



Dianne Blumer
6058 Azalea Dr.
Anchorage, Alaska 99516
907-575-2279

City of Unalaska Legislative Report **3/13/22**

As the House Finance Committee works on the budget next week, negotiations will likely be impacted by the Spring Revenue Forecast, which could paint a much different landscape of the state's fiscal outlook due to the stark increase in oil prices.

The Committee will likely act on their Committee Substitute for the operating budget late next week, which includes renewed funding for Community Assistance, School Bond Debt Reimbursement, and a one-time increase of \$50 million to the BSA. This week, House Finance Committee heard a presentation on Municipal Harbor Matching Grants. Harbor debt reimbursement also came up, which has not been funded to the degree that the legislature originally committed.

House Finance passed a Committee Substitute for the motor fuel tax bill, HB 104, last Wednesday. The CS eliminates the proposed \$0.08 percent increase to the fuel tax and the Electronic Vehicle registration fees, instead relying on the \$0.0055 increase to the refined fuel surcharge to help make the fund behind DEC's oil response program more solvent. Following passage from the committee the Governor put forward an amendment to the legislature requesting to suspend the current motor fuel tax through June 2023, including aviation and jet fuel. This tax typically brings in about \$30M annually.

The Senate Finance Committee did not meet last week, due to several Legislators being absent to attend the national energy council.

Wednesday House Labor and Commerce will hear HB 363 which creates a state broadband office and a broadband advisory board, while also creating a mechanism for broadband support where costs are high.

The House Finance Committee will hear HB 322 twice this week. This bill seeks to provide secure funding for AMHS by creating two funds, a AMH System Fund and a Vessel Replacement Fund, with the intent of protecting them from the reverse sweep. Public testimony will be taken on Tuesday the 15th.

Also being heard twice is HB395, which is the Governor's bill on AMHS funding, it's first hearing is on Monday



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Weekly Schedule

Time	Description
Mon 3/14/22 8:00 AM	DAVIS 106 -HOUSE EDUCATION + SB 36 U OF A REGENTS REPORTING REQUIREMENTS TELECONFERENCED -- Invited & Public Testimony -- += HB 108 CONCURRENT SECONDARY & TRADE SCHOOL TELECONFERENCED += HB 48 AK PERFORMANCE SCHOLARSHIP; ELIGIBILITY TELECONFERENCED += HB 350 SCHOOL BOND DEBT REIMBURSEMENT TELECONFERENCED + Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled TELECONFERENCED *+ HB 312 ALLOW NATURAL HAIRSTYLES TELECONFERENCED -- Invited & Public Testimony --
Mon 3/14/22 1:30 PM	ADAMS 519 -HOUSE FINANCE + HB 322 AK MARINE HWY SYSTEM VESSEL REPL. FUND TELECONFERENCED *+ HB 395 FUNDS: AK MARINE HWY SYSTEM TELECONFERENCED + Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled TELECONFERENCED
Tue 3/15/22 1:30 PM	ADAMS 519 -HOUSE FINANCE += HB 322 AK MARINE HWY SYSTEM VESSEL REPL. FUND TELECONFERENCED -- Public Testimony -- += HB 395 FUNDS: AK MARINE HWY SYSTEM TELECONFERENCED + Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled TELECONFERENCED
Thu 3/17/22 1:30 PM	BELTZ 105 (TSBldg) -SENATE TRANSPORTATION += SB 170 MARINE HIGHWAY CORPORATION TELECONFERENCED -- Testimony -- **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%3DAll%26com%3D%26startDate%3D03%2F13%2F2022%26endDate%3D03%2F21%2F2022%26chamber%3D#tab2>



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Bills of Interest

Bill	Short Title	Prime Sponsors	Current Status	Status Date
<u>HB 28</u>	Registration Of Boats: Exemption	HOUSE FISHER- IES	(S) FIN	2/23/22
<u>HB 30</u>	Workers' Comp: Death; Perm Par- tial Impair	JOSEPHSON	(H) RLS	3/2/22
<u>HB 55</u>	Peace Officer/firefighter Retire Benefits	JOSEPHSON	(S) L&C	1/18/22
<u>HB 56</u>	Power Cost Equalization	FOSTER	(H) CRA	2/18/21
<u>HB 64</u>	Fishery Development Assoc.; Ass- essments	STUTES	(H) RLS	3/2/22
<u>HB 75</u>	Employer Contributions To Pers	RULES	(H) FIN	5/1/21
<u>HB 88</u>	Equal Pay & Minimum Wage Act	TARR	(H) STA	2/18/21
<u>HB</u> <u>134</u>	Amhs Operation & Planning Board	RULES	(H) TRA	3/10/21
<u>HB</u> <u>135</u>	Geothermal Resources	RULES	(H) FIN	1/27/22
<u>HB</u> <u>225</u>	Municipal Property Tax Senior Exemption	GILLHAM	(H) CRA	1/18/22
<u>HB</u> <u>227</u>	Muni Energy Improvemnt Assess- ment Program	SCHRAGE	(H) RLS	3/7/22
<u>HB</u> <u>247</u>	Power Cost Equalization Fund	THOMPSON	(H) ENE	1/18/22
<u>HB</u> <u>322</u>	AK Marine Hwy System Vessel Repl. Fund	HOUSE TRANS- PORTATION	(H) FIN	3/2/22
<u>HB</u> <u>350</u>	School Bond Debt Reimbursement	DRUMMOND	(H) EDC	2/22/22
<u>HB</u> <u>363</u>	Broadband: Office, Grants, Parity	EDGMON	(H) L&C	2/22/22
<u>HB</u> <u>370</u>	AK Energy And Broadband Au- thority	TUCK	(H) L&C	2/22/22
<u>HB</u> <u>371</u>	Broadband Cost Equalization Fund	TUCK	(H) L&C	2/22/22
<u>HB</u> <u>378</u>	Municipal Property Tax Assess- ments	EASTMAN	(H) CRA	2/22/22
<u>HB</u> <u>393</u>	Fishery Landing Tax Surcharge	MCCABE	(H) FSH	2/22/22
<u>HB</u> <u>395</u>	Funds: AK Marine Hwy System	RULES	(H) FIN	3/9/22
<u>HJR 6</u>	Const. Am: Approp Limit; Budget Reserve	RULES	(H) W&M	3/24/21
<u>SB 6</u>	Rip For Public Employees/teach- ers	KAWASAKI	(S) FIN	4/19/21



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<u>SB 9</u>	Alcoholic Beverage Control; Alcohol Reg	MICCICHE	(H) FIN	2/22/22
<u>SB 11</u>	Community Property Trusts	BEGICH	(H) JUD	2/16/22
<u>SB 15</u>	Open Meetings Act; Penalty	COSTELLO	(S) FIN	4/21/21
<u>SB 17</u>	Energy Efficiency & Policy: Pub. Bldgs	BEGICH	(S) FIN	5/3/21
<u>SB 33</u>	Seafood Product Development Tax Credit	STEVENS	(H) FIN	2/16/22
<u>SB 37</u>	Teachers & Pub Employee Retirement Plans	KIEHL	(S) L&C	1/25/21
<u>SB 41</u>	Health Insurance Info.; Incentive Program	HUGHES	(S) L&C	1/25/21
<u>SB 100</u>	State Income Tax	BEGICH	(S) STA	3/10/21
<u>SB 170</u>	Marine Highway Corporation	SENATE TRANSPORTATION	(S) TRA	1/21/22
<u>SB 172</u>	Property Tax Exemption	WIELECHOWSKI	(S) CRA	1/26/22
<u>SB 226</u>	Funds: AK Marine Hwy System	RULES	(S) TRA	3/9/22