

Alaska Women's Lobby  
Defending and advancing the rights and needs of Women, Children and Families in Alaska

Week Three Legislative Report  
January 22nd-27th 2001  
1st Regular Session of the Twenty-Second Alaska Legislature  
Prepared by Caren Robinson

Introduction:

Senate Finance Co-Chairs Name Subcommittees

Senate Finance Committee Co-Chairs Dave Donley (R- Anchorage) and Pete Kelly (R-Fairbanks) announced on Tuesday the membership of the Senate subcommittees responsible for the Fiscal Year 2002 operating budget. Subcommittees are assigned to perform the detailed work of the newly adopted system of results-based budgeting including developing and reviewing mission and measures; reviewing funding requests from agencies; hearing testimony from departments or related agency staffers; and developing budget recommendations for the full Senate Finance Committee.

Committee lists and meeting dates are included at the end of the report.

New Governor Bills:

SB 56 (Governor) Pupil Competency Test; Annual Education Report

Governor Knowles introduced legislation this week to ensure fairness in Alaska's high school exit exam law. The legislation enacts the recommendation of the state Board of Education and Early Development to delay the effective date of the test until 2006.

Knowles' bill also requires annual reports to the Legislature on the progress schools and students are making on the benchmark and graduation exams. If progress is faster than expected, this bill allows the state board to recommend an earlier effective date for the graduation exam.

HB 88/ SB 55 (Governor) Pioneers' and Veterans' Home/Advisory Board

Governor Knowles introduced legislation expanding the Pioneers' Home system to provide for veterans. The bill changes the name of the state-run Pioneers' Homes to the "Alaska Pioneers' and Veterans' Homes" system and establishes an admissions preference for veterans.

According to Department of Administration Commissioner Jim Duncan there are about 100 beds presently vacant among the 600 in the six homes around the state. The bill authorizes the Department of Administration to establish an admission's preference for veterans by regulation.

To fully staff the homes and provide necessary ancillary services, Knowles asked the Legislature for nearly \$2.5 million in general funds and another \$2.6 million in receipt authority in the Fiscal Year 2002 operating budget.

New House Bills:

No new bills of interest were introduced this week.

House Bills On the Move:

HB 48 (John Coghill) No Social Security Number Required on Hunt/Fish License

House Bill 48 passed from the House Resources Committee on Wednesday, Jan. 24. HB 48, sponsored by Rep. John Coghill Jr. (R-North Pole), would free hunting and fishing license applicants from the legal obligation to submit their Social Security numbers on such licenses. It moves next to the House Judiciary Committee.

New Senate Bills:

SB 41 (Davis) Kindergarten & Definition of <sup>3</sup>School Age<sup>2</sup>

SB 42 (Davis) Foundation Formula Increase

SB 43 (Davis) School Dress Codes

SB 57 (Davis) Increase Public School Funding Grants

Interesting Notes:

Lincoln Honored as a "Voice for Choice":

The Juneau Pro-Choice Coalition honored Senator. Georgianna Lincoln (D-Rampart) with its "Voice for Choice" award at a ceremony commemorating the anniversary of Roe v. Wade.

Governor Dedicate New Public Health Facility

Governor Knowles this week helped formally open the new Alaska Public Health Laboratory and Office of the State Medical Examiner in Anchorage.

The Alaska Public Health Laboratory plays a pivotal role in outbreak investigation, control, and treatment. The new state-of-the-art facility improves the department's ability to detect, diagnose, and control communicable diseases in Alaska. It also boasts a Biosafety Level 3 suite enabling infectious disease specialists to safely work with such highly contagious diseases as tuberculosis, botulism, brucella, molds, and other pathogens. The suite also enables staff to rapidly detect and characterize these agents, minimizing health threats to the public.

The Office of the State Medical Examiner supports the justice system and public health surveillance by providing forensic pathology services to determine cause of death in suspicious or unattended deaths. The new facility provides a safer and more efficient work environment and will reduce stress on family members of deceased persons by providing video-viewing capabilities.

Knowles, with the support of the Legislature, authorized \$18.4 million for the funding of the 37,500-square foot facility, which was designed and built by Anchorage-based firms.

In addition to the opening of the new facility, Dr. Peter Nakamura was honored at the event for his

service and contributions.

Legislative Action Needed:

SB 38 (Governor) Medical Assistance: Breast/Cervical Cancer

The Breast and Cervical Cancer bill will be heard in Senate (L&C) next Thursday at 1:30 PM. It's a Governor's bill and we hear they are picking up rumblings of discontent on the Senate side...more to do with Medicaid coverage and cost generally than breast or cervical cancer specifically. We need to get all of you out for the meeting. It would be nice to have as many community based organizations and individuals as possible be prepared to testify in support.

SB 15 (Johnny Ellis) Insurance Coverage for Contraceptives

Senator. Johnny Ellis has ask that we join him to help pass SB 15, the Women's Health Equity Act, which he sponsored again this year.

Contact Senator Gene Therriault, the Chairman of the first committee of referral and ask him to schedule a hearing. Phone # (907) 465-4797 Fax # (907) 465-3884

Committee Meetings

**(S)ADMINISTRATION FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE \***

Jan 29 Monday 8:00 AM FAHRENKAMP 203

Overview: Dept. of Administration

Missions and Measures

FY02 Budget Request

**(H)EDUCATION & EARLY DEVELOPMENT FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE \***

Jan 29 Monday 8:30 AM HOUSE FINANCE 519

K-12 Support, School Debt Reimbursement,

Pupil Transportation & Executive

Administration BRUs

Bruce Johnson, Eddy Jeans, DEED

**(S)HEALTH, EDUCATION & SOCIAL SERVICES STANDING COMMITTEE \***

Jan 29 Monday 1:30 PM BUTROVICH 205

\*+SCR 2 SOBRIETY AWARENESS MONTH TELECONFERENCED

+SB 19 CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT/SOC SEC. # TELECONFERENCED

**(H)LABOR & COMMERCE STANDING COMMITTEE \***

Jan 29 Monday 3:15 PM CAPITOL 17

\*+HB 81 EXTENDING BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS TELECONFERENCED

\*+HB 56 MINIMUM WAGE TELECONFERENCED

**(H)STATE AFFAIRS STANDING COMMITTEE \***

Jan 30 Tuesday 8:00 AM CAPITOL 102

Overview: Public Defender's Office

Office of Public Advocacy

(H)ADMINISTRATION FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE [\\*](#)

Jan 30 Tuesday 8:30 AM CAPITOL 17

Missions and Measures

(S)ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION REVIEW JOINT COMMITTEE [\\*](#)

Jan 30 Tuesday 9:30 AM BUTROVICH 205

+ Overview of Committee TELECONFERENCED

Review of Committee Powers

Law's Review of Regulations

Board of Pharmacy Review

(H)CHILDREN'S CAUCUS OTHER COMMITTEE [\\*](#)

Jan 30 Tuesday 12:00 PM FAHRENKAMP 203

+ Balloon Project Report TELECONFERENCED

(H)SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION SPECIAL COMMITTEE [\\*](#)

Jan 31 Wednesday 8:00 AM CAPITOL 106

=+HB 37 STUDENT LOAN FORGIVENESS TELECONFERENCED

=+HB 54 STUDENT LOAN FORGIVENESS TELECONFERENCED

(S)FINANCE STANDING COMMITTEE [\\*](#)

Jan 31 Wednesday 9:00 AM SENATE FINANCE 532

\*SJR 6 EDUCATION BLOCK GRANTS

(H)JUDICIARY STANDING COMMITTEE [\\*](#)

Jan 31 Wednesday 1:00 PM CAPITOL 120

HB 48 NO SOC SEC. # REQ'D ON HUNT/FISH LICENSE

(S)HEALTH, EDUCATION & SOCIAL SERVICES STANDING COMMITTEE [\\*](#)

Jan 31 Wednesday 1:30 PM BUTROVICH 205

Overview: Dept of Education and Early

Development

(H)LABOR & COMMERCE STANDING COMMITTEE [\\*](#)

Jan 31 Wednesday 3:15 PM CAPITOL 17

Overview: Ak State Hospital & Nursing

Home Association

\*+HB 27 LICENSE HOME INSPECTORS TELECONFERENCED

\*+HB 70 EXTENDING BOARD OF PHYSICAL/OCC THERAPY

TELECONFERENCED

Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled

(S)CORRECTIONS FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE [\\*](#)

Feb 01 Thursday 8:00 AM FAHRENKAMP 203

Overview: Dept of Corrections  
Missions and Measures  
FY02 Budget Request

(S)FINANCE STANDING COMMITTEE [\\*](#)

Feb 01 Thursday 9:00 AM SENATE FINANCE 532

Overview: Annalee McConnell

\*SB 27 APPROP: GOVERNOR'S OPERATING BUDGET

\*SB 28 APPROP:MENTAL HEALTH BUDGET

\*SB 29 APPROP: GOVERNOR'S CAPITAL BUDGET

(S)LABOR & COMMERCE STANDING COMMITTEE [\\*](#)

Feb 01 Thursday 1:30 PM BELTZ 211

\*SB 38 MEDICAL ASSISTANCE:BREAST/CERVICAL CANCER

Presentation/Overview:

AK State Hospital & Nursing Home Assoc

AK Process Industry Careers Consortium

(H)HEALTH, EDUCATION & SOCIAL SERVICES STANDING COMMITTEE [\\*](#)

Feb 01 Thursday 3:00 PM CAPITOL 106

+ Overview: Division of Public Health TELECONFERENCED

<continued from 1/18/01>

+ Overview: Div of Family & Youth Services TELECONFERENCED

Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled

(S)FINANCE STANDING COMMITTEE [\\*](#)

Feb 02 Friday 9:00 AM SENATE FINANCE 532

SB 21 FINES BY THE STATE MEDICAL BOARD

(H)HEALTH, EDUCATION & SOCIAL SERVICES STANDING COMMITTEE [\\*](#)

Feb 02 Friday 1:00 PM CAPITOL 106

+ Joint with House Judiciary Cmte TELECONFERENCED

Overview: Wellness Courts

(H)JUDICIARY STANDING COMMITTEE [\\*](#)

Feb 02 Friday 1:00 PM CAPITOL 106

+ Joint with House HES Cmte TELECONFERENCED

Overview: Wellness Courts

**Senate Finance Subcommittee Membership**

Senate Finance Subcommittee Assignments:

Administration

\* [Senator Jerry Ward](#), Chair

\* [Senator Robin Taylor](#)

\* [Senator Kim Elton](#)

#### Community & Economic Development

- \* [Senator Pete Kelly](#), Chair
- \* [Senator John Torgerson](#)
- \* [Senator Drue Pearce](#)
- \* [Senator Georgianna Lincoln](#)

#### Corrections

- \* [Senator Jerry Ward](#), Chair
- \* [Senator Gene Therriault](#)
- \* [Senator John Cowdery](#)
- \* [Senator Georgianna Lincoln](#)

#### Court System

- \* [Senator Gary Wilken](#), Chair
- \* [Senator Drue Pearce](#)
- \* [Senator Bettye Davis](#)

#### Education & Early Development

- \* [Senator Gary Wilken](#), Chair
- \* [Senator John Torgerson](#)
- \* [Senator Kim Elton](#)

#### Environmental Conservation

- \* [Senator Loren Leman](#), Chair
- \* [Senator John Torgerson](#)
- \* [Senator Donald Olson](#)

#### Fish & Game

- \* [Senator Pete Kelly](#), Chair
- \* [Senator Drue Pearce](#)
- \* [Senator Alan Austerman](#)
- \* [Senator Rick Halford](#)
- \* [Senator Lyman Hoffman](#)

#### Governor

- \* [Senator Dave Donley](#), Chair
- \* [Senator Pete Kelly](#)
- \* [Senator Rick Halford](#)
- \* [Senator Drue Pearce](#)
- \* [Senator Donald Olson](#)

#### Health & Social Service

- \* [Senator Lyda Green](#), Chair
- \* [Senator Pete Kelly](#)
- \* [Senator Gene Therriault](#)
- \* [Senator Bettye Davis](#)

#### Labor & Workforce Development

- \* [Senator Alan Austerman](#), Chair
- \* [Senator John Torgerson](#)
- \* [Senator Kim Elton](#)

#### Law

- \* [Senator Gary Wilken](#), Chair
- \* [Senator Robin Taylor](#)
- \* [Senator Johnny Ellis](#)

#### Legislature

- \* [Senator Dave Donley](#), Chair
- \* [Senator Pete Kelly](#)
- \* [Senator Rick Halford](#)
- \* [Senator Drue Pearce](#)
- \* [Senator Lyman Hoffman](#)

#### Military & Veterans Affairs

- \* [Senator Alan Austerman](#), Chair
- \* [Senator Randy Phillips](#)
- \* [Senator Gene Therriault](#)
- \* [Senator Gary Wilken](#)
- \* [Senator Bettye Davis](#)

#### Natural Resource

- \* [Senator Loren Leman](#), Chair
- \* [Senator Randy Phillips](#)
- \* [Senator John Torgerson](#)
- \* [Senator Drue Pearce](#)
- \* [Senator Georgianna Lincoln](#)

#### Public Safety

- \* [Senator Alan Austerman](#), Chair
- \* [Senator Lyda Green](#), Vice-Chair
- \* [Senator Robin Taylor](#)
- \* [Senator John Cowdery](#)
- \* [Senator Georgianna Lincoln](#)

#### Revenue

- \* [Senator Loren Leman](#), Chair
- \* [Senator Randy Phillips](#)
- \* [Senator Johnny Ellis](#)

#### Transportation & Public Facilities

- \* [Senator Jerry Ward](#), Chair
- \* [Senator John Cowdery](#)

- \* Senator Robin Taylor
- \* Senator Lyman Hoffman

University

- \* Committee of the Whole