

BLUMER AND ASSOCIATES

City of Unalaska Legislative Report

4/4/21

A number of bills were heard this week but movement on major legislation is moving pretty slow. Many meetings were held to conclude required reviews of the Governor's appointments to various state boards and commissions, but still no word on when the joint session to confirm appointments will take place.

The issue that is garnering much attention is the pending receipt of the \$2 billion in federal funds for Alaska, courtesy of the American Recovery Protection Act (ARP). This does not include President Biden's proposed federal infrastructure program, which Congress has yet to approve. The APR monies has yet to be delivered and the Legislature must pass an appropriations bill as well as authority for state agencies to receive the funds. That means things will get very busy in the capitol next month, as the Legislature's required adjournment approaches.

Senate Finance heard from economist, Dr. Guttabi, last week and he began by saying Alaska economy is weak, February 2021 employment was down 22,000 jobs from last year, almost all private sector, as Alaska government has experienced little in losses. The unusual element of the statistics was that while jobs were down, personal income is significantly up due to federal stimulus monies. Gross domestic product decreased by \$2.6 billion but personal income was up \$1.4 billion, a remarkable situation.

Senate Finance also took up [HB76](#), extending the disaster declaration – some version of that bill is expected of that to move forward next week, potentially, in order to meet the limited authority needs of the Governor. Senate President Micciche indicated that the end result would likely more closely resemble what the Governor is asking for now, rather than start with their own bill this late in the session.

The two pieces of legislation related to the selection, authority and makeup of the AMHS advisory group/board, one being proposed by the Governor and the other Speaker Stutes, appear had hearings this week and are on the schedule to be taken up next week. There seems to be some interest in getting some reform version passed this year.

House Finance will take public testimony on the Senate version of the operating budget next week on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Due to many changes each day please use the link below the scheduled meetings section to determine when testimony for your location is scheduled.

HB 93, the Governor’s GO Bonds bill was heard in House Finance this week, of note was the testimony from Marie Marx with Legislative Legal regarding the legal difficulties of the bill. She noted three possible areas that could be challenged if the bill were to be passed, the single subject clause requiring all items fit one single issue, the definition of capital improvements as structures and project specificity.

AMHS, largely due to CARES Act funding, 2022 is expected to have total revenues of 7.3 percent more than 2021. That is with a 16 percent decrease in port calls. The Senate Finance committee asked DOT to look at a hypothetical scenario with more service.

DOT, Deputy Commissioner, Rob Carpenter articulated that the goal for each year has been that AMHS funding sources would be 50 percent General Fund and 50 percent fare and freight revenue. It wasn’t clear if that was achievable for 2022.

Also discussed was the Tustemena Replacement fund. This project is in the DOT/PF State Transportation Infrastructure Plan (STIP) and is in the final design phase with about 65-70% completed. It is slated for construction in 2022. The Department is still working with the Federal Delegation for financing options.

Weekly Schedule

Time	Description
Mon 4/5/21 1:00 PM	HB 57 - Funds Subject To Cbr Sweep Provision
Mon 4/5/21 3:15 PM	GRUENBERG 120 - HOUSE JUDICIARY HB 30 - Workers' Comp: Death; Perm Partial Impair
Mon 4/5/21 3:15 PM	BARNES 124 - HOUSE LABOR & COMMERCE BARNES 124 -HOUSE LABOR & COMMERCE += HB149 CHILD CARE PROVIDER COLLECTIVE BARGAINING TELECONFERENCED -- Testimony -- *+ HB110 AGE FOR NICOTINE/E-CIG; TAX E-CIG. TELECONFERENCED -- Testimony -- *+ HB146 DISCLOSURE OF WAGE INFORMATION TELECONFERENCED -- Testimony -- + Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled TELECONFERENCED **Streamed live on AKL.tv** += HB30 WORKERS' COMP: DEATH; PERM PARTIAL IMPAIR TELECONFERENCED -- Public Testimony --

Time	Description
Tue 4/6/21 9:00 AM	SB 20 - Out Of State Teacher Reciprocity
Tue 4/6/21 9:00 AM	SENATE FINANCE 532 - SENATE FINANCE HB 76 - Extending Covid 19 Disaster Emergency
Tue 4/6/21 9:00 AM	SENATE FINANCE 532 - SENATE FINANCE SENATE FINANCE 532 -SENATE FINANCE += HB76 EXTENDING COVID 19 DISASTER EMERGENCY TELECONFERENCED += SB20 OUT OF STATE TEACHER RECIPROCITY TELECONFERENCED + SB64 SHELLFISH PROJECTS; HATCHERIES; FEES TELECONFERENCED -- Invited & Public Testimony -- -- -- + SB71 COUNCIL ON ARTS: PLATES & MANAGE ART TELECONFERENCED -- Invited & Public Testimony -- -- -- + Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled TELECONFERENCED
Tue 4/6/21 10:00 AM	HB 82 - Gas Leases; Renewable Energy Grant Fund
Tue 4/6/21 1:30 PM	GRUENBERG 120 - HOUSE FISHERIES HB 69 - Approp: Operating Budget/loans/funds
Tue 4/6/21 1:30 PM	ADAMS 519 - HOUSE FINANCE ADAMS 519 -HOUSE FINANCE += HB 69 APPROP: OPERATING BUDGET/LOANS/FUNDS TELECONFERENCED += HB 71 APPROP: MENTAL HEALTH BUDGET TELECONFERENCED + Subcommittee Close-out Reports TELECONFERENCED + Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled TELECONFERENCED
Tue 4/6/21 3:00 PM	HB 63 - Alaska Marine Highway Operations Board
Tue 4/6/21 3:00 PM	GRUENBERG 120 - HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS GRUENBERG 120 -HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS += HB 63 ALASKA MARINE HIGHWAY OPERATIONS BOARD TELECONFERENCED -- Public Testimony -- += HB 137 MOTOR VEHICLE OFFICES TELECONFERENCED -- Public Testimony -- + Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled TELECONFERENCED

Time	Description
Wed 4/7/21 1:00 PM	HB 57 - Funds Subject To Cbr Sweep Provision
Wed 4/7/21 1:30 PM	GRUENBERG 120 - HOUSE JUDICIARY SJR 1 - Const Am: Guarantee Perm Fund Dividend
Wed 4/7/21 1:30 PM	BUTROVICH 205 - SENATE JUDICIARY SB 41 - Health Insurance Info.; Incentive Program
Wed 4/7/21 1:30 PM	BELTZ 105 (TSBldg) - SENATE LABOR & COMMERCE SB 9 - Alcoholic Beverage Control; Alcohol Reg
Wed 4/7/21 1:30 PM	BUTROVICH 205 - SENATE JUDICIARY SB 6 - Rip For Public Employees/teachers
Wed 4/7/21 1:30 PM	BELTZ 105 (TSBldg) - SENATE LABOR & COMMERCE HB 69 - Approp: Operating Budget/loans/funds
Wed 4/7/21 1:30 PM	ADAMS 519 - HOUSE FINANCE ADAMS 519 -HOUSE FINANCE += HB 69 APPROP: OPERATING BUDGET/LOANS/FUNDS TELECONFERENCED += HB 71 APPROP: MENTAL HEALTH BUDGET TELECONFERENCED + Subcommittee Close-out Reports TELECONFERENCED + Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled TELECONFERENCED
Thu 4/8/21 9:00 AM	SB 10 - Free/reduced Tuition For Essential Worker
Thu 4/8/21 9:00 AM	SENATE FINANCE 532 - SENATE FINANCE HB 79 - Saltwater Sportfishing Operators/guides
Thu 4/8/21 1:30 PM	ADAMS 519 - HOUSE FINANCE HB 69 - Approp: Operating Budget/loans/funds
Thu 4/8/21 1:30 PM	ADAMS 519 - HOUSE FINANCE BELTZ 105 (TSBldg) -SENATE TRANSPORTATION += SB 103 AMHS OPERATION & PLANNING BOARD TELECONFERENCED
	Streamed live on AKL.tv

Time	Description
Thu 4/8/21 1:30 PM	<p>ADAMS 519 -HOUSE FINANCE += HB 69 APPROP: OPERATING BUDGET/LOANS/FUNDS TELECONFERENCED -- Public Testimony -- += HB 71 APPROP: MENTAL HEALTH BUDGET TELECONFERENCED -- Public Testimony -- 2:00 - 3:30 pm : Juneau, Sitka, Petersburg, Delta Junction, Dillingham, Glenallen, Valdez, Homer, Ketchikan, Kodiak, Seward - Please call 30 min. prior to end of allotted time or testimony will close early - All Off Net callers must hang up immediately after testifying to keep lines open - Continue to access meeting through akleg.gov - The hearing may be televised on Gavel to Gavel, please check listings - Select a spokesperson if you are part of a group with the same message - Send written testimony to house.finance@akleg.gov + Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled TELECONFERENCED</p>
Thu 4/8/21 3:30 PM	<p>BELTZ 105 (TSBldg) - SENATE COMMUNITY & REGIONAL AFFAIRS</p>
Fri 4/9/21 1:00 PM	<p>HB 26 - Conflict Of Interest: Bd Fisheries/game</p>
Fri 4/9/21 1:30 PM	<p>BARNES 124 - HOUSE RESOURCES SJR 1 - Const Am: Guarantee Perm Fund Dividend</p>
Fri 4/9/21 1:30 PM	<p>BUTROVICH 205 - SENATE JUDICIARY HB 69 - Approp: Operating Budget/loans/funds ADAMS 519 - HOUSE FINANCE</p>

Time	Description
Fri 4/9/21 1:30 PM	ADAMS 519 -HOUSE FINANCE += HB 69 APPROP: OPERATING BUDGET/LOANS/FUNDS TELECONFERENCED -- Public Testimony -- += HB 71 APPROP: MENTAL HEALTH BUDGET TELECONFERENCED -- Public Testimony -- 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm: Fairbanks, Kenai, Mat-Su, Anchorage, Bethel, Cordova, Kotzebue, Nome, Utqiagvik - Please call 30 min. prior to end of allotted time or testimony will close early - All Off Net callers must hang up immediately after testifying to keep lines open - Continue to access meeting through akleg.gov - The hearing may be televised on Gavel to Gavel, please check listings - Select a spokesperson if you are part of a group with the same message - Send written testimony to house.finance@akleg.gov
Fri 4/9/21 3:30 PM	+ Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled TELECONFERENCED BUTROVICH 205 -SENATE RESOURCES + Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled TELECONFERENCED += SB 97 STATE LAND SALES AND LEASES; RIVERS TELECONFERENCED += SB 61 OIL/GAS LEASE:DNR MODIFY NET PROFIT SHARE TELECONFERENCED *+ SB 104 GEOTHERMAL RESOURCES TELECONFERENCED -- Invited Testimony -- **Streamed live on AKL.tv**
Sat 4/10/21 10:00 AM	HB 69 - Approp: Operating Budget/loans/funds ADAMS 519 - HOUSE FINANCE

Time	Description
Sat 4/10/21 10:00 AM	ADAMS 519 -HOUSE FINANCE -- Please Note Time Change -- += HB 69 APPROP: OPERATING BUDGET/LOANS/FUNDS TELECONFERENCED -- Public Testimony -- += HB 71 APPROP: MENTAL HEALTH BUDGET TELECONFERENCED -- Public Testimony -- 10:00 am - 2:00 pm: Off Nets - Please call 30 min. early for sign-in process - All Off Net callers must hang up immediately after testifying to keep lines open - Continue to access meeting through akleg.gov - The hearing may be televised on Gavel to Gavel, please check listings - Select a spokesperson if you are part of a group with the same message - Send written testimony to house.finance@akleg.gov + Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled TELECONFERENCED
Fri 6/2/23 1:30 PM	SB 21 - License Mobile Intensive Care Paramedics

BUTROVICH 205 - SENATE HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES

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%3D04%2F04%2F2021%26endDate%3D04%2F12%2F2021%26chamber%3D#tab2>

Bills of Interest

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

Bill	Short Title	Prime Sponsors	Current Status	Status Date
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) FIN	3/31/2021
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) FIN	3/31/2021

Bill	Short Title	Prime Sponsors	Current Status	Status Date
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
HB 70	Approp: Cap; Reapprop; Supp; Amend	RULES	(H) FIN	3/31/2021
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

Bill	Short Title	Prime Sponsors	Current Status	Status Date
HB 75	Employer Contributions To Pers	RULES	(H) L&C	2/18/2021
HB 76	Extending Covid 19 Disaster Emergency	RULES	(S) FIN	3/29/2021
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
HJR 6	Const. Am: Approp Limit; Budget Reserve	RULES	(H) W&M	3/24/2021
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

Bill	Short Title	Prime Sponsors	Current Status	Status Date
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) L&C	3/24/2021
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) FIN	3/24/2021
SB 11	Community Property Trusts	BEGICH	(S) JUD	3/22/2021
SB 12	Military Spouse Courtesy License	KAWASAKI	(S) STA	1/22/2021
SB 15	Open Meetings Act; Penalty	COSTELLO	(S) JUD	3/10/2021
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

Bill	Short Title	Prime Sponsors	Current Status	Status Date
SB 19	Extend Special Education Service Agency	STEVENS	(H) FIN	3/31/2021
SB 20	Out Of State Teacher Reciprocity	STEVENS	(S) FIN	3/19/2021
SB 21	License Mobile Intensive Care Paramedics	REVAK	(H) HSS	3/24/2021
SB 23	Initiative Severability	REVAK	(S) STA	1/22/2021
SB 24	Virtual Meetings For Corporations	WILSON	CHAPTER 1 SLA 20	3/31/2021
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	3RD RDG,4/7 CAL(S)	3/31/2021
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) 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

Bill	Short Title	Prime Sponsors	Current Status	Status Date
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) FIN	3/24/2021
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
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

Bill	Short Title	Prime Sponsors	Current Status	Status Date
SJR 9	Urge Exemption For Cruise Ships	KIEHL	(S)AWAIT CONC/RECED	3/31/2021