

# Hot Sheet

## April 3, 2024



email: [info@akafclcio.org](mailto:info@akafclcio.org)

Phone: 907-258-6284

### The Budgets

**Senate Finance Committee:** The Senate Finance Committee did not meet on Monday or Tuesday. On Wednesday, the committee took up referred bills. On Thursday and Friday the committee is expected to hear the Capital Budget. The expected date for the chambers to exchange budgets is April 12, assuming the house can make the deadline (see below).

**House Finance Committee:** The House Finance Committee has spent the week hearing amendments to the Operating Budget. There have been many close votes during the process with many passing or failing on a 6-5/5-6 count. There is still strong disagreement in the committee about the size of the dividend, funding sources, and funding levels for critical state services. The committee will likely make an attempt to finish amendments in time to get the Operating Budget on the House Floor early next week in order to make their internal set April 12 deadline. Many of the disagreements about the aforementioned issues will play out on the house floor.

### Alaska House and Senate Bills

**HB 218:** Rep. Saddler's HB 218 (FIREFIGHTER WORKERS COMP REQUIREMENTS) is currently sitting in House Rules Committee waiting to be scheduled for the house floor. According to the sponsor statement, "HB 218 seeks to lessen an undue burden on firefighters and fire departments by changing the requirements and qualifications for firefighters to receive critical disability coverage for diseases acquired or developed in the line of duty."

**SB 204:** On 4/3, the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee heard SB 204 (CERT. OF FITNESS: PLUMBERS/ELECTRICIANS) and moved it out of committee. SB 204 would authorize the Department of Labor and Workforce Development to issue a six-year trainee certificate of fitness for plumbers and electricians as opposed to the current two-year certificate.

**SB 28:** On 4/3, the the Senate Finance Committee heard and held Sen. Claman's SB 28 (WORKPLACE VIOLENCE PROTECTIVE ORDERS). The bill would provide employers with a more effective way to protect their workplace and their employees from violence carried out by individuals who pose a known threat. The Alaska AFL-CIO supports this bill. The bill has passed through State Affairs and Judiciary already.

### Hot Button Issue

**Education:** On 4/3, the House and Senate Education Committees held a joint hearing for a presentation on the Alaska Board of Education and Early Development. Additionally, Senate Education held an afternoon hearing on the recent news that the US. Department of Education sent a letter to AK DEED warning them that federal ARPA funding was not appropriated distributed throughout the state. HB 392, the "second-shot" bill, which attempts to deal with education funding and the Governor's priorities was heard and held on the House Education Committee on 3/27, and no action has been taken since. During that meeting a CS was introduced, which was not shared with members and backed off some of the initial compromises.

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**With Anchorage looking destined for a mayoral runoff election, we will resume our weekly labor walks on 4/13.**

**We meet Saturday's at the IBEW Hall (3333 Denali St.) in Midtown Anchorage at 10am. We hope to see you there. Election Day is May 14.**

**The Fairbanks North Star Borough has a Special Election coming up on May 7. The Fairbanks Central Labor Council has endorsed the "Yes" position on Proposition A. For more information, visit: <https://www.fnsb.gov/1088/May-7-2024-Special-Election-Information>**