

LEGISLATIVE REPORT #22-03

Governor Reiterates FY 2023 Priorities

- **Governor Dunleavy highlighted the legislative priorities reflected in his [FY23 and supplemental budgets](#) at a press briefing on February 17th, including:**
 - **Public Safety:** Dunleavy proposes \$10 million of funding for the “People’s First Initiative” and the Office of Children’s Services and \$24 million for the restoration of previously eliminated Alaska State Troopers positions.
 - **Permanent Fund Dividend:** A \$1,250 spring dividend payment has been included in the supplemental budget to address the discrepancy between the 2021 PFD and Dunleavy’s proposed dividend, in addition to a \$2,500 PFD this fall based on Dunleavy’s “50/50” plan. **[Citing increased state revenues and inflation](#), Dunleavy argues that a higher PFD is sustainable and necessary for Alaskans.**
 - **Education:** The budget fully funds education, school debt reimbursement, certain scholarships, & rural school construction.
 - **Infrastructure:** Dunleavy proposes \$325 million in general obligation bonds for ports, airports, fire stations, and other projects, urging action before interest rates rise due to inflation ([HB 285](#) & [SB 166](#)). **Related information presented at the Alaska Municipal League and Alaska Conference of Mayors’ winter meeting can be found [here](#).**

New PFD Formula Bills Considered in Senate Finance

- The Senate Finance Committee began hearings on [SB 199](#) & [SB 200](#)—two bills that propose changing the statutory Permanent Fund formula in different ways.
 - [SB 199](#) amends the PFD formula to pay \$1,100 in FY23, \$1,200 in FY24, \$1,300 in FY25, and \$1,300 per recipient, growing with inflation for FY26 and beyond. It also includes a provision that changes the formula to 50% of POMV beginning in FY26 **only if the legislature enacts revenue measures generating at least \$700 million by the end of 2025.**
 - [SB 200](#) amends the PFD formula to 25% of the POMV draw in FY23 and beyond, paying each qualified Alaskan about \$1,250 in 2022 and gradually increasing it to about \$1,600 by 2030, matching the version of [SB 26](#) passed in March of 2017. The remaining 75% would go to state services.
 - Legislative Finance presented a detailed analysis of the two bills. **The nonpartisan agency projects that [SB 200](#) would see budget surpluses over the next 10 years, while [SB 199](#) would eventually result in a 50/50 outcome only if the proposed \$700 million revenue measures were enacted.** The complete analysis can be found [here](#).
- On the House side, the Ways & Means Committee moved [HB 259](#) out of committee this week. This bill also proposes a 75%/25% split of the annual draw from Permanent Fund earnings, with 75% for government services and 25% for the dividend. **The bill also proposes use of 50% of the government service piece to fund K-12, which in time allows for annual increases to offset rising costs.**

2021 Redistricting Lawsuits Decision

- Alaska Superior Court Judge Thomas Matthews overturned two decisions made by the Alaska Redistricting Board to create two East Anchorage Senate seats linked with Eagle River, and to alter the boundaries of two House districts in Southeast Alaska. **Judge Matthews cited evidence of “secretive procedures evident in the Board’s consideration and deliberation . . . [and that] some sort of coalition or at least tacit understanding between Members Marcum, Simpson, and Binkley”** was at play.
- The board voted 3-2 to appeal the decision, falling along the same lines as the original vote on the Senate map, with the three Republican-appointed members voting to appeal. **The Alaska Supreme Court must respond with a decision by April 1st to provide candidates enough time to register for the 2022 elections by June 1, 2022.**

House FY 2023 Operating Budget Progress

- The House is moving to close out all FY 2023 finance budget subcommittees by early next week. **The next step will be a public hearing by the full House Finance Committee, which is scheduled for March 3 & 4 (starting at 1:30 PM) and March 5 (starting at 11 AM). The specific schedule has been sent out by separate e-mail.** Final action by the committee should happen shortly after, followed by House floor consideration.
- The House Finance Education Budget Subcommittee completed its work on February 23. An amendment was adopted to **increase pre-K grants by \$2.5 million for FY 2023 and FY 2024.** Another proposal was approved recommending the House Finance Committee **add \$50 million of one-time money for K-12 in FY 2023** to be allocation using the Base Student Allocation formula.

School Bond Debt Reimbursement Proposal

- Rep. Harriet Drummond (*D-Anchorage*) recently introduced **legislation to lift the moratorium on the state’s school bond debt reimbursement program and return the matching rates to more favorable terms for municipalities.** House Bill No. 350 removes the current moratorium on new debt as of July 1, 2022, and returns the match rates to 70% state/30% local for projects meeting DEED standards and 60%/40% for other projects. The first hearing is scheduled for March 4.

Broadband Legislation

- **In anticipation of the additional money for broadband under the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), three new bills were recently introduced in the House.** House Bill No. 363 by Rep. Bryce Edgmon (*I-Dillingham*) **establishes the Office of Broadband in the Department of Commerce, Community, & Economic Development, the broadband parity adjustment fund, and the Statewide Broadband Advisory Board.**
- Rep. Chris Tuck (*D-Anchorage*) introduced two bills to address the state’s role related to broadband. House Bill No. 370 **adds broadband to the mission of the Alaska Energy Authority, classifies broadband as a public utility providing telecommunications service, and requires it to improve availability, affordability and performance of broadband in unserved/underserved areas.**
- House Bill No. 371 **creates the broadband cost equalization fund** and establishes criteria to calculate the amount of broadband cost equalization to be paid to providers. It also allows the Alaska Energy Authority to make grants to reduce the cost of services to customers.

Summary of State Legislation



Below is a list of legislative measures of interest, divided into six main topics: fiscal measures, general municipal issues, education measures, fishery & resource issues, energy matters, and election & voting issues. House measures are described first, followed by Senate measures. Companion bills (measures in both bodies) are listed together, with priority given to bills sponsored by majority members. More information about these measures can be found at [Alaska Municipal League Legislative Tracker](#) or [Alaska State Legislature](#).

Check out what your legislators are doing. **New bills are in BLUE, change in status in RED, and passed bills in GREEN.**

Fiscal Measures

Measure	Summary	Status
HJR 1 by Kreiss-Tomkins HJR 10 by Tuck SJR 1-Wielechowski	Proposes a constitutional amendment to guarantee Permanent Fund dividends using a Percent of Market Value (POMV) method.	HJR 1 pending House FIN HJR 10 pending House JUD SJR 1 pending Senate FIN
HB 9 by Hannan	Reimposes a state income tax and related changes. Exempts permanent fund dividends from proposed tax.	Pending State Affairs
HB 37 by Wool	Proposes an 80/20 distribution of permanent fund (PF) earnings between general fund and dividends. Reimposes a state income tax.	Passed State Affairs 2/24
HB 57 by Josephson	Clarifies the mechanics and language of the budget reserve fund payback provision in the Constitution and which funds are subject to the “reverse sweep.”	Pending Finance
HB 104 by Josephson	Doubles the motor fuel taxes on highway and marine motor fuels. Exemption included for commercial fishing.	Pending Finance
HB 141 by Spohnholz	Amends statutory spending limit by using average of past 3 fiscal years. Excludes school bond debt reimbursement payments and disaster spending.	Pending House Ways & Means
HB 165 by Kreiss-Tomkins	Proposes a special appropriation of \$4.35 billion from the Earnings Reserve Account to the PF corpus.	Pending Finance
HB 181 by governor SB 128 by governor	Proposes use for more than \$1 billion in federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds directed to the state for discretionary COVID-19 recovery efforts.	HB 181 pending House FIN SB 128 pending Senate FIN
HB 189 by House Ways & Means	Reinstates state education head tax starting at \$50 per person up to a maximum of \$500 per head. Projected to generate \$60 million per year.	Pending Finance
HB 202 by Merrick	Replaces current PFD formula with use of 30% of all royalties and mineral leases.	Pending House Finance
HB 214 by House Ways & Means	Proposes a 1 percent state income tax based on the federal tax rate for resident & nonresident workers.	Pending Ways & Means

Measure	Summary	Status
HB 249 by Hopkins	Proposes a new, graduated formula for calculation of the annual PFD up to 25% of the POMV draw.	Pending Ways & Means
HB 259 by Spohnholz	Proposes 75/25 split of ERA PF draw with 75% for government services and 25% for PFD. Proposes use of 50% of government service piece to fund K-12.	Passed Ways & Means 2/24, referred Finance
HB 260 by Snyder	Proposes adjustments to PFD formula to reduce 50% PFD amount for disasters or inflation impacts.	Pending Ways & Means
HB 322 by House Transportation	Moves the AMHS Vessel Replacement Fund into a separate fund to insulate it from future budget sweeps.	Referred TRA, Finance; scheduled TRA 3/1
HB 350 by Drummond	Removes moratorium on school debt reimbursement program as of July 1, 2022. Changes match rates back to 70% (state)/30% (local) and 60%/40%.	Referred Education, Finance; scheduled 3/4
HB 373 by Tarr	Implements a new state sales and use tax of 2%. Allows state to join Streamlined Sales & Use Tax Agreement.	Referred Ways & Means, State Affairs, Finance
SJR 5 by governor HJR 6 by governor	Proposes a constitutional amendment that creates a new appropriations limit or spending cap.	SJR 5 pending Senate FIN HJR 6 pending House W&M
SJR 6 by governor HJR 7 by governor	Proposes a constitutional amendment to enshrine the PF dividend in the Constitution. Requires subsequent vote by electorate to change the dividend formula.	SJR 6 pending Senate FIN HJR 7 pending House JUD
SJR 7 by governor HJR 8 by governor	Proposes a constitutional amendment requiring a vote of the people to establish a new state tax. Requires legislative ratification of a new tax created by initiative.	SJR 7 pending Senate FIN HJR 8 pending House STA
SB 13 by Begich	Proposes additional tax on oil and gas taxable property that may be appropriated to the Alaska capital income fund, municipalities for real property tax revenue lost, or the Alaska higher education investment fund.	Pending Community & Regional Affairs
SB 52 by governor HB 72 by governor	Appropriates \$2 billion from the Permanent Fund ERA for payment of a full dividend in 2022.	SB 52 pending Senate FIN HB 72 referred House FIN
SB 53 by governor HB 73 by governor	Sets new PF dividend formula at 50% of 5% POMV distribution. Includes advisory vote on proposal.	SB 53 died on Senate floor HB 73 pending House JUD
SB 100 by Begich	Proposes a 5 percent state income tax based on the federal tax rate for resident & nonresident workers.	Pending State Affairs
SB 153 by Kiehl	Sets PFD amounts with step up until it reaches a 50/50 split between dividends and state services.	Pending State Affairs
SB 154 by Kiehl	Proposes a state income tax beginning at 2.75% of adjusted gross income the first year, 3% the second year, 3.25% the third year, and 3.75% for subsequent years.	Pending Labor & Commerce
SB 162 by governor HB 281 by governor	<u>FY 2023 Operating Budget</u> : Provides flat funding for K-12 and pupil transportation. School debt reimbursement funded at 100%. Provides full funding for PCE and \$30 million for community assistance program.	SB 162 pending Senate Finance HB 281 pending House Finance
SB 199 by Senate Finance	Modified version of Senate Finance CSSB 53. Proposes 50% PFD/50% government services split contingent on \$700 million in new taxes.	Referred Senate Finance, heard & held Finance 2/21
SB 200 by Senate Finance	Alternative approach to SB 199, proposing a 25% PFD/75% government services split for use of earnings from the Alaska Permanent Fund.	Referred Senate Finance, heard & held Finance 2/21
SB 224 by Senate Finance	Moves AMHS system fund and higher education investment fund into separate funds to insulate them from future budget sweeps.	Referred Finance, scheduled 3/1

General Municipal Issues

Measure	Summary	Status
HJR 2 by Claman	Proposes constitutional amendment to limit regular legislative sessions to ninety days.	Pending Judiciary
HB 1 by Rauscher	Proposes special audit of CARES Act funds for the community assistance program and grants to municipalities and communities.	Pending Community & Regional Affairs
HB 17 by Josephson; SB 149 by Gray-Jackson	Expands duties of State Commission for Human Rights to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity. Applies to political subdivisions.	HB 17 pending House JUD SB 149 pending Senate State Affairs
HB 31 by Ortiz	Allows the state to observe daylight saving time throughout a calendar year. This change can only take effect if the US Congress amends federal law.	Pending State Affairs
HB 55 by Josephson	Allows firefighters and peace officers to join a defined benefit retirement plan. Establishes medical benefits eligibility requirements and payment for past service.	Pending Senate L&C
HB 113/SB 93 by governor	Establishes an all-payer health claims database (APCD) collecting health care claims data from a variety of health care payers, including insurers and providers.	HB 113 pending House L&C SB 93 pending Senate FIN
HB 123 by Zulkosky SB 108 by Olson	Proposes state law formally acknowledging federally recognized tribes in Alaska. If enacted, the proposed initiative would not appear on the fall ballot.	HB 123 heard/held Senate STA 2/15, sched. 3/3 SB 108 pending Senate STA
HB 127 by LeBon	Prohibits the Alaska Municipal Bond Bank Authority from assisting the University of Alaska (UA) to fund heating or energy projects, while increasing maximum bonding amounts for other UA or regional health entity projects.	Pending Senate Finance
HB 167 by McCabe	Prohibits municipalities from levying a sales & use taxes on the sale or exchange of "specie" (gold or silver coins).	Pending Community & Regional Affairs
HB 190 by Gillham	Proposes changes to the recall process of state and local officials.	Pending Community & Regional Affairs
HB 205 by McKay	Reserves to the state the authority to regulate pesticides and restricts authority of municipal to regulate pesticides.	Pending Community & Regional Affairs
HB 220 by Hopkins	Proposes new defined benefit retirement system for PERS and TRS members. Gives existing DC members a choice between DC or DB plan.	Pending Finance
HB 224 by Gillham	Requires that a proposed annexation by a municipality be approved by 2/3 of the vote by voters residing in area proposed to be annexed.	Pending Community & Regional Affairs
HB 225 by Gillham	Amends state property tax exemption for residents 65 years or older. Appears to eliminate the exemption for seniors, reducing it to only disabled veterans 60 years or older and widows or widowers of disabled veterans.	Pending Community & Regional Affairs
HB 250 by Wool	Proposes appropriations to cover 100% of school debt reimbursement and add \$7 million for community assistance in FY 2022, along with another \$30.8 million into community assistance to capitalize the fund.	Pending Finance
HB 262 by Eastman	Prohibits a state or municipal government from mandating COVID-19 vaccinations or to enforce federal regulations or laws that infringe on a person's right to move freely in Alaska or between states.	Pending Community & Regional Affairs

Measure	Summary	Status
HB 288 by Kurka	Grants all municipalities authority to regulate alcoholic beverage licenses. Reduces Alcoholic Beverage Control Board authority within municipalities.	Pending Community & Regional Affairs
HB 305 by Tuck	Mandates state and political subdivisions to report to DOLWD certain information following award of public construction contracts. Requires whenever possible use of Alaskan materials and services, then from the U.S.	Pending Labor & Commerce
HB 309 by Kreiss-Tomkins	Exempts municipal candidates and officeholders in municipalities with a population of 15,000 or less from state financial/business interest reporting requirements.	Scheduled Community & Regional Affairs 3/3
HB 311 by Kurka	New capital move bill designating Willow as the new site.	Pending Community & Regional Affairs
HB 360 by Tuck	Allows the legislature to declare a disaster emergency and discontinue meeting physically at the location of session or special session due to a disaster emergency.	Referred State Affairs, Judiciary
HB 363 by Edgmon	Establishes the office of broadband in the Dept. of Commerce, Community, & Econ. Development, the broadband parity adjustment fund, and the Statewide Broadband Advisory Board.	Referred Labor & Commerce, Finance
HB 367 by Gillham	Removes planning commission apportionment requirements for first and second class boroughs.	Referred CRA, State Affairs
HB 370 by Tuck	Adds broadband to the Alaska Energy Authority, includes broadband as a public utility as part of telecommunications service, and increases and improves availability, affordability and performance of broadband in unserved/underserved areas.	Referred Labor & Commerce, Finance
HB 371 by Tuck	Establishes the broadband cost equalization fund and the criteria to calculate the amount of broadband cost equalization to be paid to providers. Allows the Alaska Energy Authority to make grants to reduce the cost of services to customers.	Referred Labor & Commerce, Finance
HB 374 by Zulkosky	Removes certain village safe water program prerequisites to fund or construct a facility.	Referred Tribal Affairs, Resources
HB 385 by Wool	Allows mobile sports gaming in Alaska, provides for regulation of such gaming, and imposes state taxes.	Referred Labor & Commerce, Finance
HB 389 by Eastman	Repeals state law implementing the REAL ID program.	Referred State Affairs, Finance
SJR 12 by Wielechowski	Resolution urging Congress to repeal the Windfall Elimination Provision and the Government Pension Offset of the Social Security Act.	Heard & held Finance 2/24, scheduled 3/1
SB 6 by Kawasaki	Allows employers to adopt a retirement incentive program (RIP) for both TRS and PERS members of a defined benefit plan.	Pending Finance
SB 9 by Micciche	Omnibus bill relating to the manufacture, distribution, licensing, possession, and the sale of alcoholic beverages. Provides only the ABC Board may issue, renew, transfer, relocate, suspend, or revoke a license.	Passed House Labor & Commerce 2/22, referred House Finance
SB 15 by Costello	Creates fine of up to \$1,000 for any elected or appointed official who knowingly violates the Open Meetings Act.	Pending Finance

Measure	Summary	Status
SB 26 by Wilson	Repeals the certificate of need (CON) program for health care facilities.	Passed L&C 2/18, Finance referral added
SB 37 by Kiehl	Allows teachers and other public employees a choice between a defined benefit pension versus the current defined contribution 401(k) plan.	Pending Labor & Commerce
SB 41 by Hughes	Omnibus health insurance reform bill that includes provision to preempt municipalities from regulating disclosure and reporting of health care information.	Heard & held Labor & Commerce 2/14
SB 46 by Gray-Jackson	Makes municipal police officers subject to police standards, establishes central registry of officers with denied or revoked certificates, amends training of village public safety officers to require disability training, and requires the reporting of use-of-force by an officer.	Pending State Affairs
SB 54 by governor	Authorizes the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation to issue bonds to finance water and sewer projects and matching funds for federal highway and aviation projects.	Pending Finance
SB 74 by governor HB 93 by governor	Proposes \$356 million in general obligations bonds for numerous transportation and infrastructure projects.	SB 74 pending Senate FIN HB 93 pending House FIN
SB 81 by Olson HB 313 by Zulkosky	Requires background checks for Village Public Safety Officers (VPSO) and rewrites the VPSO statute.	SB 81 passed S STA, scheduled Senate FIN 2/28 HB 313 sched. House Tribal Affairs 3/1, 3/3
SB 105 by Myers	Allows second class boroughs to consolidate two or more road service areas without voter approval if the boards representing those areas request consolidation and no new parcels are added to the new service area.	Pending Transportation
SB 126 by Stevens	Repeals current 90-day session limit.	Pending State Affairs
SB 136 by Myers HB 179 by Tilton	Significantly limits state or municipal regulation of firearms during a disaster declaration.	SB 136 sched. S STA 3/3 HB 179 pending H CRA
SB 148 by Holland	Amends boating safety education course requirements and adds age and safety education requirements for boat operators of a certain age.	Passed Resources 2/23, referred Finance
SB 152 by Shower	Proposes locating the first regular legislative session in Juneau and the second regular session in Anchorage.	Scheduled State Affairs 3/3
SB 160 by Stedman	Creates the Alaska Flood Authority to increase the availability of flood insurance in Alaska.	Pending Labor & Commerce
SB 166 by governor HB 285 by governor	Proposes \$325 million in general obligations bonds for numerous transportation and infrastructure projects.	SB 166 pending S TRA HB 285 pending House FIN
SB 170 by Senate Transportation	Establishes a public corporation to manage AMHS using a seven-member board.	Heard & held Transportation 2/17, 2/22
SB 172 by Wielechowski	Increases the amount from \$50K to \$75K that a municipality may exempt residential property from taxation.	Heard & held Community & Regional Affairs 2/17, 2/22
SB 215 by Reinbold	Requires municipalities and school districts to report annually to the state all federal receipts received.	Referred State Affairs, Finance

Education Measures

Measure	Summary	Status
HJR 20 by Johnson	Proposes a constitutional amendment to delete the prohibition on using state funds for the direct benefit of religious or private educational institutions.	Pending Education
HB 15 by Thompson	Requires issuance of a preliminary teacher certificate within 30 days for qualified active-duty military members or spouses.	Pending Labor & Commerce
HB 18 by Kreiss-Tompkins	Sets goal that by 2025 at least 4% of public school teachers will achieve national board certification. Requires schools display the name of these teachers.	Pending Rules
HB 19 by Kreiss-Tompkins	Expands scope for teachers fluent in an Alaska Native or foreign language to allow teaching other subject matter if done in Native or foreign language.	Pending Senate Labor & Commerce
HB 24 by Hopkins	Requires larger school districts to give breaks to teachers who are nursing mothers and a location to express breast milk.	Pending Education
HB 25 by Hopkins	Requires DEED Board to establish standards for social-emotional learning instruction.	Pending State Affairs
HB 47 by Story SB 109 by Olson	Renames Alaska Native Language Preservation and Advisory Council and adds two seats.	HB 47 pending Senate STA SB 109 pending Senate STA
HB 48 by Story	Expands eligibility requirements for the Alaska performance scholarship program.	Heard & held EDC 2/25, scheduled 3/4
HB 49 by Story	Proposes appropriation of \$20.225 million for early literacy programs in public schools.	Pending Education
HB 53 by McCarty	Requires school districts to consider children of active-duty military/National Guard as district residents.	Pending Senate Rules
HB 60 by Claman SB 80 by Gray-Jackson	Directs Board of Education & Early Development to develop guidelines for instruction in mental health in consultation with the HSS department.	HB 60 pending House FIN SB 80 pending Senate FIN
HB 67 by Story	Proposes appropriation of \$20 million for K-12 public schools in response to COVID-19 impacts.	Pending Education
HB 108 by McCarty	Allows public secondary school students, over 14 years of age, to participate in concurrent vocational education, training, and on-the-job trade programs.	Heard & held Education 2/23, scheduled 3/4
HB 114/SB 94 by governor	Amends education and supplemental loan programs by clarifying residency eligibility requirements, eliminating loan maximums, and allowing for early repayment of consolidated loans.	HB 114 pending H Rules SB 94 pending Senate FIN
HB 129 by Fields	Amends the maximum number of annual awards for Alaska performance scholarships based on current University of Alaska tuition and fees.	Pending Education
HB 132 by House Labor & Commerce	Enacts new proposal titled the "Alaska Apprenticeship Expansion Act". Establishes new concurrent vocational education, training, and on-the-job trade experience programs for secondary school students.	Pending Senate Education
HB 147 by Zulkosky	Expands teacher education loan forgiveness program to any rural community not connected by road or rail to Anchorage or Fairbanks.	Pending Education

Measure	Summary	Status
HB 173 by Tarr	Establishes the “School Climate and School Connectedness Improvement Committee” as an advisory committee in DEED. Requires school districts to develop a plan related to these topics.	Pending Education
HB 175 by Carpenter HB 186 by Rauscher	Prohibits numerous governmental entities (including school districts) and businesses from requiring an individual to receive a COVID-19 vaccination or prove to someone they have been vaccinated.	HB 175 pending C&RA HB 186 pending C&RA
HB 191 by Gillham	Pushes layoff/non-retention notices to June 15. Requires districts to budget for next year using current year funding if K-12 funds not approved by May 1.	Pending Education
HB 220 by Hopkins	Allows teachers and other public employees a choice between a defined benefit pension versus the current defined contribution 401(k) plan. New features make proposal cost neutral to state.	Pending Finance
HB 228 by McKay	Prohibits teaching lessons based on critical race theory in all public schools in Alaska.	Pending Education
HB 240 by Schrage	Omnibus bill amending numerous DEED statutes, adding early education program with funding, and modifying portions of foundation formula.	Pending Education
HB 244 by Gillham	Requires school districts to distribute annually a map of school district boundaries to parents and property taxpayers.	Pending Education
HB 266 by Eastman	Creates new requirements to distribute vaccine information. Applies to school districts.	Pending Health & Social Services
HB 272 by Story	Proposes \$223 increase in BSA for FY 2023, and another \$55 increase in FY 2024.	Passed Education 2/25
HB 273 by Story	Adds automatic inflation adjustment component to the BSA starting in FY 2025.	Passed Education 2/25
HB 280 by Eastman	Excludes school employees’ children in count under certain portions of the foundation formula including requirement to have a minimum of 10 students.	Pending Community & Regional Affairs
HB 324 by Eastman	Requires DEED to develop social studies program about victims of communism for grades 6-12.	Referred Education, Finance
HB 328 by Gillham	Requires school district to allow students to attend any public school in that district.	Referred Community & Regional Affairs, Education
HB 329 by Gillham	Requires a stipend of \$5,930 for each student that is home-schooled. These funds can be used for tutoring from a private school or other programs.	Referred Education, Finance
HB 330 by Gillham	Prohibits public school employees and contractors from providing instruction that varies from state standards or can be viewed as critical race theory.	Referred State Affairs, Education
HB 335/SB 198 by governor	Moves school in Rampart from the Yukon Flats School District to the Yukon Koyukuk School District. Both districts agree with this proposal.	HB 335 referred House EDC SB 198 referred Senate EDC, passed out 2/25
HB 342 by Gillham	Requires public schools to publish and keep updated a list of textbooks used by that school with an Internet link with information about each textbook.	Referred Education, Finance
HB 343 by Gillham	Another version of legislation prohibiting teaching lessons based on critical race theory in all public schools in Alaska.	Referred Education, Finance

Measure	Summary	Status
HB 356 by Gillham	Requires school districts to develop and implement a “character development program” for grades K-12.	Referred Community & Regional Affairs, Education
HB 391 by Eastman	Requires school boards to ensure that all curriculum is consistent with principles of individual freedom.	Referred Education, State Affairs, Judiciary
SJR 10 by Costello	Proposes constitutional amendment requiring public schools to provide the opportunity for in-person education unless a disaster declaration is in place.	Pending Education
SB 8 by Begich	Proposes statewide K-3 reading program and expands pre-elementary program for 4- & 5-year-olds. Retention at grade 3 likely unless exempt by school board. HB 164 adds provision for 25% carryover by districts. HB 164 CS mirroring CSSB 111 (EDC).	Pending Senate EDC
SB 16 by Begich	Requires annual report on equal pay for comparable work and increases minimum wage.	Pending Labor & Commerce
SB 18 by Begich	Requires school districts to set policies regarding maximum class size for each grade. Creates a state class size reduction grant program	Pending Education
SB 20 by Stevens	Amends teacher certification reciprocity provisions for out-of-state teachers. Finance CS requires these teachers to complete specified training requirements within 90 days. Still get 2 yrs. for 2 required courses.	Passed House Education 2/23, referred House Finance
SB 32 by Stevens	Establishes new middle college program for public school students at U of A.	Pending House Rules
SB 34 by Stevens HB 351 by Zulkosky	Allows establishment of public schools through state-tribal compacts. Provides authority for creation of state-tribal compact schools and defines other requirements.	SB 34 heard & held Education 2/23, sched. 3/3 HB 351 REF H EDC, FIN
SB 42 by Hughes	Omnibus bill titled “Alaska Reading and Virtual Education Act.” Provides for more stringent standards for Praxis tests and expands reporting on school district and employee performance.	Pending Education
SB 58 by governor HB 78 by governor	Amends education foundation formula to count students in correspondence programs at 100% for ADM purposes and includes this count for all multipliers.	SB 58 pending Senate EDC HB 78 pending House EDC
SB 72 by Stevens	Adds civics exam requirement to graduate from secondary school. CS removes requirement to achieve a passing grade.	Passed Senate 2/16, referred House EDC, FIN
SB 111 by Senate Education HB 164 by Tuck	Omnibus education reform bill titled the “Alaska Academic Improvement and Modernization Act.” Latest CS eliminates mandatory retention but includes a 10-year sunset of new programs.	SB 111 sched. S FIN 3/4 HB 164 pending House EDC
SB 112 by Shower	Mandates DEED require bus logistics plans for certain methods of school transportation to reduce number of runs and increase efficiency.	Pending Education
SB 140 by Hughes HB 230 by McKay	Requires school districts to designate sports team as male, female or co-ed and bars transgender girls from participating in female sports.	SB 140 sched. S EDC 3/3 HB 230 pending H EDC
SB 157 by Gray-Jackson	Requires school districts to provide a program of health and personal safety education for K-12, including science-based sexual health education.	Pending Education

Measure	Summary	Status
SB 174 by Wilson HB 312 by Tarr	Prohibits school districts from adopting a dress code prohibiting hairstyles associated with race.	SB 174 passed S EDC 2/23, sched. Senate L&C 2/28 HB 312 pending H EDC
SB 196 by Reinbold	Requires public schools to publish info about all teaching materials and curriculum. Prohibits all forms of compelled speech for students.	Referred Education, Judiciary

Fishery & Resources Issues

Measure	Summary	Status
HB 26 by House Fisheries	Allows members of the Board of Game or Fisheries to deliberate and participate on matters if they or a family member have a personal or financial interest.	Pending Rules
HB 28 by House Fisheries	Exempts commercial fishing vessels with valid licenses from numbering and registration provisions.	Passed Senate RES 2/21, referred Senate FIN
HB 41 by Ortiz SB 64 by Stevens	Relates to management of enhanced stocks of shellfish, authorizes certain nonprofits to engage in shellfish enhancement projects, and increases salmon hatchery permit fees from \$100 to \$1000.	HB 41 pending Senate RLS SB 64 pending Senate Rules
HB 50 by Josephson	Authorizes municipalities to regulate trapping to prevent injury to persons or property.	Pending Resources
HB 64 by Stutes	Proposes regional associations to encourage new fisheries, modeled after SE AK Regional Dive Fisheries Association. Members self-assess tax to fund surveys.	Scheduled Finance 2/28
HB 65 by Stutes	Allows Board of Fisheries/Board of Game unconfirmed appointees to vote if the legislature has been unable to meet during a regular legislative session if approved by a majority of each board using a poll.	Pending Fisheries
HB 120 by governor SB 97 by governor	Allows an Alaskan to nominate up to 20 acres of state land to be used for commercial purposes. Lands must be within federally designated Qualified Opportunity Zones or determined as appropriate for commercial use.	HB 120 pending House RES SB 97 pending Senate FIN
HB 162 by Tuck	Establishes a new fisheries rehabilitation permit program which allows removal of finfish, collection and incubation of eggs and placement of fertilized or incubated eggs, larvae, or unfed fry back in the same waters of the state.	Pending Fisheries
HB 185 by McKay	Allows ADF&G to transfer or reissue a hunting permit originally awarded to a resident by drawing to a qualified substitute, if the original permit holder has died.	Pending Resources
HB 195 by governor SB 133 by governor	Allows eligible Alaskans to nominate up to 10 acres of vacant, unappropriated, or unreserved state lands for the Department of Natural Resources to offer for sale or lease as a remote recreational site.	HB 195 pending House RES SB 133 pending Senate Resources

Measure	Summary	Status
HB 365 by Kreiss-Tomkins	Makes setting of the optimum number of commercial fishing entry permits for a fishery discretionary. Ties the buy-back program to setting an optimum number.	Referred Fisheries, Resources
HB 393 by McCabe	Adds a surcharge of \$.06 per pound under the state's fishery business and fishery resource landing taxes, with credits for in-state fishery businesses or in-state vessels.	Referred Fisheries, Resources, Finance
SB 29 by Micciche	Establishes Cook Inlet buy-back program for set net entry permits and provides for a vote by permit holders whether to be included. Broadens CFEC authority to establish management areas.	Pending Finance
SB 33 by Stevens HB 188 by Stutes	Add pollock and cod to the product development tax credit up to 50% of the taxpayer's tax liability. Extends date to take credit for property first placed into service by Dec. 31, 2025.	SB 33 passed Senate 2/15, referred House Finance HB 188 pending House Finance
SB 44 by Kawasaki	Requires Board of Fish to place restrictions on other fisheries before restricting personal use fisheries, except when the harvest of a stock or species is limited to achieve a management goal.	Pending Resources
SB 204 by Revak	Expands competitive auctions or raffles for hunting permits and big game tags. Adds harvest permits for emperor geese.	Referred Resources, FIN; scheduled Resources 3/2
SB 219 by Micciche	Allows for the transfer or modification of personal use cabin permits on state land under certain circumstances.	Referred Resources

Energy Matters

Measure	Summary	Status
HB 56 by Foster	Restructures the Power Cost Equalization (PCE) program process to allow direct PCE payments without further appropriations. Mandates annual appropriation out of the fund to make eligible PCE payments.	Pending Community & Regional Affairs
HB 135 by governor SB 104 by governor	Expands the jurisdiction and authority of the Oil & Gas Conservation Commission (AOGCC) over geothermal resources, currently held by the Dept. of Natural Resources.	HB 135 pending House FIN SB 104 pending Senate FIN
HB 170 by governor SB 123 by governor	Creates new "Alaska Energy Independence Fund" at AIDEA to make loans and provide other forms of financing for sustainable energy development.	HB 170 pending House FIN SB 123 pending Senate FIN
HB 223 by Kaufman	Proposes repeal of numerous funds including the fuel emergency fund, rural electrification revolving loan fund, and the Alaska affordable energy fund.	Scheduled Ways & Means 3/1
HB 227 by Schrage	Expands Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program by allowing new construction financing, resiliency projects, C-PACE refinancing, and considering market values rather than assessed values.	Scheduled Community & Regional Affairs 3/1, 3/3

Measure	Summary	Status
HB 247 by Thompson	Amends formula for distribution of excess earnings from the power cost equalization fund to increase funding for renewable energy projects. Protects priority for distribution of up to \$30 million to community assistance.	Scheduled Energy 3/3
HB 358 by Edgmon SB 202 by Revak	Extends authorization of the Renewable Energy Grant Fund and Recommendation Program setting a new sunset date of June 30, 2033.	HB 358 REF H ENE, FIN, sched. H Energy 3/1, 3/3 SB 202 REF S RES, FIN, sched. S Resources 3/2
SB 17 by Begich	Provides funding to conduct energy audits, improve energy efficiency in public buildings (including public schools), and creates a “rapid economic recovery office” to oversee related audits and projects.	Pending Finance
SB 123 by governor	Establishes the Alaska Energy Independence Fund within the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority (AIDEA). Provides AIDEA the ability to arrange financing for sustainable energy development projects.	Pending Finance

Election & Voting Issues

Measure	Summary	Status
HB 23 by Rauscher	Omnibus voting measure that modifies PFD registration provisions adopted by initiative in 2016. Other provisions may result in restricted access to voting in certain cases.	Pending State Affairs
HB 39 by Hopkins	Allows pre-registration to vote for minors at least 16 years of age.	Pending State Affairs
HB 66 by Tuck	Omnibus voting bill allowing same-day registration, ballot curing, increased pay for poll workers and earlier absentee ballot counting.	Pending State Affairs
HB 138 by Kreiss-Tomkins	Omnibus voting bill requiring voting by mail for all state and local elections and establishing an online ballot tracking and registration verification system. Includes several additional elections provisions.	Pending Judiciary
HB 157 by Rasmussen	Requires identification of individual, groups and nongroup entities expending money for state referendums or recall elections.	Scheduled Senate State Affairs 3/1
HB 212 by Kurka	Requires purging of voters after four years of not voting or if written notice from Division of Elections is returned as undeliverable.	Pending State Affairs
HB 267 by Schrage	Requires the Division of Elections to notify voters if there are minor errors on absentee ballots and provide voters opportunity to correct or “cure” the errors.	Pending State Affairs
HB 336 by Eastman	Directs Division of Elections to amend state ballots to allow voters to rank up to four candidates.	Referred State Affairs, Judiciary
HB 375 by Shaw SB 205 by Revak	Establishes a digital absentee voting system for overseas or special needs voters.	HB 375 referred H STA, FIN SB 205 referred S STA, FIN

Measure	Summary	Status
SB 23 by Revak HB 174 by Merrick	Requires any court change to language in a ballot initiative to trigger restarting signature gathering.	SB 23 pending Senate JUD HB 174 pending House JUD
SB 39 by Shower HB 196 by Vance	New CS removes attempt to amend PFD voter registration process, changes limits on voting-by-mail by municipalities, allows ballot curing and proposes optional voter ID system. Contains several other changes.	SB 39 pending Senate JUD HB 196 pending House JUD
SB 43 by Hughes	Prohibits anonymous donations to ballot measure campaigns and amends process to assist completion of an absentee ballot. Draft CS limits bill to campaign finance piece.	Pending Judiciary
SB 82 by governor HB 95 by governor	Adds new authority for Attorney General to investigate alleged election violations as a civil matter and allows fines up to \$25,000 per violation.	SB 82 pending Senate STA HB 95 pending House STA
SB 83 by governor HB 96 by governor	Omnibus elections bill to limit vote by mail to smaller communities (750 or less) and increase voter verification for absentee ballots. Includes many features contained in <i>HB 23</i> , <i>SB 39</i> and introduced version of <i>SB 43</i> .	SB 83 pending Senate STA HB 96 pending House STA
SB 129 by Myers	Broadens type of information included in the Alaska Official Election Pamphlet related to judge retention.	Pending State Affairs
SB 142 by Shower	Adds new provision asserting state sovereignty to not conduct elections for federal officials if federal law requires actions in conflict with state provisions.	Pending State Affairs
SB 167 by governor HB 286 by governor	New omnibus “elections integrity” bill with numerous changes. Eliminates automatic registration for PFD applicants, allows ballot curing and amends process to maintain voter rolls.	SB 167 sched. S STA 3/3 HB 286 pending House State Affairs
SB 178 by Kawasaki	Allows voters to elect receiving absentee ballots permanently for state elections.	Pending Community & Regional Affairs
SB 209 by Kawasaki	Requires DOE to provide postage-paid return envelopes for absentee ballots, allows voters to cure ballots, and permits certain people to assist voters.	Referred State Affairs, Finance



What a House floor session must feel like this year!

King Penguins, South Georgia