

A lull before the storm....

As of Monday, May 5th, there are only 17 days left in the session. The budget bills are wrapping up. Both budgets will likely end up in conference committees to hash out final details. And, usually, the last few days are a mad dash to complete what they can. Many bills will be pushed to the next session where it is likely the state will face even more budget challenges.

The impacts of federal funding cuts are just now starting to be felt and the full impacts are not yet known. The Senate has already started to signal that any bills with budget impacts stand a very slim chance of passing.

Convention Update

If you missed the convention this year, you missed some really great presentations. Amy Gallaway and Fawn Jelinek, both retired public school teachers, professional development teachers, and board members of Kids Voting North – discussed civics education. We had videos from our State Senators and Representative, and we heard from State Senator Cathy Giessel and the “State of the State.” It was an important and timely budget discussion. Finally, we had a panel of journalists, led by Lori Townsend who discussed: “How can public broadcasting and local newspapers compete with social media for voters/citizens attention?” The presentation and video links can all be found on our website at alaskalwv.org/convention.

Education

As you all know by now, the Governor vetoed the education bill [HB69 \(Education Funding: Increase BSA\)](#). Undeterred, the Senate added a \$700 BSA increase into [HB57: Communication Devices in Public Schools](#), and added some language for charter schools and class sizes. It passed the Senate with a 17-3 vote, and passed

the House with a 31-8 vote. It was sent to the Governor on May 1, due back by May 19th. No word on whether he'll veto it again. If those vote margins hold, that would be enough to override a veto, but, no guarantees that would be the case, as we learned last year.

Still more Education bills

The House Education Committee will be hearing a more education bills heading into the end of session. A couple to watch are [HB 212: Local Contributions by School Districts](#) and [HB 59: State Tribal Education Compacts](#). Both of these bills will be heard this week (see schedule below).

Elections

[SB64 \(Elections\)](#) is still sitting in the Senate Finance Committee. It may not come up again until close to the end of the session, and we may not get much notice when it does.

Campaign Finance

One bill still moving is [HB 16: Campaign Finance Contribution Limits](#). This bill passed the house on April 28th with a 22-18 majority. Per the sponsor statement: "House Bill 16 (HB 16) reinstates fair, reasonable, and constitutional campaign contribution limits, which will be adjusted based on Alaska's consumer price index rates moving forward. This will ensure that these limits remain constitutional." The bill was sent to the Senate where Senate Finance Committee heard it on May 1st. It was heard and held. Changes are expected. However, as with the elections bill, it could be brought up in committee at any time without much time to review the changes.

Upcoming Meetings - Week of April 21st

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. 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

Monday, May 5th

[HB 212: Local Contributions by School Districts](#) <Invited & PUBLIC TESTIMONY>

Wednesday, May 7th

[HB 212: Local Contributions by School Districts](#)

[HB 59: State Tribal Education Compacts](#)

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

Send written testimony to: House.State.Affairs@akleg.gov

[***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

Friday, May 9th - 9:00 am

[HB 90: Financial Literacy in Schools](#) <PUBLIC TESTIMONY>

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

Send written testimony to: House.Judiciary@akleg.gov

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

Send written testimony to: Senate.Education@akleg.gov

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

Send written testimony to: Senate.State.Affairs@akleg.gov

[***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)

All active bills that have been heard and held could be brought up again. Focus clearly will be on the budget, but may include Elections and Campaign Finance.

Legislative Calendar and Events

- May 21, 2025 - 121st day of the session (Per the Alaska Constitution)
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Wrap Up/Links

How are we doing?

Let us know! Reach us at 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
- Alaska State's Gavel to Gavel public affairs TV network, www.ktoo.org/gavel/

You can see your LWV Alaska Board members and Officers and their contact information on the AlaskaLWV.org/Board/ site.

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