**

[Minutes, Audio, & Video](#)

[Documents](#)

2/22/2020 – Introduced; by Reps. McCarty, Tuck, McKay, Johnson, Shaw, Thompson, LeBon, Cronk, Gillham, Kurka, Rasmussen, Kreiss-Tomkins, Vance, Snyder, Drummond; referred to the House Education, Labor & Commerce, and Finance Committees

4/9/2021 – Heard and held 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**

[Minutes, Audio, & Video Documents](#)

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 – Heard and held in the House Education Committee

4/19/2021 – Heard and held in the House Education Committee; public testimony

4/23/2021 – Heard in and moved from the House Education Committee with a committee substitute

5/6/2021 – Heard and held in the House Finance Committee

5/7/2021 – Heard and held in the House Finance 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.”*

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.”

4/9/2021: There is a brief [PowerPoint](#) in BASIS that explains HB 132. The intent is to expand apprenticeships and career and technical education (CTE), and to help the state capture and capitalize on federal apprenticeship grants. HB 132 establishes a \$1,000 per apprentice employer tax credit, with an allowable tax credit of \$1,500 for veterans. It directs the Dept. of Labor & Workforce Development and the Dept. of Education & Early Development to collaborate on technical and financial support. It directs the University of Alaska to explore ways to expand dual credit and college credit for CTE courses and apprenticeships. The PowerPoint states that in summary, HB 132 intends to:

- Incentivize employer participation,
- Encourage cross-departmental collaboration,
- Support school districts, and
- Expand dual credit and post-secondary pathways.

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

3/24/2021 – Introduced; by Reps. Zulkosky, Snyder; 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.”

## **HB 164 – Early Education Programs; Reading; Virtual Education**

[Minutes, Audio, & Video](#)

[Documents](#)

4/7/2021 – Introduced; by Reps. Tuck, Drummond, Story; referred to the House Education and Finance Committees

4/21/2021 – CANCELLED ~~Scheduled to be heard in the House Education Committee~~

4/23/2021 – Heard and held in the House Education Committee

4/26/2021 – Heard and held in the House Education Committee

4/30/2021 – Heard and held in the House Education Committee

5/3/2021 – Heard and held in the House Education Committee; continuation of review of reading intervention provisions in the bill

5/5/2021 – Heard and held in the House Education Committee; review of early education provisions in the bill

5/6/2021 – Heard and held in the House Education Committee; public testimony

5/7/2021 – Heard and held in the House Education Committee; review of virtual education portions of bill and fiscal notes

5/8/2021 – Heard and held in the House Education Committee; public testimony

5/12/2021 – Scheduled to be heard in the House Education Committee

5/14/2021 – Scheduled to be heard in the House Education Committee

[HB 164](#) is the house companion bill to [SB 8](#). According to BASIS, it is also similar to [SB 42](#) and [SB 111](#). The full title of HB 164 is:

*“An Act relating to early education programs provided by school districts; relating to school age eligibility; relating to early education programs; establishing a parents as teachers program; relating to the duties of the Department of Education and 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 Department of Education and Early Development; relating to a virtual education consortium; and providing for an effective date.”*

4/23/2021: The House Education Committee adopted a committee substitute that makes HB 164 **identical to the most recent version of [SB 111](#)**. See the new [Sectional](#)

[Analysis](#) for details on what's in the most recent versions of HB 164 and SB 111, plus the [separate Sectional Analysis](#) for Sections 14 and 35.

## **HB 169 – Appropriation: Education; Pupil Transportation**

[Minutes, Audio, & Video](#)

[Documents](#)

4/9/2021 – Introduced; by the House Finance Committee; referred to the House Finance Committee

4/14/2021 – Heard and held in the House Finance Committee

4/19/2021 – Heard in and moved from the House Finance Committee; public testimony

4/21/2021 – Read for the second time in the House

4/22/2021 – Passed the House by a vote of 26 yeas, 14 nays; effective date adopted by a vote of 36 yeas, 4 nays; transmitted to the senate

4/23/2021 – Read for the first time in the Senate and referred to the Senate Finance Committee

5/5/2021 – Heard and held in the Senate Finance Committee; introduction of bill to the committee

[HB 169](#) deposits full funding for the foundation formula and pupil transportation into the public education fund for FY22. The intent of HB 169 is to pass the bill as soon as possible and early fund education so that school districts don't have to wait until the regular FY22 budget is passed to know what their state funding will be.

4/16/2021: Reps. Stutes and Tuck said in a press availability that their intent is to pass HB 169 as soon as possible and transmit it to the senate for consideration. The bill has bipartisan support.

4/21/2021: Amended on the House floor by an amendment by Rep. Rasmussen to also forward fund education for FY23, in addition to early funding education for FY22.

4/22/2021: [HB 169](#) (early fund education for FY22 and forward fund for FY23) passed the House by a vote of 26 yeas, 14 nays. Here's a link to the [House Journal](#), which has the vote. Here's a link to the Gavel to Gavel [recording](#).

## **HB 173 – School Climate & Connectedness**

[Minutes, Audio, & Video](#)

[Documents](#)

4/14/2021 – Introduced; by Rep Tarr; referred to the House Education and Finance Committees

5/7/2021 – Heard and held in the House Education Committee

According to a statement from the House Majority, [HB 173](#):

*“...is the culmination of five years of collaboration with educators across the state and would require school districts to come up with plans to improve school climate and connectedness. This plan would necessitate the integration of concepts such as social-emotional learning, trauma-informed teaching practices, cultural competence and integration of Indigenous values, restorative practices for conflict management, and a tiered approach to behavioral interventions.*

*HB 173 would also create a statewide School Climate and Connectedness Improvement Committee, which would support districts in the creation of school climate and connectedness plans. The committee would be appointed by the governor and consist of representatives from many different stakeholder groups, including superintendents, K-12 teachers, parents of K-12 students, juvenile justice and youth services, school social workers, and school counselors. Additionally, the Committee would have representation from all geographic regions of the state and across grade levels. This would ensure that the committee reflects the diversity of students and school districts in Alaska.”*

## **HB 181 – Appropriation: Special; American Rescue Plan Act**

[Minutes, Audio, & Video Documents](#)

4/19/2021 – Introduced; by the House Rules Committee at the request of the Governor; referred to the House Finance Committee

4/20/2021 – Heard and held in the House Finance Committee

[HB 181](#) only has two Dept. of Education & Early Development items in it:

- \$758,700 for the Alaska State Council on the Arts
- \$2,159,300 to the Alaska State Libraries, Archives & Museums for library operations

Slide 2 of a [PowerPoint](#) from the Office of Management & Budget that was presented to the House Finance Committee on 4/20/2021 states that the Dept. of Education & Early Development items that are pending (and are not in the bill) are:

- Emergency Education Relief Funds, which are awaiting state maintenance of effort guidance

- Child Nutrition Program funds, which are awaiting funding and program information

[SB 128](#) is the senate version of HB 181.

## **HB 189 – Employment Tax for Education**

[Minutes, Audio, & Video](#)

[Documents](#)

4/26/2021 – Introduced; by the House Ways & Means Committee; referred to the House Ways & Means, Education, and Finance Committees

5/1/2021 – Heard and held in the House Ways & Means Committee

5/4/2021 – Heard in and moved from the House Ways & Means Committee with a committee substitute; invited & public testimony

5/7/2021 – House Education Committee referral removed; now in the House Finance Committee

[HB 189](#) is an income tax based on five different income levels. The schedule in the bill is a tax of:

- \$50 for people with incomes less than \$20,000 annually
- \$100 for people with incomes between \$20,000 and \$49,999.99 annually
- \$200 for people with incomes between \$50,000 and \$99,999.99 annually
- \$300 for people with incomes between \$100,000 and \$499,999.99 annually
- \$500 for people with incomes of \$500,000 or higher

5/1/2021: There is now a [Sponsor Statement](#), a [Sectional Analysis](#), and a [fiscal note](#) posted in BASIS. The fiscal note states that the tax in HB 189 would collect about \$65 million to \$66 million annually, and would require five new positions at the Dept. of Revenue.

5/4/2021 – The House Ways & Means Committee adopted a committee substitute that changed the tax schedule in the bill to:

- \$25 for people with incomes of less than \$30,000 annually
- \$100 for people with incomes of \$30,000 or more, but less than \$60,000 annually
- \$200 for people with incomes of \$60,000 or more, but less than \$90,000 annually
- \$400 for people with incomes of \$90,000 or more, but less than \$120,000 annually
- \$600 for people with incomes of \$120,000 or more annually

## **HB 191 – School District Budgets; Tenured Non-retention**

4/28/2021 – Introduced; by Reps. Gillham, Kaufman, Vance, McCabe, Carpenter;  
referred to the House Education and Finance Committees

[HB 191](#) amends [AS 14.14.060\(c\)](#), adding a clause that states:

*“If the legislature has not yet appropriated an amount to fund public education for the following school year, the borough school board shall develop the budget for the following school year based on the amount the legislature appropriated to fund public education in the current school year.”*

HB 191 amends [AS 14.20.140\(a\)](#) by changing the layoff deadline of tenured teachers from May 15 to June 15.

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

[Minutes, Audio, & Video](#)

[Documents](#)

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

1/22/2021 – Introduced; referred to the Senate 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

3/24/2021 – CANCELLED: ~~Scheduled to be heard in the Senate Education Committee~~

4/7/2021 – Heard and held in the Senate Labor & Commerce Committee; invited & public testimony

4/16/2021 – Heard in and moved from the Senate Labor & Commerce Committee with a committee substitute

[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 sponsor’s 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 that directs the Dept. of Administration commissioner to deny an application by a teacher if accepting the application would create an undue hardship for the school district.

4/16/2021: The Senate Labor & Commerce Committee heard and moved SB 6 from committee with a [committee substitute](#) that allows retired teachers to come back as mentor teachers.

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

[Minutes, Audio, & Video Documents](#)

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

1/22/2021 – Introduced; referred to the Senate 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 – 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**

[Minutes, Audio, & Video Documents](#)

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

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

4/12/2021 – Heard and held in the Senate Judiciary Committee

4/19/2021 – Heard in and moved from the Senate Judiciary Committee with a committee substitute; public testimony

4/21/2021 – Referral to the Senate Finance Committee added; now in the Senate Finance 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.

The Anchorage Daily News has a March 17, 2021 [article](#) on how this bill would affect school districts, municipalities, and local boards and commissions. The article states that SB 15 prohibits electronic meetings; institute fines of up to \$1,000 for members of school boards, municipalities, and members of local boards and commissions who do not meet in person, who do not take public testimony in person, or who do not give proper notice under the Alaska Public Open Meetings Act; and requires 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 – Prefile Released; by Sens. Begich, Gray-Jackson

1/22/2021 – Introduced; referred to the Senate 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**

[Minutes, Audio, & Video Documents](#)

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

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

4/8/2021 – Heard in and moved from the Senate Community & Regional Affairs Committee; SB 17 is now in the Senate Labor & Commerce Committee

4/23/2021 – Heard and held in the Senate Labor & Commerce Committee; invited & public testimony

4/28/2021 – CANCELLED ~~Scheduled to be heard in the Senate Labor & Commerce Committee~~

4/30/2021 – Heard in and moved from the Senate Labor & Commerce Committee; no changes were made to the bill

[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.

4/8/2021: The Senate Community & Regional Affairs Committee made a few clarifying changes to the bill in a committee substitute.

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

1/8/2021 – Profile 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**

[Minutes, Audio, & Video Documents](#)

1/8/2021 – Profile 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; 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

4/19/2021 – Heard and held in the House Finance Committee

4/23/2021 – Heard in and moved from the House Finance Committee; public testimony; no changes were made to the bill; it is now in the House Rules Committee awaiting placement on the House Calendar

[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**

[Minutes, Audio, & Video Documents](#)

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

1/22/2021 – Introduced; referred to the Senate 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;

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

4/6/2021 – Scheduled but not heard in the Senate Finance Committee

4/19/2021 – Heard and held in the Senate Finance Committee

4/21/2021 – Heard in and moved from the Senate Finance Committee

4/30/2021 – Read the second time in the senate

5/3/2021 – Passed by a vote of 17 yeas, 2 excused, and 1 absent.

5/4/2021 – Read for the first time in the house and referred to the House Education and Finance Committees

5/10/2021 – Scheduled to be heard in the House Education Committee; invited & 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.

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.

4/19/2021: An amendment was adopted in the Senate Finance Committee that requires the training (on alcohol and drug abuse disorder, sexual assault and dating violence protection, and suicide prevention), other than the training that's three credit hours, to be completed within 90 days. The non-three credit courses can be completed in eight hours and can be done online.

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

[Minutes, Audio, & Video Documents](#)

- 1/8/2021 – Profile Released; by Sen. Stevens, Micciche, Gray-Jackson, Costello, Begich, Wielechowski, Reinbold, Kawasaki; Rep. Fields
- 1/25/2021 – Introduced; referred to the Senate 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 & public testimony
- 3/22/2021 – Heard and held in the Senate Finance Committee; invited & 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;
- 4/7/2021 – Passed the senate by a vote of 20 yeas; transmitted to the house
- 4/9/2021 – Read for the first time in the house and referred to the House Education and State Affairs Committees

4/19/2021 – Heard and held in the House Education Committee; invited & public testimony

5/5/2021 – Heard in and moved from the House Education Committee; no changes made to bill

5/11/2021 – Scheduled to be heard in the House State Affairs Committee

[SB 32](#) establishes the Alaska middle college program, allowing students to enroll in University of Alaska courses and earn dual credit. SB 32 requires the Dept. of Education & Early Development annual report to the legislature to include information on the Alaska middle college program. 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.

4/19/2021: There is a current [Sponsor Statement](#) and [Sectional Analysis](#) in BASIS.

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

[Minutes, Audio, & Video Documents](#)

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

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

4/21/2021 – Heard and held in the Senate Education Committee

4/23/2021 – CANCELLED ~~Scheduled to be heard in the Senate Education Committee~~

4/28/2021 – Heard and held in the Senate Education Committee; public testimony; SB 34 will not be heard again this session, but will be worked on over the interim

[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 (STEC). [The bill](#) lays out the process for establishing compacts, funding, and rules governing the schools. A STEC will be considered a school district, and must follow existing statutory requirements for school districts. STECs will be funded through the foundation formula.

State-tribal education compact schools may not charge tuition (other than for over-age persons and for extra curricular activities), 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.

The Sponsor Statement states:

*“Passage of this legislation will provide Tribes the opportunity to voluntarily apply to establish a State-Tribal compact school. State-tribal compact schools will affirm the State’s commitment to educating Alaska’s children, and honor a government-to-government relationship with Tribes by partnering with them to improve educational outcomes. Partnering with tribes to deliver education will reestablish a sense of ownership and pride in the public educational system, and has the potential to substantially improve educational outcomes.”*

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

[Minutes, Audio, & Video Documents](#)

- 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
- 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 – Passed the senate by a vote of 20 yeas; transmitted to the house
- 4/9/2021 – Read in the house for the first time and referred to the House Education and State Affairs Committees

[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 – Prefile Released; by Sen. Kiehl

1/25/2021 – Introduced; referred to the Senate 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**

[Minutes, Audio, & Video Documents](#)

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

1/25/2021 – Introduced; referred to the Senate 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 but not heard in the Senate State Affairs Committee

4/15/2021 – Heard and held in the Senate State Affairs Committee

4/20/2021 – Heard and held in the Senate State Affairs Committee; invited & public testimony

4/22/2021 – Heard and held in the Senate State Affairs Committee

5/1/2021 – See BASIS for [information on action on SB 39](#). As it appears to now specifically allow REAA elections, I will no longer be following the bill.

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.

4/15/2021: SB 39 was heard in the Senate State Affairs Committee and a proposed [committee substitute](#) was released for the bill. There is a new [Sectional Analysis](#) for the bill. The committee substitute for SB 39 is now more than twice as long as the original

bill, at 29 pages instead of the previous 13 pages. There is language on page 23 of the proposed committee substitute that now appears to explicitly allow the Div. of Elections to conduct REAA by-mail elections [Sec. 45(a)(5)]. The bill appears to really complicate voting and complicate elections, though.

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

[Minutes, Audio, & Video Documents](#)

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

1/25/2021 – Introduced; referred to the Senate 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 – 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 Senate 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**

[Minutes, Audio, & Video](#)

[Documents](#)

- 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 – 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 – CANCELLED: ~~Scheduled to be heard in the Senate Finance DEED Subcommittee~~  
 3/9/2021 – CANCELLED: ~~Scheduled to be heard in the Senate Finance DEED Subcommittee~~  
 3/11/2021 – 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  
 4/20/2021 – CANCELLED ~~Scheduled to be heard in the Senate Finance DEED Subcommittee; closeout~~  
 4/22/2021 – CANCELLED ~~Scheduled to be heard in the Senate Finance DEED Subcommittee; closeout~~  
 4/27/2021 – CANCELLED ~~Scheduled to be heard in the Senate Finance DEED Subcommittee; budget closeout~~  
 4/28/2021 – CANCELLED ~~Scheduled to be heard in the Senate Finance DEED Subcommittee~~  
 4/29/2021 – Heard in and moved from the Senate Finance DEED Subcommittee; budget closeout  
 5/5/2021 – Heard and held in the Senate Finance Committee; committee substitute introduced; includes full funding for foundation formula, pupil transportation, school bond debt reimbursement, the REAA fund, and the \$358.7 million in ARPA funding

[SB 49](#) is the FY22 operating budget. [HB 69](#) is the house version. 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**

[Minutes, Audio, & Video Documents](#)

- 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
- 4/30/2021 – Heard and held in the Senate Finance Committee; supplemental budget requests

[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**

[Minutes, Audio, & Video Documents](#)

- 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
- 5/5/2021 – Heard and held in the Senate Finance Committee

[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**

[Minutes, Audio, & Video](#)

[Documents](#)

- 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**

[Minutes, Audio, & Video](#)

[Documents](#)

- 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**

[Minutes, Audio, & Video Documents](#)

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**

[Minutes, Audio, & Video Documents](#)

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

3/24/2021 – 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 – Heard and held in the Senate Community & Regional Affairs Committee; invited & public testimony

4/20/2021 – Heard in and moved from the Senate Community & Regional Affairs Committee; committee substitute

4/21/2021 – Senate Finance Committee referral added; now in the Senate Finance Committee

[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.

4/8/2021: Senate Community & Regional Affairs Committee considered [a committee substitute](#). There is also a [document](#) that explains the committee substitute:

- *Adds history of American constitutionalism as portrayed in the listed documents to the requirements of the civics curriculum and assessment.*
- *Adds a requirement that schools include a student's civics assessment score on the student's transcript.*
- *Adds a requirement that districts must report student performance on the civics assessment and curriculum to the department along with an average of district*

*test scores on the assessment.*

4/9/2021: Tim Lamkin, staff to sponsor Sen. Stevens, said they are working on a new committee substitute that will combine the original bill with the Senate Education Committee substitute. So there will be questions from the U.S. naturalization test with scores required to be on transcripts, but no specific score required to pass the test, and the Dept. of Education & Early Development State Board will develop curriculum and an assessment

4/20/2021: Senate Community & Regional Affairs Committee substitute. There is an [explanation](#) in BASIS of the changes made to the bill:

- The statewide civics education curriculum and assessment is based on the civics portion of U.S citizenship test, primary source documents, and systems of governance used by Alaska Natives.
- SB 72 requires a student to receive a passing score of 60 percent on the civics assessment to graduate and receiving a passing score will be indicated on the student's transcript.
- SB 72 allows for students to take the assessment as many times as needed to receive a passing score.
- Districts are required to report student performance on the civics assessment and curriculum to the Dept. of Education & Early Development, along with an average of district test scores on the assessment.
- SB 72 amended to remove the obligation of the DEED State Board to present in person before legislative committees.

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

[Minutes, Audio, & Video Documents](#)

2/5/20201 – Introduced; by the Senate Rules Committee at the request of the Governor; referred to the Senate Transportation and Finance Committees

2/25/2021 – 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**

[Minutes, Audio, & Video Documents](#)

2/12/2021 – Introduced; by Sen. Gray-Jackson, Begich; 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 – Heard and held in the Senate Health & Social Services Committee; invited & public testimony

4/15/2021 – Scheduled but not heard in the Senate Health & Social Services Committee

4/20/2021 – Heard in and moved from the Senate Health & Social Services Committee; committee substitute; now in the Senate Finance Committee

[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.

4/20/2021: The Senate Health & Social Services Committee substitute adds an [amendment](#) by Sen. Wilson that requires active consent from parents or guardians before a student can have instruction in mental health.

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

[Minutes, Audio, & Video Documents](#)

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 – CANCELLED: ~~Scheduled to be heard in the Senate Education Committee; invited & public testimony~~  
4/9/2021 – Heard and held in the Senate Education Committee  
4/10/2021 – Heard and held in the Senate Education Committee; public testimony  
4/12/2021 – CANCELLED: ~~Scheduled to be heard in the Senate Education Committee~~  
4/14/2021 – Heard and held in the Senate Education Committee  
4/16/2021 – Heard in and moved from the Senate Education Committee; committee substitute; now in the Senate Finance Committee  
5/13/2021 – Scheduled to be heard in the Senate Finance Committee

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). All documents for SB 111 are posted [here](#).

4/9/2021: There is now [a summary of proposed changes](#) for a proposed committee substitute posted in BASIS. The proposed committee substitute is not yet posted in BASIS.

4/16/2021: The Senate Education Committee moved SB 111 with a [committee substitute](#). There is an [explanation of the changes](#) in the draft committee substitute, but the explanation does not include amendments the committee adopted. They adopted Amendments 1 through 11 in this [amendments packet](#).

4/23/2021: The House Education Committee adopted a committee substitute for [HB 164](#) that makes it identical to SB 111, so there is now a companion bill to SB 111 in the house. See the new [Sectional Analysis](#) for details on what’s in the most recent versions of HB 164 and SB 111, plus the [separate Sectional Analysis](#) for Sections 14 and 35.

## **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?”*

### **SB 119 – Oath of Office**

[Minutes, Audio, & Video Documents](#)

4/7/2021 – Introduced; by Sen. Reinbold; referred to the Senate Education, Judiciary, State Affairs, and Finance Committees

4/23/2021 – Heard and held in the Senate Education Committee

4/28/2021 – Heard in and moved from the Senate Education Committee; invited & public testimony

4/30/2020 – Senate Finance Committee referral removed; now in the Senate Community & Regional Affairs Committee

5/11/2021 – Scheduled to be heard in the Senate Community & Regional Affairs Committee; invited & **public testimony**

[SB 119](#) requires school board members, law enforcement, all judges and magistrates (including Alaska Supreme Court judges), legislators, administrative officers, members of state boards and commissions, and all state employees to read the Constitution of the State of Alaska, the Declaration of Independence, and the Constitution of the United States before taking the oath of office.

### **SB 128 – Appropriation: Special; American Rescue Plan Act**

[Minutes, Audio, & Video Documents](#)

4/19/2021 – Introduced; by the Senate Rules Committee at the request of the Governor; referred to the Senate Finance Committee

4/26/2021 – Heard and held in the the Senate Finance Committee

[SB 128](#) only has two Dept. of Education & Early Development items in it:

- \$758,700 for the Alaska State Council on the Arts
- \$2,159,300 to the Alaska State Libraries, Archives & Museums for library operations

Slide 2 of a [PowerPoint](#) from the Office of Management & Budget that was presented to the House Finance Committee on 4/20/2021 states that the Dept. of Education & Early Development items that are pending (and are not in the bill) are:

- Emergency Education Relief Funds, which are awaiting state maintenance of

- effort guidance
- Child Nutrition Program funds, which are awaiting funding and program information

[HB 181](#) is the house version of SB 128.

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

[Minutes, Audio, & Video](#)

[Documents](#)

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

4/14/2021 – CANCELLED: ~~Scheduled to be heard in the Senate Education Committee~~

4/21/2021 – CANCELLED: ~~Scheduled to be heard in the Senate Education Committee~~

5/7/2021 – Heard and held in the Senate Education Committee

[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. It is highly unlikely this constitutional amendment would pass the legislature.