

Governor's Council on Disabilities & Special Education Legislative Update



Tuesday, January 20th began the 26th Alaska Legislative session in Juneau. During this session, the GCDSE is keeping you up-to-date by monitoring legislative action and tracking bills that relate to issues concerning health, education, disabilities, and services in the State of Alaska.

Volume 3, Issue 3

Friday, March 6, 2009

SCR 1: Brain Injury Awareness Month: March 2009

The Brain Injury Association of America designated March of every year as Brain Injury Awareness Month. This resolution would establish March 2009 as Brain Injury Awareness Month in Alaska.

Sponsor(s): Senator Mcguire and Representatives Kerttula, Lynn

Status: 1/21 introduced; 2/25 passed Senate; 3/05 referred to House Rules

Link to Bill Text:

http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_fulltext.asp?session=26&bill=SCR1

SB 1: Minimum Wage

This bill would provide for the minimum wage to be adjusted each year according to inflation and at least \$1 more than the federal minimum wage. Of the three minimum wage bills—SB 1, HB 29, and HB 125—this has been the most mobile.

Sponsor(s): Senators Wielechowski, Ellis, Thomas, Davis, French, Paskvan

Status: 1/21 introduced; 2/05 heard & held; 2/12 heard & held; 2/24 heard & moved out of committee; 2/25 referred to Finance.

Link to Bill Text:

http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_fulltext.asp?session=26&bill=SB1

SB 32: Medicaid Rate Review

This bill would create a regular Medicaid rate review for providers of home- and community-based services to Alaska's elderly and people with developmental disabilities. Like those in place for institutions, reviews would occur at regular intervals in order to bring rates in line with costs.

Sponsor(s): Senators Ellis, Davis, Paskvan

Status: 1/21 introduced; 2/04 heard and held in H&SS; 2/25 heard & moved out of committee; 2/27 referred to Finance

Link to Bill Text:

http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_fulltext.asp?session=26&bill=SB32



Held Committee Referrals and Bill Hearings

Senate Concurrent Resolution 1:

Brain Injury Awareness Month

March 3 moved out of H&SS

Senate Bill 1:

Minimum Wage

Feb. 24 moved out of Labor & Commerce

Senate Bill 32:

Medicaid Rate Review

Feb. 25 moved out of H&SS

House Bill 9:

Capital Punishment

March 2 heard & held in Judiciary

House Bill 26:

Medicaid for Adult Dental Services

March 3 moved out of H&SS

House Bill 29:

Minimum Wage

Feb. 23 heard & held in Labor & Commerce

SB 82: Adult Dental Services

This bill would keep enhanced coverage of adult dental services under Medicaid in place for 5 more years. The coverage is set to end June 30, 2009—this bill would keep it in place until June 30, 2014.

Sponsor(s): Governor Palin

Status: 1/26 read and referred to H&SS and Finance ; 2/04 referred to Finance.

Link to Bill Text:

http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_fulltext.asp?session=26&bill=SB82

HB 9: Capital Punishment

This bill would add capital punishment to the state's Code of Criminal Procedure and allow the death sentence for murder in the first degree—a capital felony according to this bill. Sentencing procedures would include judgment as to whether the person suffers from mental retardation before sentencing him or her to imprisonment or death.

Sponsor(s): Representatives Chenault and Ramras

Status: 1/20 read and referred to Judiciary

Link to Bill Text:

http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_fulltext.asp?session=26&bill=HB9

HB 26: Medicaid for Adult Dental Services

This bill is a companion to SB 82. It will also keep enhanced coverage of adult dental services under Medicaid in place until June 30, 2014.

Sponsor(s): Representatives Hawker, Muñoz, Gara, and Kerttula

Status: 1/20 introduced and referred to H&SS and Finance; 2/26 heard and held; 3/03 moved out of committee; 3/05 referred to Finance.

Link to Bill Text:

http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_fulltext.asp?session=26&bill=HB26

HB 105: STEP

This bill would reinstate the State Training and Employment Program (STEP) to provide financial aid to eligible providers of training and employment assistance. STEP enhances the quality of in-state job training and employment assistance and makes in-state job training and employment assistance more easily available to employers, employees, and future employees.

Sponsor(s): Representative Coghill

Status: 1/30 introduced; 3/02 read and referred to Labor & Commerce

Link to Bill Text:

http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_fulltext.asp?session=26&bill=HB105

Upcoming Committee Hearings

March 9th

3:15pm

HB 29: Minimum Wage
Labor & Commerce
Barnes 124 State Capitol
(Teleconference)

March 10th

3:00pm

Presentation: Traumatic Brain Injury
Health & Social Services
Room 106 State Capitol
(Teleconference)

5:00pm

SB 61: Mandatory Universal Health Insurance
Health & Social Services
Subcommittee
Beltz 211 State Capitol
(Teleconference)

March 11th

9:00am

SB 32: Medicaid Rate Review
Senate Finance
Room 532 State Capitol
(Teleconference)

March 11th

1:30pm

HB 26: Medicaid for Adult Dental Services
House Finance
Room 519 State Capitol
(Teleconference)

If you have any Questions or Comments, please contact:

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