

Alaska State Legislature
House of Representatives
Minority Leader



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Representative Ethan Berkowitz
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News from Juneau

February 20, 2000

Berkowitz Bulletin
Volume 4, #4

Greetings from Juneau. Sunday, February 13th marked the 35th day of session, which was the final day for introduction of personal legislation. From this day forth, only committee bills may be introduced. We can all breath easier now!

Admittedly, I contributed to the flurry. My final piece of legislation, House Bill 396, would 'sell' the Alaska Municipal Bond Bank and the Alaska Student Loan Corporation to the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation. The missions and functions of both the Bond Bank and the Student Loan Corporation would remain unchanged, but the proceeds from the sale would be used to produce regular funding for recurring expenses within the state budget. HB 396 remains a work in progress and you can learn more about it on my legislation page at:

<http://www.akdemocrats.org/bios/berklegis.htm>

In the meanwhile, there are some shifting tectonics on the budget solution front, but it is unclear whether it will provoke enough of a tremblor to jolt the legislature into a budget plan. The latest rumblings indicate a four-part plan made up of a broad based (read, income or sales) tax, increased oil taxes, some use of Permanent Fund earnings, and of course, continued budget reductions. Please let me know what you think.

I'm looking forward to a neighborhood meeting from 11 a.m. to noon at Inlet View School on March 11 and would appreciate you passing the word.

As always, I will do my best to keep you up to date and address your questions. Please let me know if there are other issues of interest.

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