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City of Unalaska Legislative Report **4/11/22**

This week again saw many canceled committee meetings. After a fair amount of debate the House passed an FY23 operating budget over the weekend. The \$7.7 billion budget proposal now heads to the Senate, which has been concurrently working on their own spending plan. Given the increase in oil prices, it's not surprising the House budget is larger than the one the Alaska Legislature passed last year. It is also larger than the \$6.2 billion plan Governor Dunleavy rolled out. Of course, there are many more steps before the budget is finalized and sent to the governor for his consideration. Once the Senate passes their version of a budget it is most certain a conference committee made up of both House and Senate members will be formed to negotiate a compromised version to be sent to the Governor, who then had line-item veto power.

Time is an issue now since about five weeks remains until the constitutional 121-day session limit. They can extend ten days past that but that requires a 2/3 vote of both bodies.

Amendments for a larger dividend were narrowly defeated in the House. The House version of the budget includes an approximate \$1,250 dividend and one-time \$1,300 energy rebate, totaling over \$2,500 for every Alaskan. The looming question is what the Senate will do with the dividend.

Some amendments the House passed include:

- An amendment for \$50,000 to the Northwest Arctic Borough for ice road construction passed.
- An amendment that would eliminate Medicaid funding for abortions passed 21-18. This has been ruled unconstitutional in the past.
- An amendment for \$262,000 for two renewable energy mapping positions in the Department of Natural Resources passed.
- An amendment for \$2 million to the Alaska Court System passed. This triples the pay for jurors, going to \$75 a day from \$25 a day.
- An amendment removing \$495,000 for settlements the Dunleavy administration agreed to pay two API doctors passed 20-17.
- An amendment from adding language that it's the "intent of the legislature that the Department of Administration use the additional funding to provide retention bonuses to the Public Defender Agency and the Office of Public Advocacy staff.

This week will be focused on the Capital budget and the infrastructure funds. Many changes will occur as the process proceeds, please be patient and if your capital item does not appear in the first draft. Be ready to testify, if needed, on your priorities.



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- **HB 227**, expanding municipal Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) programs, passed the House April 4 and is now scheduled for a hearing April 12 in Senate Community and Regional Affairs Committee.

Weekly Schedule

Time	Description
Tue 4/12/22 8:00 AM	BARNES 124 -HOUSE COMMUNITY & REGIONAL AFFAIRS *+ HB 167 GOLD AND SILVER SPECIE AS LEGAL TENDER TELECONFERENCED *+ HB 349 HEARING ESTABLISH DRILLING UNITS/SPACING TELECONFERENCED *+ HB 402 IDENTIFICATION OF CONTRACTOR IN ADS TELECONFERENCED *+ HB 411 MUNICIPAL TAX EXEMPTIONS/DEFERRALS TELECONFERENCED + Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled TELECONFERENCED
Thu 4/14/22 8:00 AM	BARNES 124 -HOUSE COMMUNITY & REGIONAL AFFAIRS += HB 349 HEARING ESTABLISH DRILLING UNITS/SPACING TELECONFERENCED += HB 402 IDENTIFICATION OF CONTRACTOR IN ADS TELECONFERENCED += HB 411 MUNICIPAL TAX EXEMPTIONS/DEFERRALS TELECONFERENCED -- Invited & Public Testimony -- + Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled TELECONFERENCED

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%2F11%2F2022%26endDate%3D04%2F19%2F2022%26chamber%3D#tab2>

Bills of Interest

Bill	Short Title	Prime Sponsors	Current Status	Status Date
HB 28	Registration Of Boats: Exemption	HOUSE FISHER-IES	(S) FIN	2/23/22
HB 30	Workers' Comp: Death; Perm Partial Impair	JOSEPHSON	(S) L&C	3/23/22
HB 55	Peace Officer/firefighter Retire Benefits	JOSEPHSON	(S) L&C	1/18/22
HB 56	Power Cost Equalization	FOSTER	(H) CRA	2/18/21



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Bill	Short Title	Prime Sponsors	Current Status	Status Date
HB 64	Fishery Development Assoc.; Assessments	STUTES	(H) RLS	3/2/22
HB 75	Employer Contributions To Pers	RULES	(H) FIN	5/1/21
HB 88	Equal Pay & Minimum Wage Act	TARR	(H) STA	2/18/21
HB 134	Amhs Operation & Planning Board	RULES	(H) TRA	3/10/21
HB 135	Geothermal Resources	RULES	(H) FIN	1/27/22
HB 225	Municipal Property Tax Senior Exemption	GILLHAM	(H) CRA	1/18/22
HB 227	Muni Energy Improvemnt Assessment Program	SCHRAGE	(S) CRA	4/6/22
HB 247	Power Cost Equalization Fund	THOMPSON	(H) ENE	1/18/22
HB 322	AK Marine Hwy System Vessel Repl. Fund	HOUSE TRANSPORTATION	(H) RLS	4/4/22
HB 350	School Bond Debt Reimbursement	DRUMMOND	(H) FIN	4/4/22
HB 363	Broadband: Office, Grants, Parity	EDGMON	(H) FIN	3/18/22
HB 370	AK Energy And Broadband Authority	TUCK	(H) L&C	2/22/22
HB 371	Broadband Cost Equalization Fund	TUCK	(H) L&C	2/22/22
HB 378	Municipal Property Tax Assessments	EASTMAN	(H) CRA	2/22/22
HB 393	Fishery Landing Tax Surcharge	MCCABE	(H) FSH	2/22/22
HB 395	Funds: AK Marine Hwy System	RULES	(H) FIN	3/9/22
HJR 6	Const. Am: Approp Limit; Budget Reserve	RULES	(H) W&M	3/24/21
SB 6	Rip For Public Employees/teachers	KAWASAKI	(S) FIN	4/19/21
SB 9	Alcoholic Beverage Control; Alcohol Reg	MICCICHE	(H) FIN	2/22/22
SB 11	Community Property Trusts	BEGICH	(H) RLS	3/14/22
SB 15	Open Meetings Act; Penalty	COSTELLO	(S) FIN	4/21/21
SB 17	Energy Efficiency & Policy: Pub. Bldgs	BEGICH	(S) FIN	5/3/21
SB 33	Seafood Product Development Tax Credit	STEVENS	(H) RLS	4/4/22



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Bill	Short Title	Prime Sponsors	Current Status	Status Date
<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