

# BLUMER AND ASSOCIATES

## City of Unalaska Legislative Report

3/20/21

Friday marked day 60 of the legislative session, which would mark the constitutional halfway point for the legislative session, but if there is an obvious indication it is that things are expected to run long, potentially very long.

The theatrics related to Covid-19 mandates continue to cause delays. Friday Representative Kurka brought the House floor session to a standstill amid a dispute over his “Government mandated muzzle” mask, which was a violation of the Legislature’s requirements for professional attire on the floor. Earlier this week, Kurka left the House floor rather than wear a mask. As a result, the House, which had been set to take up a Senate bill allowing remote meetings for some boards and corporations was adjourned without action until Saturday.

On the budget front, the state did get some good news this week with a revised spring revenue forecast which projects \$460 million of revenue available for the next budget cycle. While this lifts some burden, there still remains a sizable fiscal gap to meet the governor’s proposals for the budget and dividends. With \$1.25B in federal relief funds pending, legislators are expected to focus on opportunities to replace UGF with federal funds to reduce the need to draw from the permanent fund Earning Reserves Account (ERA). A major question which remains to be answered is the timing of the federal treasuring and to what extent the legislature might engage in that decision making process. The last round of federal funding was received outside legislative session and was allocated by the governor using an RPL process which has been criticized. The House announced an anticipated time line for completing session to be mid-May, and whether their work includes the federal aid is unknown. In the long term, the positive spring forecast coupled with incoming federal dollars once again looks to delay difficult revenue discussions to future legislatures, with next year being an election year.

There was much conversation surrounding the recently approved federal American Rescue Plan Act which will potentially infuse over a billion dollars into the fiscal mix. There may be additional funding from that for agencies to utilize or distribute. Essentially, the ARP may make the State whole for this year but is definitely not a long term solution toward a sustainable budget.

On Wednesday and Thursday, March 17th and 18th, the Senate Finance Committee took public testimony during four separate listening sessions on SB49 Operating Budget, SB50 Capital Budget, and SB51 Mental Health Budget. A total of 93 Alaskans provided testimony.

House Finance Committee co-Chair Rep. Neal Foster announced public testimony is tentatively scheduled for April 1-3<sup>rd</sup>. House finance subcommittees are on a fast track with substantive hearings and closeouts across subcommittees in the next week.

**HB 76**, A bill related to extension of the emergency disaster declaration was amended and passed out of the House Health and Social Services Committee this week after it received public testimony. While several testified that the declaration is not needed, there may still be some unknown issues that may have unintended consequences as brought forward by many associations including; the Alaska State Chamber of Commerce, Alaska Public Health Association, Food Bank of Alaska, the Alaska Municipal League, ASHNHA, The Alaska Children’s Trust, the Alaska Food Coalition, the Alaska Public Health Association, the Anchorage Economic Development Corporation, and Alaska Primary Cary Association.

Meanwhile in the Senate, **SB56** (Senate version of HB 76) – after no action since the declaration expired on February 2022- the Senate Finance Committee has noticed a hearing for its version, on Wednesday March 24<sup>th</sup>.

**HB 45**, Related to workers compensation coverage of contagious diseases passed out of House Labor and Commerce moving to the next committee of referral, House Finance.

**SB 74**, The Governors General Obligation Bonds bill was heard in the Senate Transportation Committee, there were many amendments related to the list of projects and discussion about the procedural issues surrounding SB74. The bill was eventually held and will be taken up again on Tuesday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**SB15**, by Senator Costello, penalties for opens meetings act violations was heard briefly in Senate Judiciary this week and scheduled for a hearing on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. It is not clear at this time whether public testimony will be taken. If SB 15 becomes law, anyone could file a complaint with the Alaska Public Offices Commission, alleging that a public official had violated the States Open meetings Act. The commission is required to investigate the complaint and if commissioners agree that the compliant is valid, the official could be fined up to \$1000.00.

**HB63**, relating to renaming the Alaska Marine Transportation Advisory Board to an operational board that has ability to assess and suggest marine business practices that enhance revenues and reduce costs passed out of House Transportation and now moves to House Finance.

### Weekly Schedule

<b>Time</b>	<b>Description</b>
Sat 3/20/21 12:30 PM	HJR 13 - Urge Exemption For Cruise Ships BARNES 124 - HOUSE TRANSPORTATION

Time	Description
Sat 3/20/21 12:30 PM	BARNES 124 -HOUSE TRANSPORTATION -- Please Note Time Change -- *+ HJR13 URGE EXEMPTION FOR CRUISE SHIPS TELECONFERENCED-- Invited & Public Testimony -- -- -- + Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled TELECONFERENCED
Mon 3/22/21 9:00 AM	SB 32 - College Credit For High School Students
Mon 3/22/21 9:00 AM	SENATE FINANCE 532 - SENATE FINANCE SB 20 - Out Of State Teacher Reciprocity
Mon 3/22/21 9:00 AM	BUTROVICH 205 - SENATE EDUCATION SB 19 - Extend Special Education Service Agency
Mon 3/22/21 9:00 AM	SENATE FINANCE 532 - SENATE FINANCE SB 10 - Free/reduced Tuition For Essential Worker
Mon 3/22/21 9:00 AM	BUTROVICH 205 - SENATE EDUCATION SB 6 - Rip For Public Employees/teachers
Mon 3/22/21 1:30 PM	BUTROVICH 205 - SENATE EDUCATION SB 15 - Open Meetings Act; Penalty
Mon 3/22/21 1:30 PM	BUTROVICH 205 - SENATE JUDICIARY HB 76 - Extending Covid 19 Disaster Emergency
Mon 3/22/21 1:30 PM	ADAMS 519 - HOUSE FINANCE ADAMS 519 -HOUSE FINANCE + Presentation: Alaska Marine Highway System by TELECONFERENCEDDeputy Commissioner Rob Carpenter, Dept. of Transportation += HB128 USE OF INTERNET FOR CHARITABLE GAMING TELECONFERENCED-- Public Testimony -- += HB76 EXTENDING COVID 19 DISASTER EMERGENCY TELECONFERENCED+ Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled TELECONFERENCED
Mon 3/22/21 1:30 PM	BUTROVICH 205 -SENATE JUDICIARY + Consideration of Governor's Appointees TELECONFERENCED-- Public Testimony -- += SB15 OPEN MEETINGS ACT; PENALTY TELECONFERENCEDBills Previously Heard/Scheduled **Streamed live on AKL.tv**

Time	Description
Tue 3/23/21 9:00 AM	SENATE FINANCE 532 -SENATE FINANCE + AMHS Reshaping Group, Final Report TELECONFERENCED- Admiral Tom Barrett Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
Tue 3/23/21 11:00 AM	HB 28 - Registration Of Boats: Exemption
Tue 3/23/21 1:30 PM	GRUENBERG 120 - HOUSE FISHERIES SJR 9 - Urge Exemption For Cruise Ships
Tue 3/23/21 1:30 PM	BARNES 124 - HOUSE TRANSPORTATION SB 74 - G.o. Bonds: State Infrastructure Projects
Tue 3/23/21 1:30 PM	BELTZ 105 (TSBldg) - SENATE TRANSPORTATION BELTZ 105 (TSBldg) -SENATE TRANSPORTATION += SB74 G.O. BONDS: STATE INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS TELECONFERENCED**Streamed live on AKL.tv**
Wed 3/24/21 9:00 AM	SB 56 - Extending Covid 19 Disaster Emergency
Wed 3/24/21 9:00 AM	SENATE FINANCE 532 - SENATE FINANCE SB 6 - Rip For Public Employees/teachers
Wed 3/24/21 9:00 AM	BUTROVICH 205 - SENATE EDUCATION BUTROVICH 205 -SENATE EDUCATION + Consideration of Danette Peterson, Governor's TELECONFERENCEDAppointee to the Professional TeachingPractices Commission += SB6 RIP FOR PUBLIC EMPLOYEES/TEACHERS TELECONFERENCED-- Invited & Public Testimony -- Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled **Streamed live on AKL.tv** += SB72 SEC.
Wed 3/24/21 9:00 AM	SCHOOL CIVICS EDUCATION TELECONFERENCED SENATE FINANCE 532 -SENATE FINANCE + Alaska Railroad, Update & COVID FundingSynopsis TELECONFERENCED+ SB56 EXTENDING COVID 19 DISASTER EMERGENCY TELECONFERENCED-- Testimony -- Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
Wed 3/24/21 1:30 PM	SJR 1 - Const Am: Guarantee Perm Fund Dividend
Wed 3/24/21 1:30 PM	BUTROVICH 205 - SENATE JUDICIARY SB 9 - Alcoholic Beverage Control; Alcohol Reg  BUTROVICH 205 - SENATE JUDICIARY

<b>Time</b>	<b>Description</b>
Wed 3/24/21 1:30 PM	ADAMS 519 -HOUSE FINANCE + Alaska Municipal League - Municipal Impacts from TELECONFERENCED State Budget Actions by Nils Andreassen -- Testimony -- + Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled TELECONFERENCED
Thu 3/25/21 10:30 AM	HB 41 - Shellfish Projects; Hatcheries; Fees
Thu 3/25/21 10:30 AM	GRUENBERG 120 - HOUSE FISHERIES HB 28 - Registration Of Boats: Exemption
Thu 3/25/21 1:30 PM	GRUENBERG 120 - HOUSE FISHERIES BELTZ 105 (TSBldg) -SENATE TRANSPORTATION *+ SB103 AMHS OPERATION & PLANNING BOARD TELECONFERENCED-- Testimony -- *+ SB105 ROAD SERVICE AREA CONSOLIDATION TELECONFERENCED-- Testimony -- + Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled TELECONFERENCED**Streamed live on AKL.tv**
Thu 3/25/21 3:30 PM	SB 3 - Police Officers: Oral Warning/de-escalate
Thu 3/25/21 3:30 PM	BUTROVICH 205 - SENATE STATE AFFAIRS SB 2 - Peace Officers: De-escalation, Misconduct
Fri 3/26/21 9:00 AM	BUTROVICH 205 - SENATE STATE AFFAIRS SENATE FINANCE 532 -SENATE FINANCE + COVID 19 - Federal Funding Update TELECONFERENCED- Neil Steininger, Director of OMB - Alexei Painter, Director of Legislative Finance Division Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
Sat 3/27/21 1:00 PM	HB 55 - Peace Officer/firefighter Retire Benefits
Sat 3/27/21 1:00 PM	GRUENBERG 120 - HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS GRUENBERG 120 -HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS -- Please Note Time Change -- *+ HB5 SEXUAL ASSAULT; DEF. OF "CONSENT" TELECONFERENCED-- Testimony -- += HB55 PEACE OFFICER/FIREFIGHTER RETIRE BENEFITS TELECONFERENCED-- Testimony -- + Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled TELECONFERENCED**Streamed live on AKL.tv**

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%3DAI%26com%3D%26startDate%3D03%2F20%2F2021%26endDate%3D03%2F28%2F2021%26chamber%3D#tab2>

### Bills of Interest

<b>Bill</b>	<b>Short Title</b>	<b>Prime Sponsors</b>	<b>Current Status</b>	<b>Status Date</b>
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) RLS	3/20/2021
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
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) EDC	3/10/2021
HB 23	Ballot Custody/tamper; Voting; Voter Reg	RAUSCHER	(H) STA	2/18/2021
HB 26	Conflict Of Interest: Bd Fisheries/game	HOUSE FISHERIES	(H) RES	3/20/2021
HB 28	Registration Of Boats: Exemption	HOUSE FISHERIES	(H) FSH	2/18/2021
HB 30	Workers' Comp: Death; Perm Partial Impair	JOSEPHSON	(H) L&C	2/18/2021

<b>Bill</b>	<b>Short Title</b>	<b>Prime Sponsors</b>	<b>Current Status</b>	<b>Status Date</b>
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) FIN	3/20/2021
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
HB 59	Workplace Violence Protective Orders	CLAMAN	(H) STA	2/18/2021
HB 63	Alaska Marine Highway Operations Board	STUTES	(H) STA	3/20/2021
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

<b>Bill</b>	<b>Short Title</b>	<b>Prime Sponsors</b>	<b>Current Status</b>	<b>Status Date</b>
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	3/10/2021
HB 79	Saltwater Sportfishing Operators/guides	RULES	(H) FIN	3/3/2021
HB 82	Gas Leases; Renewable Energy Grant Fund	RULES	(H) FSH	3/1/2021
HB 84	Approp: Supp; Reapprop; Amending; Cbr	RULES	(H) FIN	2/18/2021
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
HB 134	Amhs Operation & Planning Board	RULES	(H) TRA	3/10/2021
HB 135	Geothermal Resources	RULES	(H) RES	3/10/2021
HJR 1	Const Am: Permanent Fund; Pomv; Earnings	KREISS-TOMKINS	(H) W&M	3/10/2021
HJR 2	Const. Am: 90 Day Regular Session	CLAMAN	(H) STA	2/18/2021

<b>Bill</b>	<b>Short Title</b>	<b>Prime Sponsors</b>	<b>Current Status</b>	<b>Status Date</b>
HJR 6	Const. Am: Approp Limit; Budget Reserve	RULES	(H) STA	2/18/2021
HJR 7	Const. Am: Perm Fund & Pfds	RULES	(H) STA	2/18/2021
HJR 8	Const. Am: State Tax; Voter Approval	RULES	(H) STA	2/18/2021
HJR 13	Urge Exemption For Cruise Ships	ORTIZ	(H) TRA	3/1/2021
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
SB 9	Alcoholic Beverage Control; Alcohol Reg	MICCICHE	(S) JUD	3/15/2021
SB 10	Free/reduced Tuition For Essential Worker	BEGICH	(S) EDC	2/10/2021
SB 11	Community Property Trusts	BEGICH	(S) AWAIT NEXT COM	3/19/2021
SB 12	Military Spouse Courtesy License	KAWASAKI	(S) STA	1/22/2021
SB 15	Open Meetings Act; Penalty	COSTELLO	(S) JUD	3/10/2021

<b>Bill</b>	<b>Short Title</b>	<b>Prime Sponsors</b>	<b>Current Status</b>	<b>Status Date</b>
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) FIN	3/19/2021
SB 21	License Mobile Intensive Care Paramedics	REVAK	(S) CALENDAR 3/22	3/19/2021
SB 23	Initiative Severability	REVAK	(S) STA	1/22/2021
SB 24	Virtual Meetings For Corporations	WILSON	PASSED (H)	3/20/2021
SB 25	State Gov't Finances: Website	WIELECHOWSKI	(S) STA	1/22/2021
SB 29	Cook Inlet: New Admin Area; Permit Buyback	MICCICHE	(S) FIN	3/10/2021
SB 30	Colorectal Cancer Screen Coverage	BEGICH	(S) HSS	1/25/2021
SB 31	Prohibiting Binding Caucuses	SHOWER	(S) STA	1/25/2021
SB 32	College Credit For High School Students	STEVENS	(S) FIN	3/19/2021
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

<b>Bill</b>	<b>Short Title</b>	<b>Prime Sponsors</b>	<b>Current Status</b>	<b>Status Date</b>
SB 43	Elections, Voting, Campaign Finance	HUGHES	(S) JUD	2/22/2021
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) JUD	2/24/2021
SB 54	Ahfc Water & Sewer Bonds/transportation	RULES	(S) FIN	3/5/2021
SB 55	Employer Contributions To Pers	RULES	(S) FIN	3/5/2021
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
SB 73	Anticipation Of Revenue; Borrowing; Credit	RULES	(S) FIN	2/5/2021
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 83	Elections; Voting; Ballot Reqs	RULES	(S) STA	2/12/2021
SB 100	State Income Tax	BEGICH	(S) STA	3/10/2021

<b>Bill</b>	<b>Short Title</b>	<b>Prime Sponsors</b>	<b>Current Status</b>	<b>Status Date</b>
SJR 1	Const Am: Guarantee Perm Fund Dividend	WIELECHOWSKI	(S) JUD	3/3/2021
SJR 3	Const. Am. Prohibiting Binding Caucuses	SHOWER	(S) STA	1/22/2021
SJR 9	Urge Exemption For Cruise Ships	KIEHL	(H) TRA	3/20/2021