

# Will they override the Veto?

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## Education bill.

The Governor held a press conference on Thursday, April 17th as he announced his veto to the education bill [HB69 \(Education Funding: Increase BSA\)](#). His arguments against the bill included statements that there was no 'policy' included, only funding.

He announced an alternative bill which will be introduced next week for consideration. This new bill includes the same requests as his prior bill: increased funding to homeschooling/correspondence students, ability for students to attend any school in any district, and increased capability to set up a charter school. It adds a **\$560 increase** in the BSA. There is also a provision which could give \$450 per student to schools with K-6th grades for a reading proficiency incentive grant if they qualified, but it would not help middle or high schools. This is a decrease for those upper level schools from the \$680 which they all received last year. And no additional funding beyond \$560 for schools who can't qualify for the grant.

There is a section for 'policy' - increased requirements for reporting school performance, ***none of which would be required for correspondence students***. These requirements would add increased bureaucracy in the types of reporting, but not much more of value than what schools already produce.

**A joint session to vote on the veto override is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, April 22.** At least 40 votes are needed to override. Before then, you may want to weigh in on the override with your [Senators](#) and [Representatives](#).

## Education Tax?

Representative Galvin has introduced a bill - [HB152 Education Tax](#) to tax income of individuals, partners, shareholders in S corporations, trusts, and estates. Individuals would be taxed at a rate of 4% for individuals making over \$150,000 or

joint returns over \$300,000 and everyone would pay a minimum of \$150.00. Different rates for others. Hearing is coming up this week.

## Elections

[SB64 \(Elections\)](#) was heard in Senate Finance on April 9th. There was still a bit of discussion on residency requirements and ways to keep the voter rolls clean. Public testimony was heard. There is a \$338,800 fiscal note for FY 27 attached. The bill was set aside and no future hearing date has been set right now.

## SAVE Act

Members of the LWV Alaska Legislative Committee are meeting next week with a representative of Sen. Sullivan's office to express our concern regarding the SAVE Act. This Act puts an undo burden on Alaskans seeking to vote. In addition to requiring either a passport; OR a birth certificate *and* marriage certificate (if, like many women and others who have changed their name) - the Act requires you to submit those documents ***in person***. What about people in rural Alaska? Alaska natives born before Statehood? Will they have to fly to a larger city? And - what about a Real ID? It counts, right? Nope - not in Alaska. The Real ID must show proof of citizenship **on the ID**, and ours do not.

This Act has already passed the House (Representative Begich voted for it).

There are letters to the editors going into many newspapers across Alaska as well, watch for them. And, don't forget - you can always add your voice to let our Senators know that this unjustly impacts Alaskans and all Americans:

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

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

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## Legislation Tracking

There was a hearing on [SB82:Education: Schools, Grants, Funding](#) on April 14th. This is the bill presented by the Governor. Invited and public testimony was heard. Not many comments from the public, and interestingly, most were favorable. However, it seemed the Senate Education Committee members were not always in

agreement with Commissioner Bishop. This is very close to the bill that Governor Dunleavy mentioned in his veto press conference.

Heather Arnett, on our Alaska Board, presented testimony **against** [SJR 13 Appointment of State Judges](#) on April 15th. Attorney General Treg Taylor presented the joint resolution for Governor Dunleavy. The LWV of Alaska believes that the current process for appointing judges is fair and changing the process would be harmful to our State. You can read the letter we sent in opposition. You can also check out our position statement on [alaskalwv.org](http://alaskalwv.org), scroll down to read it.

[SB116 Campaign Finance Contribution Limits](#) is another bill we are supporting. While it was supposed to be heard on April 15th, testimony was delayed until April 22nd (see below). We urge you to write or testify in support of this bill. We have already sent a letter of support to the Senate State Affairs Committee.

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## Upcoming Meetings - Week of April 21st

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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)

Wednesday, April 23rd

[HB 90: Financial Literacy in Schools](#)

### 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)

Thursday, April 24th

[HB152: Education Tax](#)

### House Finance Committee - (Meets M T W TH F 10:00 am/1:30 pm Adams 519)

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

Tuesday, April 22nd - 1:30 pm

[HB21: Voter Preregistration for Minors](#)

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

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

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

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

Nothing listed yet, however IF the Governor's new bill is introduced next week, it will likely be heard here first.

**[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, April 22nd

[SB116 Campaign Finance Contribution Limits](#) <PUBLIC TESTIMONY>

**[Senate Finance](#) - - (Meets M T W TH F 9:00 am Senate Finance 532) (special times next week also M T W TH 1:30 pm)**

Wednesday, April 23rd 9:00 am (may also be heard in the afternoon)

[HB57: Communication Devices in Public Schools](#) <Pending Referral from the House>

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## Legislative Calendar and Events

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- 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)