



News and Notes from Juneau

Start of Session

The 33rd legislature has been in session for its first full week, and it has been a slow start. This year's start was slightly delayed, with the House not organizing until last week. The start has also seen few bills introduced and really no bills that impact our members so far.

Alaska State House

House membership consists of 21 Republicans, 6 Independents, and 13 Democrats. There are 19 freshmen House members.

The House has formed a Republican-led coalition majority of 23 members, 19 Republicans, 2 Independents, and 2 Democrats.

House Labor and Commerce Committee membership

Meets 3:15 PM Monday, Wednesday, and Friday

- Representative Jesse Sumner (R) Wasilla – Chair
- Representative Mike Prax (R) Fairbanks
- Representative Justin Ruffridge (R) Kenai
- Representative Dan Saddler (R) Eagle River
- Representative Stanley Wright (R) Anchorage
- Representative Ashley Carrick (D) Fairbanks
- Representative Zack Fields (R) Anchorage

House Judiciary Committee membership

Meets 1:00 PM Monday, Wednesday, and Friday

- Representative Sarah Vance (R) Homer – Chair
- Representative Jamie Allard (R) Eagle River – Vice Chair
- Representative Ben Carpenter (R) Kenai
- Representative Craig Johnson (R) Anchorage
- Representative David Eastman (R) Wasilla
- Representative Andrew Gray (D) Anchorage

- Representative Cliff Groh (D) Anchorage

House Finance Committee membership

Meets 1:30PM Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

- Representative Bryce Edgmon (I) Dillingham – Co-Chair
- Representative Neal Foster (D) Nome – Co-Chair
- Representative DeLena Johnson (R) Palmer – Co-Chair
- Representative Julie Coulombe (R) Anchorage
- Representative Mike Cronk (R) Tok
- Representative Will Stapp (R) Fairbanks
- Representative Frank Tomaszewski (R) Fairbanks
- Representative Alyse Galvin (I) Anchorage
- Representative Sara Hannan (D) Juneau
- Representative Andy Josephson (D) Anchorage
- Representative Dan Ortiz (I) Ketchikan

Alaska State Senate

Senate membership sits at 11 Republicans and 9 Democrats. There are 7 freshman Senators this session. The Senate has formed a coalition majority of 17 members, 8 Republicans and 9 Democrats.

Senate Labor and Commerce Committee membership

Meets 1:30PM Monday, Wednesday, Friday

- Senator Jesse Bjorkman (R) Kenai – Chair
- Senator Click Bishop (R) Fairbanks – Vice Chair
- Senator Elvi Gray-Jackson (D) Anchorage
- Senator Kelly Merrick (R) Eagle River
- Senator Forrest Dunbar (D) Anchorage

Senator Bjorkman has started the session off with a focus on workforce development, we will reach out to him to see if there is a possibility for CHARR to present to the committee.

Senate Judiciary Committee membership

Meets 1:30 PM Monday, Wednesday, and Friday

- Senator Matt Claman (D) Anchorage – Chair
- Senator Jesse Kiehl (D) Juneau
- Senator James Kaufman (R) Anchorage
- Senator Cathy Giessel (R) Anchorage
- Senator Löki Tobin (D) Anchorage

Senate Finance Committee membership

Meets 9:00 AM Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday

- Senator Bert Stedman (R) Ketchikan – Co-Chair

- Senator Lyman Hoffman (D) Bethell – Co-Chair
- Senator Donald Olson (D) Golovin – Co-Chair
- Senator Click Bishop (R) Fairbanks
- Senator Kelly Merrick (R) Eagle River
- Senator Jesse Kiehl (R) Juneau
- Senator David Wilson (R) Wasilla

Bills of Interest

HB 28 - ACCESS TO MARIJUANA CONVICTION RECORDS REPRESENTATIVE WRIGHT

HB 28 would make confidential the records of individuals who were convicted of minor marijuana crimes, were 21 years of age or older at the time of the offense and were not charged with any other crimes in the same incident. These records would automatically be removed from Court View. The records would also be removed from some background checks administered by the Department of Public Safety, if requested by the convicted individual. This bill was in the legislature last session carried by Rep Kreiss-Tomkins, this bill mirrors the version adopted by the Senate Judiciary committee.

SB 28 - WORKPLACE VIOLENCE PROTECTIVE ORDERS SENATOR CLAMAN

SB 28 is a bill (HB 59) carried over from last session by Senator Claman. HB 59 allows an employer to file a petition for a protective order against an individual who the employer reasonably believes committed an act of violence against the employer or an employee or made a threat of violence against the employer or an employee that can reasonably be construed as a threat that may be carried out at the employer's workplace.

SB 39 DISCLOSURE OF WAGE INFORMATION SENATOR DUNBAR

Requires an employer posting a job notice to include a description of compensation, including salary or range of salaries.

The bill lays out several actions that an employer may not engage in.

- (1) prohibit an employee or applicant for employment from disclosing the employee's or applicant's compensation or discussing or asking about the compensation of another;
- (2) ask an applicant for employment about compensation the applicant may have received from another employer; or
- (3) prohibit an employee or applicant for employment from helping or encouraging another individual to exercise a right under this subsection.

The bill lays out that an employer may not retaliate against an employee for engaging in any of the mentioned actions. The employee may file a civil claim against the employer for damages. On top of the damages and employer is also subject to a penalty from the state ranging from \$100 to \$2,000 depending upon the violation.