

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE
May 12, 2024
2:08 p.m.

[2:08:54 PM](#)

CALL TO ORDER

Co-Chair Olson called the Senate Finance Committee meeting to order at 2:08 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Senator Lyman Hoffman, Co-Chair
Senator Donny Olson, Co-Chair
Senator Bert Stedman, Co-Chair
Senator Click Bishop
Senator Jesse Kiehl
Senator Kelly Merrick
Senator David Wilson

MEMBERS ABSENT

None

ALSO PRESENT

Senator Bill Wielechowski; Senator Cathy Giessel; Ken Alper, Staff to Co-Chair Olson; Edra Morledge, Staff, Senator Julie Coulombe; Eugene Harnett, Staff, Representative Jamie Allard.

PRESENT VIA TELECONFERENCE

Robert Doyle, Chair, Regulatory Commission of Alaska, Anchorage; Gary Hennigh, City Administrator, City of King Cove, King Cove, Alaska.

SUMMARY

SB 217 INTEGRATED TRANSMISSION SYSTEMS

SB 217 was HEARD and HELD in committee for further consideration.

CSHB 50 (FIN)

CARBON STORAGE

SCS CSHB 50(FIN) was REPORTED out of committee with two "do pass" recommendations and five "no recommendations"; three new fiscal notes from the Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development, two new fiscal notes from Department of Natural Resources, one new fiscal note from the Department of Revenue, and one previously published zero fiscal note: FN 9(DEC).

CSHB 66(FIN) am

CONTROLLED SUB;HOMICIDE;CRIMES;SENTENCING

SCS CSHB 66(FIN) was REPORTED out of committee with three "do pass" recommendations, three "no recommendations", and one "amend" recommendation; and two new zero fiscal notes from the Department of Public Safety, two new fiscal notes from the Department of Administration, one new fiscal note from the Department of Corrections, one new fiscal note from the Department of Law, one new fiscal note from the Department of Family and Community Services, and one previously published fiscal note: FN 9(DOA).

CSHB 111(EDC)

EDUCATION FOR DEAF & HARD OF HEARING

CSHB 111(EDC) was HEARD and HELD in committee for further consideration.

CSHB 122(FIN) am

RAILROAD CORP. FINANCING

SCS CSHB 122(FIN) was REPORTED out of committee with five "no recommendations" and two "do pass" recommendations; and two previously published fiscal notes: FN 1(CED) and FN 2 (CED).

CSHB 129(JUD)

VOTER REGISTRATION

CSHB 129(JUD) was HEARD and HELD in committee for further consideration.

CSHB 148(FIN)

AK PERFORMANCE SCHOLARSHIP; ELIGIBILITY

CSHB 148(FIN) was HEARD and HELD in committee for further consideration.

CSHB 202(EDC)

OPIOID OVERDOSE DRUGS IN SCHOOLS

CSHB 202(EDC) was SCHEDULED but not HEARD.

CSHB 347(CRA)am

PROPERTY ASSESSMENT

CSHB 347(CRA)am was HEARD and HELD in committee for further consideration.

#hb50

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 50(FIN)

"An Act relating to carbon storage on state land; relating to the powers and duties of the Alaska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission; relating to carbon storage exploration licenses; relating to carbon storage leases; relating to carbon storage operator permits; relating to enhanced oil or gas recovery; relating to long-term monitoring and maintenance of storage facilities; relating to carbon oxide sequestration tax credits; relating to the duties of the Department of Natural Resources; relating to carbon dioxide pipelines; and providing for an effective date."

2:09:29 PM

Co-Chair Olson MOVED to ADOPT Amendment 4, 33-GH1567\T.12, (Dunmire, 05/11/24) (copy on file).

Co-Chair Olson OBJECTED for the purpose of discussion.

2:10:01 PM

KEN ALPER, STAFF TO CO-CHAIR OLSON, spoke to Amendment 4:

Page 34, line 20:

Delete "new subsections"

Insert "a new subsection"

Page 34, lines 21-29:

Delete all material.

Reletter the following subsection accordingly.

Mr. Alper explained that the amendment meant that the Regulatory Commission of Alaska would not be given explicit direction about how to treat the cost of an LNG import facility for LNG imports that were many years in the future.

[2:11:07 PM](#)

AT EASE

[2:11:20 PM](#)

RECONVENED

Co-Chair Olson WITHDREW his objection.

Senator Bishop relayed that he had problems with the amendment. He asked that members pay close attention to the topic going forward. He expressed concern that the price of imported LNG would be higher than expected and that ratepayers would bear the burden.

[2:12:18 PM](#)

Co-Chair Olson MOVED to ADOPT Amendment 5, 33-GH1567\T.11 (Dunmire, 5/11/24).

Co-Chair Stedman OBJECTED for discussion.

KEN ALPER, STAFF TO Co-Chair Olson, spoke to Amendment 5 (copy on file):

Page 30, line 24, following **"paragraph,"**:

Insert **"(A)"**

Page 39, line 24, following **"capture"**:

Insert **"means the process of capturing carbon dioxide from a chemical, mechanical, or industrial process, or directly from the ambient atmosphere, and reducing the carbon dioxide to a concentrated form, including a superficial fluid; "carbon capture"."**

Page 30, line 25, following **"treatment"**:

Insert **"i**

(B) "carbon storage" means the long-term geologic storage of carbon dioxide in a carbon storage facility permitted under AS 41.06.120 or a Class VI injection well, as defined in 40 C.F.R 146.5 (f)"

Co-Chair Stedman WITHDREW his objection. There being NO OBJECTION, it was so ordered.

[2:14:10 PM](#)

Senator Bishop MOVED to WITHDRAW Amendment 6 (copy on file). There being NO OBJECTION, it was so ordered.

[2:14:22 PM](#)

AT EASE

[2:15:22 PM](#)

RECONVENED

Co-Chair Olson noted that Amendment 7 had been withdrawn (copy on file). [There was no motion to move Amendment 7].

[2:15:39 PM](#)

AT EASE

[2:24:17 PM](#)

RECONVENED

[2:24:38 PM](#)

Senator Bishop asked whether Mr. Doyle had seen Amendment 4.

[2:25:11 PM](#)

ROBERT DOYLE, CHAIR, REGULATORY COMMISSION OF ALASKA, ANCHORAGE (via teleconference), replied that he had not.

[2:25:13 PM](#)

Senator Bishop explained the intent of Amendment 4, and asked whether the Regulatory Commission of Alaska had the ability to regulate and approve imported gas tariffs.

[2:25:42 PM](#)

Mr. Doyle replied that the well head price of natural gas was not set by the Regulatory Commission of Alaska. He said that the Regulatory Commission of Alaska regulated it at the point in time when it was sold to the utility. The negotiated price that the gas was bought, prior to the time it was injected withdrawn, and sold to a utility, would not change based upon the contract that were established when the gas was purchased and put into storage.

[2:26:34 PM](#)

Senator Wilson wonder whether a natural gas entity would be able to adjust rates for the expenditures of building a storage facility or the export facility.

[2:27:35 PM](#)

Mr. Doyle understood that a corporations operating legacy field wanted to recoup costs of investments and remain competitive in offering services to utilities.

[2:27:45 PM](#)

Senator Wilson wondered whether the Regulatory Commission of Alaska had the authority to offset the investment costs of utilities down to the ratepayers.

Mr. Doyle replied that the adjustments would be made to make sure that the price was fair, just, and reasonable for ratepayers. He stressed that that more storage was needed as well as more production.

[2:28:41 PM](#)

Senator Wilson clarified that he was not talking about storage; he was talking about LNG importing. He asked if an entity were to build an LNG facility, would the costs be offset and did the Regulatory Commission of Alaska currently have the authority to offset costs.

[2:28:52 PM](#)

Mr. Doyle responded that that there were FERC considerations. He understood that utilities would be utilizing storage, and the Regulatory Commission of Alaska would support that storage.

[2:29:47 PM](#)

Senator Wilson reiterated that he was not talking about storage. He said that he was talking about the building of an LNG import facility for the importation of natural gas. He asked whether a public utility could recoup the cost of building a new LNG import facility to import natural gas for Southcentral Alaska.

[2:30:17 PM](#)

Mr. Doyle replied in the affirmative.

[2:30:48 PM](#)

Senator Bishop surmised that storage was regulated by the Regulatory Commission of Alaska whether it was in-field production from existing Cook Inlet properties or imported.

Mr. Doyle responded that the Regulatory Commission of Alaska regulated it at the point in time that it was sold to utilities and the utilities put it into generation.

[2:31:58 PM](#)

AT EASE

[2:32:33 PM](#)

RECONVENED

Senator Bishop MOVED to REPORT SCS CSHB 50 (FIN) 33GH1567\T from committee as amended with individual recommendations and attached fiscal notes.

SCS CSHB 50(FIN) was REPORTED out of committee with two "do pass" recommendations and five "no recommendations"; three new fiscal notes from the Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development, two new fiscal notes from Department of Natural Resources, one new fiscal note from the Department of Revenue, and one previously published zero fiscal note: FN 9(DEC).

#hb66

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 66(FIN) am

"An Act relating to homicide resulting from conduct involving controlled substances; relating to

misconduct involving a controlled substance; relating to sentencing; and providing for an effective date."

[2:36:03 PM](#)

Senator Merrick MOVED to ADOPT the committee substitute for CSHB 66 (FIN) am, Work Draft 33-GH1482\T (C. Radford, 5/10/24).

Co-Chair Olson OBJECTED for discussion.

[2:36:20 PM](#)

KEN ALPER, STAFF, SENATOR DONNY OLSON, explained the "Summary of Changes, version "N" to "O" to "T" - May 10, 2024":

Change 1 In removing and replacing the sections related to the grand jury process, required witnesses, child protection, and stalking, the amendment made a change to a requirement for when a sex offender must report their travel, which was flagged by the Department of Public Safety as inconsistent with federal law. This was Amendment #1.

Change 2 In removing and replacing the section related to the crime of assault in the presence of a child, the amendment incorporated two changes clarifying that "present" meant physically present in the same housing unit, and limiting the crime to assaults involving domestic violence or sexual assault. This was Amendment #6.

Change 3 Added new sections providing for additional consecutive terms of imprisonment if a defendant commits multiple violations of their condition of release. This was Amendment #7.

Change 4 Removed section related to the requirements and coverage of crime victim restitution. This was section 21 of the Senate Judiciary version and originated in HB286.

Change 5 Removed sections related to prohibiting the Department of Public Safety from releasing certain conviction records for possession of small amounts of marijuana. These were sections 26-27 and 53 of the Senate Judiciary version and originated in HB28.

[2:38:29 PM](#)

AT EASE

[2:39:14 PM](#)

RECONVENED

Co-Chair Olson REMOVED his OBJECTION. There being NO OBJECTION, it was so ordered.

There being no further OBJECTION version T was ADOPTED as a working document.

Co-Chair Olson moved AMENDMENT 8 (copy on File).

Co-Chair Hoffman OBJECTED for the purpose of discussion.

[2:40:13 PM](#)

Mr. Alper spoke to Amendment 8:

Page 1, following "**Act**":

Insert "**relating to criminal law and procedure;**"

Co-Chair Hoffman REMOVED his OBJECTION.

There being no further OBJECTION Amendment 8 was adopted.

Senator Olson MOVED Amendment 9 (copy on file).

[2:40:17 PM](#)

Senator Kiehl explained that the amendment would "tighten up" the language in the bill that pertained to hearsay. He relayed that second and third order hearsay would no longer be allowed, but the ability for law enforcement that was directly involved in the investigation to present hearsay would still be allowed. He said that the amendment applied to all felonies.

[2:41:58 PM](#)

Co-Chair Olson there being no OBJECTION Amendment 9 was adopted.

[2:42:20 PM](#)

Co-Chair Hoffman MOVED to ADOPT Amendment 11.

Co-Chair Olson OBJECTED for the purpose of discussion.

Co-Chair Hoffman explained that the amendment stemmed from his concern that the Indigenous population of the state was incarcerated at a higher rate than other groups. He detailed that Indigenous Peoples comprised only 14 percent of the state's population but 40 percent of the state's incarcerated population. The amendment would require that the issue be studied and would include Tribal Governments and local stakeholders. The study would require the finding to be submitted no later than the first day of the 34th Alaska State Legislature.

[2:44:15 PM](#)

Senator Wilson thanked Senator Hoffman for the amendment.

Co-Chair Olson REMOVED his OBJECTION.

There being no further OBJECTION the Amendment 11 was adopted.

[2:45:23 PM](#)

Senator Merrick MOVED to REPORT HB 66 from committee with individual recommendations and attached fiscal notes.

Senator Wilson OBJECTED for the purpose of discussion. He expressed his dissatisfaction with the legislation as written and hoped that the bill could be improved on the Senate Floor. He believed that the bill would have unintended consequences.

Understanding that he would not have the votes around the table to stop the bill from moving - Senator Wilson REMOVED his OBJECTION. There being NO OBJECTION, it was so ordered.

SCS CSHB 66(FIN) was REPORTED out of committee with three "do pass" recommendations, three "no recommendations", and one "amend" recommendation; and two new zero fiscal notes from the Department of Public Safety, two new fiscal notes from the Department of Administration, one new fiscal note from the Department of Corrections, one new fiscal note from the Department of Law, one new fiscal note from the

Department of Family and Community Services, and one previously published fiscal note: FN 9(DOA).

[2:47:29 PM](#)

AT EASE

[2:48:59 PM](#)

RECONVENED

#hb122

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 122(FIN) am

"An Act authorizing the Alaska Railroad Corporation to issue revenue bonds to finance the replacement of the Alaska Railroad Corporation's passenger dock and related terminal facility in Seward, Alaska; authorizing the Alaska Railroad Corporation to issue revenue bonds to finance the completion of the Port MacKenzie Rail Extension in Point MacKenzie, Alaska; and providing for an effective date."

[2:49:28 PM](#)

Senator Merrick MOVED to ADOPT the committee substitute for CSHB 122(FIN)am, Work Draft 33-LS0623\R (Walsh, 5/11/24).

Co-Chair Olson OBJECTED for the purpose of discussion.

KEN ALPER, STAFF, SENATOR DONNY OLSON, spoke to the document, "Summary of Changes, version "U.A" to "R", May 11, 2024" (copy on file):

Change 1 Removes the section authorizing the Railroad to issue \$58 million in revenue bonds for the Port MacKenzie Rail Extension.

[2:49:50 PM](#)

Senator Wilson opposed the change in the bill but believed that there was still time to procure funding for the project despite the removal of the revenue bond authorization.

[2:50:48 PM](#)

Co-Chair Stedman thought that there were possible rail extensions proposed for several areas of the state. He

hoped that the Alaksa Railroad would come before the committee to provide guidance on the prioritization of the various proposed projects to maximize appropriations. He supported rail extension projects.

Co-Chair Olson removed his OBJECTION.

[2:52:36 PM](#)

Senator Merrick MOVED to REPORT SCS for HB 122(FIN) 33-LS623\R OUT OF COMMITTEE with individual recommendations and attached fiscal notes.

SCS CSHB 122(FIN) was REPORTED out of committee with five "no recommendations" and two "do pass" recommendations; and two previously published fiscal notes: FN 1(CED) and FN 2 (CED).

#sb217

SENATE BILL NO. 217

"An Act relating to the taxation of independent power producers; and increasing the efficiency of integrated transmission system charges and use for the benefit of ratepayers."

Senator Olson noted that the committee would continue with the amendment process for bill version D of SB 217.

[2:53:19 PM](#)

Co-Chair Olson MOVED to ADOPT AMENDMENT 4 (copy on file).

Senator Olson OBJECTED for the purpose of discussion.

[2:53:27 PM](#)

KEN ALPER, STAFF, SENATOR DONNY OLSON, explained that the amendment was technical in nature and did not substantively change the bill.

[2:54:02 PM](#)

There being no further OBJECTION Amendment 4 was ADOPTED.

Co-Chair Hoffman MOVED to ADOPT Amendment 5 (copy on file).

Co-Chair Olson OBJECTED for the purpose of discussion.

Co-Chair Hoffman explained amendment 5. He noted that the change would remove the disincentives under PCE for smaller municipalities to incur debt for renewable energy projects. The amendment gave direction to AEA to provide a more affordable interest rate for a power project loan if warranted.

[2:55:21 PM](#)

GARY HENNIGH, CITY ADMINISTRATOR, CITY OF KING COVE, KING COVE, ALASKA (via teleconference), said that the amendment would result in the annual savings of \$40,000 annually for King Cove, which would then be parlayed into residential rate reductions. He added that the amendment would lower kilowatt costs for resident of King Cove.

[2:56:10 PM](#)

Co-Chair Stedman asked Mr. Hennigh to elaborate on an instance where a community that used PCE had installed renewable energy infrastructure and it had not resulted in any savings for the community.

Mr. Hennigh explained that in 2018, a second hydro plant was brought online in King Cove, which had resulted in the community not receiving a PCE subsidy. He said that in the process of the annual reporting, credit had not added up to the \$300,000 of fuel taken out of the equation by use of hydropower, which disqualified King Cove for the PCE credit.

Co-Chair Olson removed his OBJECTION to Amendment 5.

There being no further OBJECTION Amendment 5 was ADOPTED.

[2:58:01 PM](#)

AT EASE

[2:59:40 PM](#)

RECONVENED

Co-Chair Olson announced that Amendment 6 (copy on file) would not be offered.

Co-Chair Olson MOVED Amendment 7 (copy on file).

[2:59:41 PM](#)

Mr. Alper spoke to Amendment 7, which dealt with the tax status of independent power producers.

Co-Chair Olson removed his OBJECTION to Amendment 7. There being no further OBJECTION Amendment 7 was ADOPTED.

Senator Bishop moved Amendment 8 (copy on file).

Co-Chair Olson OBJECTED for the purpose of discussion.

[3:00:44 PM](#)

Senator Bishop explained that Amendment 8 would ensure that the Regulatory Commission of Alaska had the best qualified staff to make the best decisions for ratepayers in Alaska.

[3:01:32 PM](#)

Co-Chair Olson removed his OBJECTION to Amendment 8. There being no further OBJECTION Amendment 8 was ADOPTED.

SB 217 was heard and HELD in Committee for further consideration.

[3:01:45 PM](#)

AT EASE

[3:02:37 PM](#)

RECONVENED

[3:02:47 PM](#)

RECESS TO THE CALL OF THE CHAIR

[5:00:18 PM](#)

RECONVENED

#hb347

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 347(CRA) am

"An Act relating to assessment of property, boards of equalization, and certification of assessors; and providing for an effective date."

[5:00:36 PM](#)

EDRA MORLEDGE, STAFF, SENATOR JULIE COULOMBE, explained that the intent of the bill was to provide fairness when it came to property taxes by putting sideboards in place for municipalities, including greater transparency, which still ensuring local control. The bill would direct the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development to set standards for Alaskans to be clear on what the rules are for assessing property values, while still allowing municipalities to adopt their own standards to meet their specific needs. The legislation would change the default for those who heard tax appeals to an appointed board of equalization instead of local officials. The bill would prohibit municipalities from increasing the assessed property value during an appeal, ceasing any immediate punitive damage or action. Finally, the bill would assure assessors had the necessary experience and credentials to do the job well for both taxpayers and municipalities. She stated that changes in the previous committee included the addition of a municipal property tax exemption; the inclusion of provisions in SB 77, which allowed municipalities to levy taxes on blighted properties by ordinance; and clarifying language had been added about meetings between taxpayers and assessors.

[5:03:22 PM](#)

Senator Bishop MOVED to ADOPT the committee substitute for CSHB 347(CRA)am, Work Draft 33-LS1430\T (Dunmire, 5/10/24).

Co-Chair Olson OBJECTED for discussion.

KEN ALPER, STAFF, SENATOR DONNY OLSON, explained the changes in the committee substitute. He read from the document, "Summary of Changes, version "H" to "T" May 10, 2024":

Change 1 Increased the required municipal property tax exemption for a primary residence owned and occupied by a resident who is 65 years of age or older, a disabled veteran, or a qualified widow or widower, from \$150,000 to \$450,000. This is in Section 1 of the committee substitute.

Change 2 Increased the optional municipal property tax exemption for residential property from \$75,000 to

\$150,000. This is in Section 2 of the committee substitute.

Change 3 Removed the option for certain municipalities to levy a tax on blighted property. This was Sections 2 and 9 of the Community and Regional Affairs version.

Change 4 Changes 1 and 2, above, have the same effective date as the other parts of the bill, January 1, 2026.

[5:05:15 PM](#)

Senator Kiehl spoke to Change 1 in the latest version and wondered how it compared to the current mandatory exemption.

[5:05:31 PM](#)

Mr. Alper replied that the current mandatory exemption was \$150,000 and had been in place since the 1990s. He said that the number had been adjusted for inflation by triple.

[5:05:52 PM](#)

Senator Kiehl recalled that there was a law that state that the state was supposed to fund the mandatory exemption. He wondered what the number would be in 2024 if the state funded or reimbursed the exemption.

[5:06:13 PM](#)

Mr. Alper replied that the statute (AS 49.45.030) that mandated the exemption had been dormant and unfunded for many years. He said that the current impact that municipalities claimed for the current senior exemption was \$100 million.

[5:06:56 PM](#)

Senator Kiehl remarked that the total was closer to \$105 million. He asked whether there was anything in the bill that would cause the unfunded mandate to municipalities to do anything but triple.

[5:07:11 PM](#)

Mr. Alper did not think the number would triple because there was a substantial number of homes worth well under \$450,000.

[5:07:57 PM](#)

Senator Kiehl noted that the mandate currently totaled 7 percent of the operating budget for the Municipality of Anchorage.

[5:08:56 PM](#)

Senator Merrick asked how much tax revenue would be forgone due to Change 1.

[5:09:08 PM](#)

Mr. Alper replied that he did not know, but there would be some number between zero and \$200 million.

[5:09:51 PM](#)

AT EASE

[5:10:22 PM](#)

RECONVENED

[5:10:28 PM](#)

Co-Chair Olson REMOVED his objection to the ADOPTION of version T. There being NO further OBJECTION, it was so ordered.

[5:10:34 PM](#)

Senator Kiehl asked whether the chair intended to move the bill today.

[5:10:37 PM](#)

Co-Chair Olson replied in the negative.

CSHB 347(CRA)am was heard and HELD in Committee for further consideration.

[5:11:13 PM](#)

AT EASE

5:12:27 PM
RECONVENED

#hb148
CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 148 (FIN)

"An Act relating to the Alaska performance scholarship program."

5:12:42 PM

Senator Kiehl MOVED to ADOPT the incorrect item.

5:13:10 PM
AT EASE

5:13:22 PM
RECONVENED

5:13:38 PM

Senator Kiehl MOVED to ADOPT committee substitute for CSHB 148(FIN), Work Draft 33-LS0624\Y (Bergerud, 5/11/24).

Co-Chair Olson OBJECTED for discussion.

KEN ALPER, STAFF, SENATOR DONNY OLSON, explained the changes in the committee substitute. He referred to the Summary of Changes (copy on file):

- Change 1** New Section 1 removes a reference to Head Start Program Performance Standards that was in the 2022 READS Act. This section has prevented rural Head Start programs from accessing funding designated in that bill.
- Change 2** New Section 2 requires the Department of Education make a grant to each eligible Head Start agency equal to the program's required nonfederal contribution.
- Change 3** Added a section that was in the Senate companion, that increases a student's eligibility for performance scholarships by one semester for each semester the student is enrolled part time in a qualified

university or college. This is Section 8 of the committee substitute.

Change 4 Deleted language related to a grants program for the Technical Vocational Education Program operated through the Alaska Workforce Investment Board. Removes the sunset date that would have ended the current practice of direct percentage allocations to specific workforce training providers. This is in Sections 13-14, and 27 of the Committee Substitute.

Change 5 Modified the percentage allocations to several workforce training providers:

- University of Alaska: 45% to 30%, with 5% of that specifically allocated to the University of Alaska Southeast
- Northwestern Alaska Career and Technical Center: 3% to 4%
- Southwest Alaska Vocational and Education Center: 3% to 4%
- Amundsen Educational Center: 2% to zero
- Ilsagvik College: 5% to 6%
- Prince of Walkes Community Learning Center: new allocation for 5%
- Sealaska Heritage Institute: new allocation for 2%
- Fairbanks Pipeline Training Center: new allocation for 7%

Change 6 The changes to the TVAP program, described in Changes #4 and #5, are retroactive to June 30, 2024 if the bill takes effect after that date.

Change 7 Added language clarifying that contributions of either cash or equipment are eligible for a taxpayer to receive Education Tax Credits. Also added an additional eligible criterion to the Education Tax Credit program, for a nonprofit educational research center coordinating high school curricula in ten specific subject areas and providing student scholarships. This is in Sections 11, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, and 25 of the committee substitute.

Change 8 Increased the total allowable Education Tax Credit a taxpayer can claim in a year from \$1 million to \$3 million. This is in Sections 12, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, and 26 of the committee substitute.

Change 10 Technical correction to a reference to the Internal Revenue Code, in Section 16 of the committee substitute.

Change 11 Extends the sunset of the Education Tax Credit program for four years, to January 1, 2029. This is in Section 29 of the committee substitute.

[5:17:40 PM](#)

Co-Chair Olson REMOVED his objection. There being NO further OBJECTION, it was so ordered.

CSHB 148(FIN) was heard and HELD in Committee for further consideration.

#hb129

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 129(JUD)

"An Act relating to voter registration; and providing for an effective date."

[5:18:07 PM](#)

AT EASE

[5:18:41 PM](#)

RECONVENED

[5:18:43 PM](#)

Senator Bishop MOVED to ADOPT the committee substitute for CSHB 129(JUD), Work Draft 33-LS0668\D (Klein, 5/11/24).

Co-Chair Olson OBJECTED for discussion.

KEN ALPER, STAFF, SENATOR DONNY OLSON, explained the changes in the committee substitute.

Co-Chair Olson REMOVED his objection. There being NO further OBJECTION, it was so ordered.

CSHB 129(JUD) was heard and HELD in Committee for further consideration.

[5:20:55 PM](#)

AT EASE

[5:23:42 PM](#)

RECONVENED

#hb111

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 111(EDC)

"An Act relating to public school students who are deaf or hard of hearing."

[5:23:54 PM](#)

EUGENE HARNETT, STAFF, REPRESENTATIVE JAMIE ALLARD, introduced the legislation and summarized the Sponsor Statement (copy on file).

CSHB 111 (EDC) was heard and HELD in Committee for further consideration.

#hb202

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 202(EDC)

"An Act relating to the availability and administration of opioid overdose drugs in public schools."

CSHB 202(EDC) was SCHEDULED but NOT HEARD.

#

ADJOURNMENT

[5:26:45 PM](#)

The meeting was adjourned at 5:26 p.m.