



This Week in Juneau

Alaska's legislative session has settled into a normal pace. The House Finance subcommittees completed their work on the individual department budgets. The full Finance committee will now release a committee substitute next week. The committee substitute will incorporate all the subcommittee reports and the Governor's budget amendments and will serve as the starting point for the Finance committee's FY25 budget discussion. With the adoption of this committee substitute the committee will take public testimony over the course of next week.

The Department of Revenue Spring Forecast will be released on March 14. The House Finance committee has been waiting for the forecast to come out before moving the budget out of the committee in hopes to use the updated revenue forecast to build a budget around. The budget is set to be moving out of the House and onto the Senate around March 31. There is an agreement between the leaderships of both bodies that the Capital budget will move out of the Senate around the same time. This is a part of ongoing negotiations between the Senate and House Majorities to not have a repeat of last year when the capital and operating budgets were combined into a single bill at the end of session.

Education remains an issue of contention between the legislature and the Governor. Negotiations around the recently passed SB 140 between the Governor and both the House and Senate Majorities is ongoing. With the March 14 deadline for action coming next week, there is a concern about the potential for the bill being vetoed. A veto will likely lead to a restart of the education debate. The governor asked for more reforms to be taken up in the legislature, however, neither the House nor Senate has moved any bills addressing any of the Governor's education priorities.

On March 12, the House and Senate will hold a joint hearing to address twelve executive orders that were put forward by the Governor at the start of session. The legislature has 60 days after introduction to address executive orders. The joint session will decide whether the legislature allows the executive orders to go into effect or if the legislature will disapprove any of the executive orders. The Governor's executive orders were focused on eliminating several boards and commissions while moving the responsibilities into

the relevant state department.

Next week the legislature will be working on the budget with the coming revenue forecast and how that could affect the process moving forward. The looming action on **SB 140** will also come to a head next week and could have a significant impact on the rest of the session.

Committee Meetings Next Week

House Labor and Commerce

Mar 06 Monday 3:15 PM

HB 200 – GAMING; ELECTRONIC PULL-TABS

Senate Labor and Commerce

Mar 11 Monday 1:30 PM

SB 203 – BUSINESS LICENSE FEES -- Invited & Public Testimony

Mar 13 Wednesday 1:30 PM

SB 234 – EXTEND MARIJUANA CONTROL BOARD -- Invited & Public Testimony

SB 146 – GAMING; ELECTRONIC PULL-TABS -- Invited & Public Testimony

Mar 15 Friday 1:30 PM

SB 225 – OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING FEES -- Invited & Public Testimony --

SB 237 – TAX CREDIT CHILD CARE/UTILITY/HOUSE/FOOD -- Invited & Public Testimony --

House Finance

Mar 12 Tuesday 10:00 AM

HB 119 – MARIJUANA TAX

HB 333 – Tax Credit Childcare/Utility/House/Food

3/06/24 – The House Labor & Commerce committee took up the bill at the end of the hearing. The Department of Revenue modeling shows that the maximum amount possible in tax credits would be \$266 million. This number was generated by using the 50% cap on the credits compared to the current revenue brought in. The committee questioned how companies would apply for these credits, the department explained that the regulatory process will be necessary to establish the criteria in which the credits could be given. Representative Dan Saddler (R-Eagle River) expressed concern about the vague nature of the bill, especially on the determining success of a contribution to earn the tax credit.

The Department of Revenue explained that the language in the bill was left vague so that through the regulatory process they would be able to create a more effective tax credit.

HB 376 – Delivery Network Companies

3/07/24 – The House Transportation committee held a brief intro hearing on the bill. The purpose of the bill is to include delivery drivers for companies like Uber and Lyft are independent contractors. The bill is focused on the food delivery sector of these companies not the ride share sector. The purpose of the bill according to the sponsor came from a situation where a delivery driver had to pay for their own worker compensation plan.

Upcoming Alaska CHARR Events



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