

BLUMER AND ASSOCIATES

City of Unalaska Legislative Report

2/20/21

On the 31st day of the legislative session the Alaska House of Representatives finalized its organization allowing the body to begin legislative work. It remains unusually volatile with a voting block of 21 and still questions remaining as to who is fully committed to either caucus, leaving open the possibility of further deadlock. As it stands now, we have 20 members in the “majority” bipartisan coalition, 18 members in the republican minority and two members who have elected to remain independent and not join either group.

There is still much uncertainty, it will be interesting to see how this all plays out. Most of the standing committees are chaired by members of the bipartisan coalition, however, the Finance committee has a majority of Republicans.

You can find the full committee assignments here:

<http://www.akleg.gov/basis/Committee/List/32>

As we all know, the Senate version of the disaster declaration extension bill (SB 56) did not make it to the floor last week and the declaration expired, but the issue may be revived. The House’s version of the disaster declaration extension bill (HB 76) is up in House Finance on Friday. It is anticipated either the Senate will quickly wrap up their version and pass it over, or the House will try to get theirs in place first. This very could be very good news for hospitals, businesses, and others who were impacted, depending if both bodies can agree on passage and the Governor will then sign it in to law.

With the House organized, next week is stacking up to be very busy. We will see a many budget overviews from Departments, but there are also a variety of bills being heard next week. Expect to start seeing more information regarding specific legislation on the move in the near future.

The Alaska Legislative Council filed suit against Governor Dunleavy in December over the governor's appointments, which the Legislature did not approve before the end of the session in 2020. On Thursday, the council maintained that since the body neither confirmed nor denied any of Dunleavy’s appointees in 2020, each of those appointees is deemed to have been rejected.

Appointments affected include the state revenue commissioner, state public defender and members of many boards and commissions. The impact and next steps are currently under review with the Legislature’s legal division, once the implications are fully understood we can anticipate an announcement.

In an unprecedented move, the Governor delivered a severely worded letter to the chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee, accusing Eagle River Sen. Lora Reinbold of violating ethics rules and her oath of office by repeatedly spreading misinformation about Alaska’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The letter states that in response to Reinbold’s recent actions, state officials and staff “will not be responding,

or participating, in any matter that pertains to yourself, your office, or, currently, in your capacity as the chair of a committee. The resources of the State of Alaska are not yours to abuse for your own, as yet undiscernible, personal benefit.”

Absent participation from the executive branch, it will be difficult gather information or have critical testimony presented to the committee.

You can review the Governors letter here:

<https://beta.documentcloud.org/documents/20488288-021821-senator-reinbold-ltr>

Weekly Schedule

Time	Description
Mon 2/22/21 1:30 PM	SB 55 - Employer Contributions To Pers
Mon 2/22/21 3:30 PM	BELTZ 105 (TSBldg) - SENATE LABOR & COMMERCE SB 33 - Seafood Product Development Tax Credit
Tue 2/23/21 10:00 AM	BUTROVICH 205 - SENATE RESOURCES HB 79 - Saltwater Sportfishing Operators/guides
Tue 2/23/21 3:00 PM	GRUENBERG 120 - HOUSE FISHERIES HB 3 - Definition Of "disaster": Cybersecurity
Tue 2/23/21 3:30 PM	GRUENBERG 120 - HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS SB 53 - Perm Fund; Advisory Vote
Wed 2/24/21 1:30 PM	BUTROVICH 205 - SENATE STATE AFFAIRS
Thu 2/25/21 10:00 AM	BELTZ 105 (TSBldg) - SENATE LABOR & COMMERCE HB 79 - Saltwater Sportfishing Operators/guides
Thu 2/25/21 10:00 AM	GRUENBERG 120 - HOUSE FISHERIES HB 26 - Conflict Of Interest: Bd Fisheries/game
Thu 2/25/21 1:30 PM	GRUENBERG 120 - HOUSE FISHERIES SB 74 - G.o. Bonds: State Infrastructure Projects
Thu 2/25/21 3:00 PM	BELTZ 105 (TSBldg) - SENATE TRANSPORTATION HB 18 - Teachers: National Board Certification
	GRUENBERG 120 - HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS

Time	Description
Thu 2/25/21 3:30 PM	SB 25 - State Gov't Finances: Website BUTROVICH 205 - SENATE STATE AFFAIRS
Thu 2/25/21 3:30 PM	BELTZ 105 (TSBldg) - SENATE COMMUNITY & REGIONAL AFFAIRS
Thu 2/25/21 3:30 PM	SB 15 - Open Meetings Act; Penalty BELTZ 105 (TSBldg) - SENATE COMMUNITY & REGIONAL AFFAIRS
Fri 2/26/21 1:30 PM	HB 76 - Extending Covid 19 Disaster Emergency ADAMS 519 - HOUSE FINANCE

Here is the link to more information about the committee hearings, at this time of year it is good to check daily if you are watching a hearing as they change frequently.

<http://w3.legis.state.ak.us/index.php?tab2=type%3DAll%26com%3D%26startDate%3D02%2F20%2F2021%26endDate%3D02%2F28%2F2021%26chamber%3D#tab2>

<u>Bills of Interest</u>				
Bill	Short Title	Prime Sponsors	Current Status	Status Date
HB 1	Audit Of Cares Act Funds	RAUSCHER	(H) CRA	2/18/2021
HB 2	Minimum Age To Sell Tobacco/nicotine	RAUSCHER	(H) CRA	2/18/2021
HB 3	Definition Of "disaster": Cybersecurity	JOHNSON	(H) STA	2/18/2021
HB 4	Business/prof. License Immunity Covid-19	JOHNSON	(H) L&C	2/18/2021
HB 9	Income Tax; Pfd Payment/credit	HANNAN	(H) STA	2/18/2021
HB 11	Defensive Display Of Firearm	RAUSCHER	(H) CRA	2/18/2021
HB 12	Hold Legislative Sessions In Anchorage	RAUSCHER	(H) CRA	2/18/2021

Bill	Short Title	Prime Sponsors	Current Status	Status Date
HB 15	Temp Permits & Licenses; Military License	THOMPSON	(H) L&C	2/18/2021
HB 16	Search And Rescue Surplus State Property	JOHNSON	(H) CRA	2/18/2021
HB 18	Teachers: National Board Certification	KREISS- TOMKINS	(H) STA	2/18/2021
HB 23	Ballot Custody/tamper; Voting; Voter Reg	RAUSCHER	(H) STA	2/18/2021
HB 26	Conflict Of Interest: Bd Fisheries/game	STUTES	(H) FSH	2/18/2021
HB 28	Registration Of Boats: Exemption	STUTES	(H) FSH	2/18/2021
HB 30	Workers' Comp: Death; Perm Partial Impair	JOSEPHSON	(H) L&C	2/18/2021
HB 31	Observe Daylight Saving Time All Year	ORTIZ	(H) STA	2/18/2021
HB 37	Income Tax; Permanent Fund; Earnings Res.	WOOL	(H) CRA	2/18/2021
HB 41	Shellfish Projects; Hatcheries; Fees	ORTIZ	(H) FSH	2/18/2021
HB 45	Workers' Comp. And Contagious Diseases	JOSEPHSON	(H) L&C	2/18/2021
HB 50	Municipal Regulation Of Trapping	JOSEPHSON	(H) RES	2/18/2021
HB 55	Peace Officer/firefighter Retire Benefits	JOSEPHSON	(H) STA	2/18/2021
HB 56	Power Cost Equalization	FOSTER	(H) CRA	2/18/2021
HB 57	Funds Subject To Cbr Sweep Provision	JOSEPHSON	(H) JUD	2/18/2021

Bill	Short Title	Prime Sponsors	Current Status	Status Date
HB 59	Workplace Violence Protective Orders	CLAMAN	(H) STA	2/18/2021
HB 63	Alaska Marine Highway Operations Board	STUTES	(H) TRA	2/18/2021
HB 64	Fishery Development Assoc.; Assessments	STUTES	(H) FSH	2/18/2021
HB 65	Boards Of Fisheries And Game Confirmation	STUTES	(H) FSH	2/18/2021
HB 66	Elections, Voting, Ballots	TUCK	(H) STA	2/18/2021
HB 67	Approp: K-12 Acad. Recovery From Covid-19	STORY	(H) EDC	2/18/2021
HB 68	Approp: Supplemental; Amending	RULES	(H) FIN	2/18/2021
HB 69	Approp: Operating Budget/loans/funds	RULES	(H) FIN	2/18/2021
HB 70	Approp: Cap; Reapprop; Supp; Amend	RULES	(H) FIN	2/18/2021
HB 72	Approp: Era For Payment Of Pfd	RULES	(H) FIN	2/18/2021
HB 73	Perm Fund; Advisory Vote	RULES	(H) STA	2/18/2021
HB 75	Employer Contributions To Pers	RULES	(H) L&C	2/18/2021
HB 76	Extending Covid 19 Disaster Emergency	RULES	(H) FIN	2/19/2021
HB 79	Saltwater Sportfishing Operators/guides	RULES	(H) FSH	2/18/2021
HB 82	Gas Leases; Renewable Energy Grant Fund	RULES	(H) RES	2/18/2021
HB 84	Approp: Supp; Reapprop; Amending; Cbr	RULES	(H) FIN	2/18/2021

Bill	Short Title	Prime Sponsors	Current Status	Status Date
HB 88	Equal Pay & Minimum Wage Act	TARR	(H) STA	2/18/2021
HB 93	G.o. Bonds: State Infrastructure Projects	RULES	(H) FIN	2/18/2021
HB 95	Elections; Election Investigations	RULES	(H) STA	2/18/2021
HB 96	Elections; Voting; Ballot Reqs	RULES	(H) STA	2/18/2021
HJR 1	Const Am: Permanent Fund; Pomv; Earnings	KREISS-TOMKINS	(H) STA	2/18/2021
HJR 2	Const. Am: 90 Day Regular Session	CLAMAN	(H) STA	2/18/2021
HJR 6	Const. Am: Approp Limit; Budget Reserve	RULES	(H) STA	2/18/2021
HJR 7	Const. Am: Perm Fund & Pfd	RULES	(H) STA	2/18/2021
HJR 8	Const. Am: State Tax; Voter Approval	RULES	(H) STA	2/18/2021
SB 1	Chokehold Ban	GRAY-JACKSON	(S) STA	1/22/2021
SB 2	Peace Officers: De-escalation, Misconduct	GRAY-JACKSON	(S) STA	1/22/2021
SB 3	Police Officers: Oral Warning/de-escalate	GRAY-JACKSON	(S) STA	1/22/2021
SB 4	Prohibit Peace Off. Shoot Moving Vehicle	GRAY-JACKSON	(S) STA	1/22/2021
SB 6	Rip For Public Employees/teachers	KAWASAKI	(S) EDC	1/22/2021
SB 7	State Trooper Policies: Public Access	GRAY-JACKSON	(S) STA	1/22/2021
SB 8	Pre-k/elem Ed Programs/funding; Reading	BEGICH	(S) EDC	1/22/2021

Bill	Short Title	Prime Sponsors	Current Status	Status Date
SB 9	Alcoholic Beverage Control; Alcohol Reg	MICCICHE	(S) L&C	1/22/2021
SB 10	Free/reduced Tuition For Essential Worker	BEGICH	(S) EDC	2/10/2021
SB 11	Community Property Trusts	BEGICH	(S) L&C	1/22/2021
SB 12	Military Spouse Courtesy License	KAWASAKI	(S) STA	1/22/2021
SB 15	Open Meetings Act; Penalty	COSTELLO	(S) CRA	1/22/2021
SB 16	Equal Pay/ Living Wage Act; Sex Discrim.	BEGICH	(S) L&C	1/22/2021
SB 17	Energy Efficiency & Policy: Pub. Bldgs	BEGICH	(S) CRA	1/22/2021
SB 18	Class Size Reduction Grant Program	BEGICH	(S) EDC	1/22/2021
SB 19	Extend Special Education Service Agency	STEVENS	(S) FIN	2/17/2021
SB 20	Out Of State Teacher Reciprocity	STEVENS	(S) EDC	1/22/2021
SB 21	License Mobile Intensive Care Paramedics	REVAK	(S) HSS	1/22/2021
SB 23	Initiative Severability	REVAK	(S) STA	1/22/2021
SB 24	Virtual Meetings For Corporations	WILSON	(S) L&C	1/22/2021
SB 25	State Gov't Finances: Website	WIELECHOWSKI	(S) STA	1/22/2021
SB 29	Cook Inlet: New Admin Area; Permit Buyback	MICCICHE	(S) RES	1/22/2021
SB 30	Colorectal Cancer Screen Coverage	BEGICH	(S) HSS	1/25/2021
SB 31	Prohibiting Binding Caucuses	SHOWER	(S) STA	1/25/2021

Bill	Short Title	Prime Sponsors	Current Status	Status Date
SB 32	College Credit For High School Students	STEVENS	(S) EDC	1/25/2021
SB 33	Seafood Product Development Tax Credit	STEVENS	(S) RES	1/25/2021
SB 34	State-tribal Education Compact Schools	STEVENS	(S) EDC	1/25/2021
SB 37	Teachers & Pub Employee Retirement Plans	KIEHL	(S) L&C	1/25/2021
SB 41	Health Insurance Info.; Incentive Program	HUGHES	(S) L&C	1/25/2021
SB 43	Elections, Voting, Campaign Finance	HUGHES	(S) STA	1/25/2021
SB 44	Personal Use Fishing Priority	KAWASAKI	(S) RES	1/25/2021
SB 48	Approp: Supplemental; Amending	RULES	(S) FIN	1/25/2021
SB 49	Approp: Operating Budget/loans/funds	RULES	(S) FIN	1/25/2021
SB 50	Approp: Cap; Reapprop; Supp; Amend	RULES	(S) FIN	1/25/2021
SB 52	Approp: Era For Payment Of Pfd	RULES	(S) FIN	1/25/2021
SB 53	Perm Fund; Advisory Vote	RULES	(S) STA	1/25/2021
SB 54	Ahfc Water & Sewer Bonds/transportation	RULES	(S) L&C	1/25/2021
SB 55	Employer Contributions To Pers	RULES	(S) L&C	1/25/2021
SB 56	Extending Covid 19 Disaster Emergency	RULES	(S) FIN	2/12/2021
SB 68	Approp: Supp; Reapprop; Amending; Cbr	RULES	(S) FIN	2/3/2021

Bill	Short Title	Prime Sponsors	Current Status	Status Date
SB 74	G.o. Bonds: State Infrastructure Projects	RULES	(S) TRA	2/5/2021
SB 75	Appropriation Limit	VON IMHOF	(S) FIN	2/5/2021
SB 76	Abandoned Vehicles; Private Property	KIEHL	(S) STA	2/10/2021
SB 78	Health Care Services By Telehealth	SENATE LABOR & COMMERCE	(S) HSS	2/10/2021
SJR 1	Const Am: Guarantee Perm Fund Dividend	WIELECHOWSKI	(S) STA	1/22/2021
SJR 3	Const. Am. Prohibiting Binding Caucuses	SHOWER	(S) STA	1/22/2021
SJR 9	Urge Exemption For Cruise Ships	KIEHL	(S) L&C	2/19/2021