

Senator Kevin Meyer

Serving Huffman, O'Malley, Abbott Loop, Independence Park, East Dowling



March 6, 2017

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Today marks day 49 and the beginning of the eighth week of the legislative session. The finance committees are busy with the budget process, and along with continuing to hear bills, other committees are hearing from the Governor's appointees to various boards and commissions this week.

In addition to updates on the State budget and the Senate Finance committee, I hope you are finding the updates on the three standing committees that I am a member of – [Resources](#), [Labor & Commerce](#), and [Judiciary](#) – useful information. Continue reading below for a brief summary of each for the past week and what to look forward to. To keep up to date in real time, you can check [BASIS](#) for the current committee schedule and sign up to follow particular bills [HERE](#).

Thank you to everyone who took time to fill out my annual survey. I will be sending the results out in the near future. As always, I welcome your comments, suggestions, and ideas. It is an honor to serve as State Senator for District M.

Sincerely,

2017 PERMANENT FUND DIVIDEND

Don't forget to apply for your **2017 Permanent Fund Dividend!**

You can go to the online application site [HERE](#). The instruction booklet can be found [HERE](#).

The deadline is March 31, 2017.

STATE BUDGET & SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Last week the Senate Finance committee introduced and heard [SB 70](#), legislation that will ensure a steady, reliable annual dividend for eligible Alaskans while also providing funds for essential state services through a percent of market value (POMV) draw, as well as establish a sensible spending limit. If oil revenues increase in the future, the bill provides a mechanism to return excess funds to the Fund. You can go to the overview presentation [HERE](#).

Along with continuing to hear the Governor's budget bills, this week the committee will continue hearings on SB 70 as well as two other bills to restructure the Permanent Fund – [SB 21](#) and [SB 26](#). On Tuesday the committee will hear [SB 14](#) relating to Transportation Network Companies (Uber, Lyft, etc.), as well as [HB 80](#), relating to municipal energy improvements. You can watch these hearings by clicking [HERE](#).

Weekly Senate Majority Press Availability

You can watch this morning's Senate Majority press availability [HERE](#). Senators Pete Kelly, Mike Dunleavy, and Natasha von Imhof spoke about the State budget, Permanent Fund restructuring, education issues, and answered a variety of questions from the press.

STANDING COMMITTEES & CONFIRMATION HEARINGS

Senate Resources: Committees are starting to vet the Governor's appointees to various boards and commissions. Members will have an opportunity to essentially interview the appointees prior to voting on their confirmation later in the session. If you are interested in serving on a board, you can find information on the appointment process [HERE](#). This week the Resources committee will hear from the Governor's appointees to the [Board of Game](#) and the [Big Game Commercial Services Board](#). The Resources committee will also receive an overview of [State Litigation on Federal Issues](#) by the Department of Law on Wednesday.

Senate Labor & Commerce: This week the committee will hear [SB 16](#) – fiduciary access to digital assets, [SB 32](#) – prescriptions for biological products, and [SB 56](#) – product warranties and required updates. On Thursday we will hear from the Governor's appointees to the [Alaska State Board of Public Accountancy](#), [Fisherman's Fund Advisory & Appeals Council](#), [Board of Pharmacy](#), [Board of Certified Real Estate Appraisers](#), and the [State Board of Registration for Architects, Engineers and Land Surveyors](#). If you are interested in serving on a board, you can find information on the appointment process [HERE](#).

Senate Judiciary: This week the committee will continue hearing [SB 54](#), the substantive changes to the criminal justice reforms we passed last year, as well as [HB 77](#) – the 2017 statute revision bill, and [HB 104](#) – repealing the collection of civil litigation information. We will also hear from the Governor's [Attorney General](#) appointment, Jahna Lindemuth, and the [Department of Public Safety](#) Commissioner-designee, Walt Monegan.

You can check [BASIS](#) for the current committee schedule and sign up to follow particular bills [HERE](#).

PERSONAL LEGISLATION

SB 5: Political Contribution Limits/Prohibitions. This bill closes a loophole in our current campaign finance laws that allows legislator-controlled political action groups to accept contributions from lobbyists, circumventing our campaign finance laws. The bill also disallows fundraising and expenditure activities during a legislative session, bringing these groups in line with individual candidates' campaign operations. I hope to help restore public trust in our campaign finance system by reforming these practices. The [Senate State Affairs committee](#) moved it on to the [Senate Judiciary committee](#), where it was heard and held.

SB 20: List U-47700 as a Controlled Substance. This legislation addresses the growing problem of a street drug known as "pink." This is a dangerous synthetic opioid that has been linked to numerous deaths in the lower 48 and has recently been discovered in Alaska. SB 20 will classify this drug as schedule IA. This bill was moved from the [Senate Health & Social Services committee](#) and was heard and held in the Senate Judiciary committee.

SB 47: Motor Vehicle Dealer Franchises. This is ultimately a consumer protection bill, and will bring Alaskan auto dealers up-to-date with standards in other states. National auto manufacturers often have a "one size fits all" approach to contracts with auto dealers. It was heard and held in the [Senate Labor & Commerce committee](#).

ANNUAL CONSTITUENT SURVEY

Thank you to everyone that took time to fill out my annual survey. We received several hundred responses and will be reviewing and tallying them over the next couple of weeks. I will send the results to respondents via email, and a paper copy to those that mailed or faxed in their responses. The results will also be available on my web page, which you can find [HERE](#). Thanks again, everyone!

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Senator Meyer's Web Page:



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2017 ASSIGNMENTS:

Senate Rules Committee

Chairman

Senate Resources Committee

Member

Senate Labor and Commerce Committee

Member

Senate Judiciary Committee

Member

Senate Committee on Committees

Member

Legislative Council

Member



Constituents Rick Benjamin, Britney Howell, Tonya Dippo and Deni Monkelien, with the Key Coalition of Alaska stopped by my office last Friday. They were in town to raise awareness of and advocate for issues important to Alaskans with developmental disabilities.



Alaska 4-H participants Cutter, Max and Dara were in Juneau to connect with lawmakers. 4-H is the largest youth development organization in the United States with over 6.5 million members.



Constituents Robert Stone and Brad Sparks with Resident Hunters of Alaska visited with Rep. Birch and myself to advocate for issues important to Alaskan hunters.



Akeela House CEO Rosalie Nadeau and members of the organization were in Juneau to advocate for policies to address prevention of and recovery from substance and alcohol abuse.

If you have moved out of the district, or would like to be removed from my mailing list, please click [HERE](#).