2017 CAPITOL CURRENTS

30th Alaska State Legislature ~ 1st Session

20th Edition – 9/22/17

~ Governor calls 4TH Special Session of 30th Legislature~

Bill Wrap-Up: First Session of 30th Legislature

Three special sessions produced the passage of the operating budget, the oil & gas production tax/payments/credits bill and the capital budget.

The Governor's fourth special session proclamation is expected to be issued sometime before September 22nd for a session to begin October 23rd. Between now and then the Governor will be working with his team and lawmakers to narrow the focus on different revenue options available in hopes of ensuring a production session.

The bills being transmitted from the legislature to the Governor's office have slowed and so it's time for the final Capitol Currents of this session. Below you'll find a list of measures which will become law this year; a committees' list so you can see where debate will pick up on bills still in the hopper; a short recap of the FY 18 budget; and a quick reference guide for different types of legislation.

Bills Signed into Law

SCS HB 16(RLS) am S, Driver's License requirements; Disability; ID & Training was sponsored by Rep. Thompson and signed into law on May 19th. The bill assures Alaskan compliance with the REAL ID act, allows a voluntary disability designation on a state identification card and a driver's license; and requires training regarding disabilities for police officers, probation officers, parole officers, correctional officers, and village public safety officers

SCS CSHB 23(FIN), Insurance for dependents of deceased fire/police officers was sponsored by Rep. Josephson and was signed into law on June 21st. 37 other legislators joined Rep. Josephson is ensuring surviving dependents of peace officers and firefighters who die in the line of duty continue to have access to medical insurance.

SCS CSHB 49(L&C), extends the Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives sponsored by Rep. Kito and signed into law on May 13th. It extends the board through June 30, 2021.

HB 78 , Indigenous People's Day, sponsored by Rep. Westlake was signed into law on June 24th. The bill establishes the second Monday in October as Indigenous Peoples Day in Alaska. The Governor signed the bill in Utqiagvik during the Nalukataq Whaling Festival.

CSHB 103(FIN), sponsored by Rep. Spohnholz was signed into law on July 26th. The bill requires the Board of Examiners of Optometry to regulate prescriptive authority and develop standards for the practice of optometry. The board will also publish advisory opinions regarding standards for the practice of optometry. Further it requires the licensee to provide evidence that they have completed their continuing education hours during the preceding licensing period prior to being relicensed. The bill allows a licensee to prescribe pharmaceuticals in a manner that is

consistent with board regulations. It limits an individual licensee to performing services that are within the scope of the licensee's education, training, and experience.

CSHB 108(JUD), Fiduciary Access to Digital Assets, sponsored by Rep. Claman was signed into law on August 2nd. The bill provides a means to manage and dispose of a deceased person's digital assets by their designated fiduciary—including online financial transactions (banking, direct deposits, and purchases), personal emails, Facebook accounts, photos, music and other personal items stored electronically. It also allows owners of digital assets to specify how they would like their assets to be managed by their fiduciaries—identifying what items to preserve, distribute to heirs, or destroy.

CSHB 132(L&C) , Transportation Network Companies sponsored by Rep. Wool was signed into law on June 15th. The bill sets parameters for companies such as Uber and Lyft to operate in Alaska.

SCS CSHB 159(FIN), Opioids; Prescriptions; Database; Licenses, was sponsored by HRLS on behalf of the Governor and signed into law on July 25th. It allows partial fills of opioid prescriptions; delays daily entries into the prescription drug database until July 1, 2018; requires health care licensing boards for dentists, nurses, physicians, osteopaths, podiatrists and optometrists to require continuing education of not less than two hours in pain management and opioid use and addiction; limits, with certain exceptions, a first prescription of an opioid to no more than a seven-day supply for adults and requires discussion with parents including the risks associated with opioid abuse prior to prescribing to a child; requires veterinarians to enter information into the database; and provides an option for people to execute a Voluntary Nonopioid Directive to make clear the person's desire not to be administered an opioid.

SR 6, REAL ID act; social security numbers was sponsored by the Senate Finance Committee and passed the Senate on May 15th. It urges the Alaska division of motor vehicles to advocate in front of the State-to-State Verification Service for the discontinued use of social security numbers. This organization is currently the only multi-state verification system that meets the standards of the United States Department of Homeland Security and it requires the last five digits of a person's social security card as a means of verification.

HCS CSSB 55(RLS), sponsored by Sen. Coghill was signed into law on June 19th. Here is a sectional analysis of the bill: Sectional Originally, a clean-up to last year's crime bill-SB 91, House Rules inserted measures to require a report on untested sexual assault forensic exam kits by submitted to the legislature by the department of public safety and inserted language assuring Alaska's protective order statutes are in compliance with the full faith and credit provisions of the federal Violence Against Women's Act.

CSSB 83(HSS) am H, Protect Vulnerable Adults; Long Term Care, was sponsored by SRLS on behalf of the Governor and signed into law on August 2nd. It clarifies that Alaska's long term care ombudsman may only report abuse of vulnerable adults when consent has been given. It also clarifies DHSS responsibilities to investigate all reports of harm, and request further assistance from the ombudsman when needed.

CSSB 91(HSS), Opioid Epidemic; Standing Orders OD Drugs, was sponsored by SRLS on behalf of the Governor and signed into law on March 21st. It allows the chief medical office to issue a standing order for the prescription of an opioid overdose drug. It requires the department of health and social services to submit a report prior to October 1st of each year describing activities and expenditures related to Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration grants and the opioid epidemic. The law is set to be repealed on June 30, 2021.

Bills Still in Committee

Action picks up in the second legislative session where it left off during the first for bills that didn't pass both bodies. Click on a committee to see the list of bills on its "to do" list

House Committees	***Senate Committees***
Community and Regional Affairs	Community and Regional Affairs
Education	Education
Finance	Finance
Health and Social Services	Health and Social Services
Judiciary	Judiciary
Labor and Commerce	Labor and Commerce
Resources	Resources
Rules	Rules
State Affairs	State Affairs
Transportation	Transportation

Budget Recap

The one-day third special session ended with passage of a capital budget on July 27th and Governor Walker signed the budget bill into law on July 31st. The bill contained appropriations for FY 2018 totaling $1.4 billion, including $122 million in unrestricted general funds and $28 million in designated general funds. It leverages nearly $1.2 billion in federal dollars for transportation, village water infrastructure, energy, and housing projects. SB 23 is the smallest capital budget enacted since the year 2000.

The total FY 18 operating budget ended up at just over $9.6 billion. The budget draws approximately $2.4 billion from the Constitutional Budget Reserve. The CBR has been reduced from $13 billion in 2014 to about $2.1 billion after the FY 18 draw. The legislature did not use funds from the Permanent Fund Earnings Reserve Account.

Quick Reference on Legislative Measures

Bills: A proposed law that has been introduced in either body of the Legislature- passage requires a majority vote of the full membership of each body—after transmitted to the Governor, it can be signed into law, vetoed (it will not become law), or after a specified number of days pass without veto it can become law without the Governor's signature

Resolutions: expresses the will, wish, view, opinion, sympathy or request of one body—passage requires a majority vote of the full membership of the body—after passage it's sent to the Governor for information and to the Lt. Governor for filing

Concurrent Resolutions: expresses the wish of both bodies—used for internal legislative business, suspension and amendment of the uniform rules, requesting action of executive agencies, establishing joint committees and fixing the time and place for joint meetings—passage requires a majority vote of the full membership of both bodies—after passage it's sent to the Governor for information and to the Lt. Governor for filing

Joint Resolutions: expresses the view or wish of the legislature to the President, Congress, U.S. Government agencies, or other State Governments—required for proposing or ratifying amendments to the U.S. Constitution, or proposing amendments to Alaska's Constitution—treated as a bill and must be adopted by a majority vote of the full membership of each body—signed by the Governor as a formality; Lt. Governor send copies to federal and state office, agencies and jurisdictions

Look here for an outline of the Legislative Process and here for Steps in Passing a Bill from Legislative Affairs

~~END of REPORT~~

Your individual participation in the process remains critical to the successful passage of pieces of legislation and budget items to make Alaska safer, healthier and more services friendly.

Together we can make a difference next session! See you in January 2018.

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