



# Alaska State Legislature

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*Office of Senator Löki Gale Tobin*

## **Interim & Upcoming Session Update**

As we prepare for the 2nd Session of the 33rd Legislature, I am excited to spend the next month meeting with constituents, community leaders, and working with my caucus to identify our strategies and approaches to increase education funding, investing in state deferred maintenance, and continuing to prioritize upstream interventions to prevent homelessness.

On or around December 15, we expect the Governor to release his FY25 budget. I have not heard from many Executive Level folks on what to expect; however, I know Commissioner Bishop (DEED) requested additional funds for Alaska Reads Act implementation and Commissioner Hedburg (DoH) is working on amending the state Medicaid plan to allow for school-based behavioral health support.

The Governor's Task Force on Child Care is working to finalize its recommendations and I look forward to working with Commissioner Hedburg and Representative Columbe on reducing barriers and providing state resources to interested parties to navigate the state licensure requirements. Additional short-term recommendations Commissioner Hedburg is keen to work on include investing in a state-funded system to capture fingerprints digitally and establishing a secure online portal for licensure applications. Longer term recommendations include state-offsets for childcare costs and stabilizing and increasing child care worker salaries.

This month, I am honored to be recognized with a Top 20 Under 40 Leadership Award by the Council of State Governments. This award is given to public officials who embody the value of bipartisan collaboration. Additionally, I look forward to participating in the rescheduled Alaska Common Ground Legislative Roundup, discussing emphatic support of diversification of our energy generation through investments in renewable energy.

As my office prepares for the upcoming session, we anticipate PreFiling two new pieces of legislation focused on bringing more representation onto our Board of Parole and instituting member term limits as well as a bill to help remove recyclable electronic devices from under-managed landfills across Alaska. I also am working on legislation to reduce firearm access by those experiencing a mental or behavioral health crisis and working with Senate Education Committee

members to make committee revisions to the Governor's Teacher Incentive bill (SB 97).

The legislature will re-convene next month and we look forward to bringing your interests and concerns to the attention of the Legislature. Additionally, if you have not already, please sign up to receive regular updates from our office as well as sign up for the upcoming season of the Empty Office Podcast. We already have several episodes in the hopper. Visit [lgtobin.substack.com](http://lgtobin.substack.com) to register for both email updates and the podcast.

Contact: Senator Löki Gale Tobin (she/her) at [sen.loki.tobin@akleg.gov](mailto:sen.loki.tobin@akleg.gov) or by phone at 907-269-0224.

## **Personal Legislation**

**SB 27:** Contraceptive Coverage (Ability to receive 12-months of birth control)

**SB 46:** Brain Injury Awareness Month (AK has the highest rates of traumatic brain injury)

**SB 100:** Access to Marijuana Conviction Records (expunging marijuana violations from court view from before personal use was made legal)

**SB 101:** Renewable Portfolio Standards

**SB 109:** Employee Rights and Employer Speech (prohibits an employer from requiring an employee listening to employer personal beliefs of opinions in a captive audience meeting)

**SB 115:** Physician Assistant Scope of Practice (improving patient care)