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City of Unalaska Legislative Report **1/29/23**

Welcome back to the weekly round-up of all things legislative. It seems like we were just here in Juneau a few months ago. Here is hoping for a productive and meaningful session.

Unlike the last several years, both the House and Senate have organized before or within the first week of session and are ready to conduct the people's business. Both bodies have formed a bipartisan coalition. The Senate Majority consists of nine Democrats and eight of eleven elected Republicans, the three Republicans not in the majority are Senators Mike Shower, Robb Myers, and Shelley Hughes.

The House is made up of 19 Republicans, two Democrats and two Independents, signaling a rightward shift in the chamber after six years of left-leaning bipartisan coalitions. The four-member Bush Caucus presenting predominantly Alaska Native rural areas of the state joined most House Republicans to form a caucus.

To see the Leadership line up visit <https://akleg.gov/>

Governor Dunleavy delivered his State of the State address on Monday. In his address to the Alaska Legislature, Dunleavy identified successes from his first four-year term in office and called for action on a list of administration priorities, including more funding for "statehood defense" programs. He offered a long list of bipartisan-minded proposals including expanding Medicaid coverage for new mothers, a new financial plan that relies on carbon credit revenues and declaring war on drug dealers. He recognized issues related to affordable housing, improvements to education, economic opportunity, and quality of life.

You can read the State of the State at <https://files.constantcontact.com/40a57e32901/f5a1b444-a0c5-4908-ba2a-cddcf4993034.pdf?rdr=true>

Committee work started slowly last week with overviews on revenue forecasts, supplemental appropriations, budget, and workforce issues. Several hearings were held on **HB 22- Peace Officer /Firefighter Retirement**, with all the conversation and concern about recruitment and retention, this bill is likely to get to the finish line this year.



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There is plenty of chatter about a meaningful state spending cap, placing real limits on spending, the concerning “boom and bust” cycles related to unforeseen deficits and to many who would be vulnerable to arbitrary tax increases when the government decides to spend more. The unknown aspect is what would be inclusive or excluded from the cap, those ideas are still being weighted. It appears this line of thinking is gaining momentum, with several relevant bills already introduced.

The next few weeks will be busy in Juneau as committee hearings gear up and a multitude of hosted fly-ins are on the schedule.

I look forward to working with all of you this session.

Upcoming Schedule

Description	Date, Time & Location
SENATE FINANCE 532 -SENATE FINANCE += SB40 APPROP: OPERATING BUDGET/LOANS/FUND; SUPP TELE- CONFERENCED += SB41 APPROP: CAPITAL/SUPPLEMENTAL TELECONFERENCED *+ SB42 APPROP: MENTAL HEALTH BUDGET TELECONFERENCED Legislative Finance Overview of Proposed FY24 Budget by Alexei Painter, Director of Legislative Finance Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled	Mon 1/30/23 9:00 AM
BARNES 124 -HOUSE COMMUNITY & REGIONAL AFFAIRS += HB22 PEACE OFFICER/FIREFIGHTER RETIRE BENEFITS TELECON- FERENCED -- Public Testimony --	Tue 1/31/23 8:00 AM
BELTZ 105 (TSBldg) -SENATE COMMUNITY & REGIONAL AFFAIRS Presentation: Alaska Municipal League Overview by Nils Andreassen, Executive Director of Alaska Municipal League **Streamed live on AKL.tv**	Tue 1/31/23 1:30 PM



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Description	Date, Time & Location
ADAMS 519 -HOUSE FINANCE *+ HB39 APPROP: OPERATING BUDGET/LOANS/FUND; SUPP TELE- CONFERENCED *+ HB41 APPROP: MENTAL HEALTH BUDGET TELECONFERENCE + Presentation: Deferred Maintenance by Neil TELECONFERENCE Steininger, Director; Paloma Harbour, Fiscal Management Practices Analyst, Office of Management and Budget; Department of Transportation and Public Facilities; University of Alaska + Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled TELECONFERENCE	Wed 2/1/23 1:30 PM
BARNES 124 -HOUSE COMMUNITY & REGIONAL AFFAIRS += HB22 PEACE OFFICER/FIREFIGHTER RETIRE BENEFITS TELECON- FERENCED	Thu 2/2/23 8:00 AM
BUTROVICH 205 -SENATE TRANSPORTATION -- Teleconference -- Presentation: Overview of Alaska Marine Highway by Department of Transportation and Public Facilities -- Testimony -- **Streamed live on AKL.tv**	Thu 2/2/23 1:30 PM
BELTZ 105 (TSBldg) -SENATE EDUCATION *+ SB14 RIP FOR PUBLIC EMPLOYEES/TEACHERS TELECONFER- ENCED -- Testimony -- SENATE BILL: INCREASE BSA Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled **Streamed live on AKL.tv**	Fri 2/3/23 3:30 PM

Bill	Title	Prime Sponsor	Status & Upcoming Hearings	Position
HB 22	Peace Officer/firefighter Retire Benefits	JOSEPH-SON	(H) COMMUNITY & REGIONAL AFFAIRS at 08:00 AM BARNES 124 (2/2) 01/31/23 8:00 AM in BARNES 124 02/02/23 8:00 AM in BARNES 124	

The state would create a pension program for police and firefighters.



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SB 14	Rip For Public Employees/teachers	KAWA-SAKI	(S) EDUCATION at 03:30 PM BELTZ 105 (TSBldg) (2/3) 02/03/23 3:30 PM in BELTZ 105 (TSBldg)	
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School districts would be able to create incentive programs to encourage employees to retire early in order to cut staff.

SB 35	Peace Officer/firefighter Retire Benefits	KAWA-SAKI	(S) REFERRED TO LABOR & COMMERCE (1/18)	
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The state would create a pension program for police and firefighters.