

# Hot Sheet

## March 8, 2023



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### MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**Labor Walks for the Anchorage Municipal Election are every Saturday until mid-March. We meet at 10am at the AK AFL-CIO office: 3333 Denali St. Ste. 125, Anchorage. Lunch is provided. Hope to see you there!**

### ACTION ALERT

**We need you to call your legislators and tell them you are a strong supporter of SB 88. The message is clear: Alaska's public workforce deserves a pension and this bill will save the state money in the long run. Need help finding your legislators? Contact the AK AFL-CIO.**

### THANK YOU

**Turnout for the Anchorage Legislative Town Hall was great and our legislators got the message: Raise the AK BSA! On Twitter, you can find coverage by searching #raisetheAKBSA or following @raisetheakbsa**

### The Budgets

**The Finance Committees:** Both committees remain focused on the operating budget at this stage of the legislative session. Between finishing up the operating budget and hearing referred bills, capital budget discussions are still weeks off.

**Senate Finance Committee:** On 3/7, the committee heard previously scheduled bills. On 3/9, the committee continued to lay important groundwork on the need for SB 88 by hearing a presentation comparing retention data between defined benefit and defined contribution employees by Alexei Painter, Director of Division of Legislative Finance.

**House Finance Committee:** On 3/7, the committee heard an overview of the Governor's FY 2023 supplemental budget by Neil Steininger, Director, Office of Management & Budget.

### Alaska House and Senate Bills

**Defined Benefit Bills:** On 3/7, Rep. Josephson's HB 22 (PEACE OFFICER/FIREFIGHTER RETIRE BENEFITS) was heard in the House State Affairs Committee. It was heard and held and subsequently assigned to a subcommittee along with SB 88, the primary defined benefit pension bill in the Senate recently introduced by Sen. Cathy Giessel. SB 88 is expected to be heard in the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee next week. Please see the action alert on the left-hand margin. The subcommittee assignment was a highly unusual move and telegraphs that the House Majority is not prioritizing retirement security for public employees.

**HCR 1:** Reps. Sumner and Mears introduced HCR 1 (JOINT TASK FORCE: LABOR, RETENTION, TRAIN), which would create a joint task force on labor workforce, training, and retention. One of the Alaska AFL-CIO's top priorities is workforce development, and we are closely monitoring this resolution and would be very interested in working with any task force it would establish.

**HB 9:** On 3/7, Rep. Carrick's HB 9 (ADD FACULTY MEMBER UNIV BOARD OF REGENTS) was heard and held in the House Education Committee. Members of UNAC 4996 testified in support of the bill. The Alaska AFL-CIO supports this bill. It gained several co-sponsors: Reps. Armstrong, Mina, McCormick, Groh, and Fields.

### Hot Button Issues

**Governor's "education" bills:** On 3/8, Governor Dunleavy introduced a suite of education bills (HB 105, HB 106 and companions SB 96, SB 97). The proposals would offer teachers a one-time retention bonus and would limit sexual education and the rights of gender non-conforming students in public schools. None of the policies address the much-needed BSA increase supported by the Alaska AFL-CIO and a broad coalition of other organizations, parents, and education advocates. Chair of the Senate Education Committee Löki Tobin said she would not hear the legislation in her committee, and that the bipartisan majority that leads the chamber has vowed to steer away from divisive social issues. Quoted in the ADN, NEA President Tom Klaaymeyer said of the one-time bonuses for teachers, "While the gesture means well, it doesn't fully address the problem like fully funding a BSA increase and adjusting it for inflation. That's a structural fix, rather than a temporary fix of bonuses for three years." The House versions of the bills have their initial hearings Monday March 13th at 8 AM in the House Education Committee.