

34TH ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION
CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON HB53 and HB55
May 13, 2025
4:30 p.m.

4:30:08 PM

CALL TO ORDER

Representative Josephson called the Conference Committee meeting on HB53 and HB55 to order at 4:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

House:

Representative Andy Josephson, Chair
Representative DeLena Johnson
Representative Calvin Schrage

Senate:

Senator Lyman Hoffman, Vice-Chair
Senator James Kaufman
Senator Bert Stedman

MEMBERS ABSENT

ALSO PRESENT:

Alexei Painter, Director, Legislative Finance Division

SUMMARY

HB 53 APPROP: OPERATING BUDGET; CAP; SUPP

HB 53 was HEARD and HELD in committee for further consideration.

HB 55 APPROP: MENTAL HEALTH BUDGET

HB 55 was HEARD and HELD in committee for further consideration.

#HB53

#HB55

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 53(FIN) am(brf sup maj fld)(efd fld)

"An Act making appropriations for the operating and loan program expenses of state government and for certain programs; capitalizing funds; amending appropriations; and making supplemental appropriations."

SENATE CS FOR CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 53(FIN) am S

"An Act making appropriations for the operating and loan program expenses of state government and for certain programs; capitalizing funds; amending appropriations; making supplemental appropriations; and providing for an effective date."

and

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 55(FIN)

"An Act making appropriations for the operating and capital expenses of the state's integrated comprehensive mental health program; and providing for an effective date."

SENATE CS FOR CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 55(FIN) am S

"An Act making appropriations for the operating and capital expenses of the state's integrated comprehensive mental health program; and providing for an effective date."

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Senator Hoffman MOVED that Representative Josephson serve as the presiding chair of the FY 26 Conference Committee on HB 53 and HB 55. There being NO OBJECTION, it was so ordered.

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Chair Josephson MOVED that Senator Hoffman serve as Vice-Chair of the House Bill 53 and House Bill 55 Fiscal Year 2026 Operating Budget Conference Committee. There being NO OBJECTION, it was so ordered.

Chair Josephson reviewed procedures pertaining to the conference committee. He noted that both the House and

Senate budget processes allowed for public testimony. That portion of the process was concluded; the conference committee would not accept further public testimony. Unless invited by the Chair, only members of the conference committee would take part in discussions or sit at the table.

Chair Josephson observed that the Legislative Finance Division (LEF) had been directed to prepare the "motion sheets" for use by the conference committee. The motion sheets summarized the differences between the two versions of the bills before the conference committee, were located on LFD's website, and would be updated after each meeting.

Chair Josephson explained that the conference committee would operate under Uniform Rule 42. All action required a majority vote from each body for adoption. A copy of Uniform Rule 42 and related legal opinions were provided in each member's packet.

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Vice-Chair Hoffman MOVED that all appropriations and language in the FY 26 operating budget that were identical in House and Senate versions of HB 53 and HB 55 be adopted. There being NO OBJECTION, it was so ordered.

Chair Josephson observed that the committee would need limited powers to reach agreements. He invited a motion to request "limited powers" for budget items for which differences existed. In accordance with past practice, the conference committee also requested authorization to add collective bargaining agreements. He distributed a letter dated May 13, 2025, for this purpose, one addressed to the Speaker of the House and one addressed to the Senate President. Under limited powers, the conference committee could adopt any amount between zero and the higher of the House or Senate version of each item subject to conference.

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Vice-Chair Hoffman MOVED to ADOPT the letters requesting limited powers of conference for budget items that were not identical and authorization to add collective bargaining agreements. There being NO OBJECTION, it was so ordered.

Chair Josephson noted the committee would take a brief at ease to sign the two identical letters, one for each body.

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AT EASE

[4:36:04 PM](#)

RECONVENED

Chair Josephson relayed that the committee would be meeting to act on the operating budget bills once limited powers were received. The conference committee meetings would be posted on BASIS under the 24-hour rule.

HB 53 was HEARD and HELD in committee for further consideration.

HB 55 was HEARD and HELD in committee for further consideration.

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Vice-Chair Hoffman MOVED to adjourn the meeting. There being NO OBJECTION, it was so ordered.

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ADJOURNMENT

[4:36:45 PM](#)

The meeting was adjourned at 4:36 p.m.