

# Education Bill reaches the House Floor

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## Education drama

On Thursday morning, [HB69 \(Education Funding: Increase BSA\)](#) was up for a vote. The majority wanted to move quickly, but the House minority sought more time. To slow proceedings, they used a filibuster tactic by trying to introduce all their staff during the “introduction of guests” segment.

Rep. Edgmon, clearly annoyed, had enough of the delay tactics and adjourned the House until Monday. **The bill is now on the calendar for March 10th at 10:30 am.** Tune in to hear the full debate - and the full set of amendments that are likely to be proposed. To watch anytime go to [www.ktoo.org/gavel/](http://www.ktoo.org/gavel/) or to watch live you can go to the [Alaska Legislature Meetings page](#).

If the bill passes the House, it moves to the Senate, where funding remains a concern amid budget constraints. The Senate Education Committee already has it on their calendar to review on March 12th pending referral. Compromises and changes are expected, with the goal of reaching an agreement that avoids a Governor’s veto. ***Make sure that you continue to email, write or call your legislators on the importance of education funding.***

The House’s main focus on [HB69](#) is raising the BSA by \$1,000, from \$5,960 to \$6,960—a \$320 increase from last year’s (\$680) addition. Other key changes include: policies for personal device use in schools, annual reports on correspondence programs, and clearer rules for charter schools. ([Explanation of changes](#).)

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## Find out ways to make your voice heard in Congress.

Worried about what is happening to our Federal Government? **Join us for an all-Alaska LWV Virtual Town Hall** on Thursday, March 27th, from 5:30-6:30 pm via

Zoom. Our featured speakers, former Senator Mark Begich and Alex Ortiz (former chief of staff to Congressman Young and Congresswoman Peltola), will discuss **how to effectively make our voices heard in Congress**.

This **special edition of “Lunch with the League”** will also provide **resources and guidance** to help us stay engaged and take action on issues impacting all Alaskans. Don't miss this opportunity to share, learn and get involved! Details coming soon.

Don't forget - you can always add your voice to let our Senators and Representative know how you feel.

Email Sen. Sullivan at: <https://www.sullivan.senate.gov/contact/email>

Email Sen. Murkowski at: <https://www.murkowski.senate.gov/contact/email>

Email Rep. Begich at: <https://begich.house.gov/contact/email-me>

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## Statehood for Washington DC! Update\*\*

As we noted in the last newsletter, the League of Women Voters of Alaska supports Washington DC's request to become the 51st state. Sen. Tobin, along with Sen. Dunbar and Sen. Gray-Jackson have introduced SJR6 - a Senate Joint Resolution to support DC Statehood.

The bill has been moved to the Judiciary Committee and will take invited and public testimony at 1:30 pm on March 10th. (See Upcoming meetings below.)

***Email your support to [senate.State.Affairs@akleg.gov](mailto:senate.State.Affairs@akleg.gov) or testify as an Alaskan on why you feel the people in DC need to have a voice.***

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## Elections Bills up again!

The election bills, [SB64 \(Elections\)](#) and [HB43 \(Elections Voting Ballots\)](#) will again be heard next week. The Alaska LWV Board sent a letter of support and Sue Sherif testified on both bills in previous hearings. You can read our letter here: [Support from LWV-AK](#). We urge you to testify or email in support of these bills.

In addition, [HB21 \(Voter Preregistration for Minors\)](#) is now up in House Judiciary. Marian Clough from the Juneau League will testify for LWV Alaska and LWV Juneau. She testified for us earlier when the bill was in House State Affairs. Join others from the Leagues across the state in supporting this bill by testifying or sending an email of support. (See Upcoming meetings below.)

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## And hearings on HB89: Gun Violence Protective Orders

This is the first hearing in House State Affairs on March 13th for this important bill. ***Both invited and public testimony will be taken.*** (See Upcoming meetings below.)

**Title:** "An Act relating to gun violence protective orders; relating to the crime of violating a protective order; relating to a central registry for protective orders; relating to the powers of district judges and magistrates; amending Rules 4 and 65, Alaska Rules of Civil Procedure, and Rule 9, Alaska Rules of Administration; and providing for an effective date."

This is the same bill Rep. Josephson introduced last year. It was referred to Judicial and never got a hearing. A companion Senate bill was introduced last year by Senator Loki Tobin and it did get a hearing.

Currently Senator Tobin's office is working on two other bills around gun safety. Both are still in the draft stage. From Louie Flora, Senator Tobin's aide: "One would create a program where people can voluntarily relinquish their firearms to public safety if they determine the firearms present a threat to their life and safety – generally this would be if the individual is in a suicidal crisis." The other bill "would modernize child abuse statutes and include a provision where a trained professional: teacher, law enforcement, clinician can flag a child who exhibits signs of abuse, bullying, or suicidal ideation and the school district can provide the household of that child with a safe storage device for firearms and medication – and provide the household with information on suicide prevention."

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## Upcoming Meetings - Week of March 10th

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Meetings covering our watchlist bills/areas are listed below.

**\*How to testify:** If you can't attend in person, please call your Legislative Information Office (<http://akleg.gov/lios.php>), and also review the testimony instructions at: [https://akleg.gov/docs/pdf/AKLEG\\_Testimony\\_Instructions.pdf](https://akleg.gov/docs/pdf/AKLEG_Testimony_Instructions.pdf). If you need further information contact the Juneau Legislative Information office at 907-465-4648.

### **House Education Committee - (Meets MWF 8:00 am Davis 106)**

Send written testimony to: [House.Education@akleg.gov](mailto:House.Education@akleg.gov)

**Monday, March 10th - Note time change: 8:30 am Davis 106**

**Joint Meeting with Senate Education Committee**

2025 State Board of Education Report to the Legislature by James Fields, Chair;  
Commissioner Deena Bishop, Dept. of Education; and members of the Alaska State

**Friday, March 14th**

HB 105: Public Schools: Mental Health Education <Invitation Only>

**House State Affairs Committee - (Meets T TH SA 3:15 pm Gruenberg 120)**

Send written testimony to: [House.State.Affairs@akleg.gov](mailto:House.State.Affairs@akleg.gov)

**Tuesday, March 11th**

HB43: Elections Voting Ballots

**Thursday, March 13th**

HB89: Gun Violence Protective Orders <Invited and **PUBLIC TESTIMONY**>

**House Judiciary Committee - (Meets MWF 1:00 pm Gruenberg 120)**

Send written testimony to: [House.Judiciary@akleg.gov](mailto:House.Judiciary@akleg.gov)

**Monday, March 10th**

HB21: Voter Preregistration for Minors <Invited and **PUBLIC TESTIMONY**>

**Senate Education Committee - (Meets MWF 3:30 pm Beltz 105)**

Send written testimony to: [Senate.Education@akleg.gov](mailto:Senate.Education@akleg.gov)

**Monday, March 10th - Note time change: 8:30 am Davis 106**

Joint meeting with **House Education Committee**: (See above)

**Wednesday, March 12th**

SB18: Communication Devices in Public Schools <Invited and **PUBLIC TESTIMONY**>

HB69: Education Funding; Increase BSA <Pending Referral>

**Senate State Affairs - (Meets T TH 3:30 pm Beltz 105)**

Send written testimony to: [Senate.State.Affairs@akleg.gov](mailto:Senate.State.Affairs@akleg.gov)

**Tuesday, March 11th**

SB64: Elections - **PUBLIC TESTIMONY** <Time Limit may be set>

Thursday, March 13th

SB64: Elections - **PUBLIC TESTIMONY** <Time Limit may be set>

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## Legislative Calendar and Events

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- March 31, 2025 - Seward's Day
- April 20, 2025 - 90th day of the session (By law (AS 24.05.150))
- May 21, 2025 - 121st day of the session (Per the Alaska Constitution)

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## Wrap Up/Links

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### *How are we doing?*

Let us know! Reach us at [alaskalwv@alaskalwv.org](mailto:alaskalwv@alaskalwv.org), and/or work to get the word out with your local leagues! Board meetings every third Monday at 5:45 pm.

The League always needs volunteers! Writing letters, talking to your legislators, and helping out by giving us your feedback - it doesn't have to be a total commitment.

**We would LOVE to hear from you.** Please encourage others to take action by sharing this Legislative Newsletter, Action Alerts, and Calendar Events.

Quick links:

- Alaska State Legislature website, [akleg.gov](http://akleg.gov)
- Alaska State's Gavel to Gavel public affairs TV network, [www.ktoo.org/gavel/](http://www.ktoo.org/gavel/)

You can see your LWV Alaska Board members and Officers and their contact information on the [AlaskaLWV.org/Board/](http://AlaskaLWV.org/Board/) site.

**League of Women Voters of Alaska**

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[www.alaskalwv.org](http://www.alaskalwv.org)