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## **City of Unalaska Legislative Report** **2/12/23**

This week was a bit lower key than normal, with the primary focus in both bodies on departmental overviews and finance sub-committee hearings, all which will need to be completed before the standing Finance Committee's begin their deep dive into the operating budget.

The Finance Committee heard the Governor's proposed supplemental budget bill, fiscal scenarios, and update on the Federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. At this point these conversations have been overviews, questions and answers, no actions, or amendments.

The House Energy, House Resources and Senate Resources have been holding overview hearings on Cook Inlet Gas Supply, Carbon Credits, Carbon Sequestration, and modernization of the Railbelt, also all still in the listen and learn stages of the process.

Workforce Development ideas on recruitment and retention continue to be a topic of conversation. For public sector employees some legislators are considering a possible return to a defined benefit plan. The actual numbers, costs, and impacts of this type of legislation are still being ironed out.

A statewide bill adding criminal penalties for harassing 911 dispatchers or abusing the 911 system in Alaska is advancing; this bill would make threatening a 911 dispatcher a Class B misdemeanor. Repeatedly calling 911 after being asked to stop would also be a misdemeanor.

We anticipate that after the Finance Sub-Committees wrap up, actual bills will begin moving and quick turn-around on matters of importance will be essential.



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### Upcoming Schedule

Description	Date, Time & Location
ADAMS 519 -HOUSE FINANCE += HB39 APPROP: OPERATING BUDGET/LOANS/FUND; SUPP TELE- CONFERENCED += HB41 APPROP: MENTAL HEALTH BUDGET TELECONFERENCED + Overview: FY24 Budget by Marian Sweet,Assistant TELECONFERENCED Commissioner, Department of Family andCommunity Services + Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled TELECONFERENCED	Mon 2/13/23 1:30 PM
SENATE FINANCE 532 -SENATE FINANCE + Alaska Retirement Management Board TELECONFERENCED - Pam Leary, Treasury Director - Bob Williams, ARM Board Chair + PRS / TRS Update TELECONFERENCED - Ajay Desai, Director of Division ofRetirement & Benefits - Kevin Worley, Chief Financial Officer - Betsy Wood, Chief Health Administrator + Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled TELECONFERENCED	Tue 2/14/23 9:00 AM
ADAMS 519 -HOUSE FINANCE += HB39 APPROP: OPERATING BUDGET/LOANS/FUND; SUPP TELE- CONFERENCED += HB41 APPROP: MENTAL HEALTH BUDGET TELECONFERENCED + Overview: FY24 Budget by Comissioner-Designee TELECONFERENCED Heidi Hedberg; and Josie Stern, Assistant Commissioner, Department of Health + Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled TELECONFERENCED	Tue 2/14/23 1:30 PM
SENATE FINANCE 532 -SENATE FINANCE + Federal Infrastructure Funding in Alaska TELECONFERENCED - Mike Anderson, Acting InfrastructureInvestment Coordinator - Katherine Keith, Deputy Commissioner DOT + Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled TELECONFERENCED	Wed 2/15/23 9:00 AM
GRUENBERG 120 -HOUSE JUDICIARY *+ HJR2 CONST. AM: APPROP LIMIT TELECONFERENCED += HB38 APPROPRIATION LIMIT; GOV BUDGET TELECONFERENCED -- Public Testimony -- + Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled TELECONFERENCED	Wed 2/15/23 1:00 PM



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Description	Date, Time & Location
ADAMS 519 -HOUSE FINANCE + Overview: Funding Status of Alaska Public Employees' Retirement System and Teachers' Retirement System by Ajay Desai, Director, Division of Retirement and Benefits; Kevin Worely, Chief Financial Officer, and Betsy Wood, Chief Health Administrator, Department of Administration; Pam Leary, Director, Treasury Division, Department of Revenue; Bob Williams, Chair, and Alysia Jones, Liaison Officer, Alaska Retirement Management Board + Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled TELECONFERENCED	Wed 2/15/23 1:30 PM
BARNES 124 -HOUSE LABOR & COMMERCE + Presentation: Overview from State of Alaska Broadband by Thomas Lochner, Director + Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled TELECONFERENCED	Wed 2/15/23 3:15 PM
SENATE FINANCE 532 -SENATE FINANCE + Callan - Capital Markets & Permanent Fund Sustainability - Greg Allen, CEO & Chief Research Officer - Steven Center, Senior Vice President + Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled TELECONFERENCED	Thu 2/16/23 9:00 AM
DAVIS 106 -HOUSE COMMERCE, COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEV + Presentation: Alaska State Broadband Office by Thomas Lochner, Director TELECONFERENCED	Thu 2/16/23 11:30 AM
BELTZ 105 (TSBldg) -SENATE COMMUNITY & REGIONAL AFFAIRS + Overview: Alaska Office of Broadband by Thomas Lochner, Director **Streamed live on AKL.tv**	Thu 2/16/23 1:30 PM
SENATE FINANCE 532 -SENATE FINANCE + Update on Broadband Equity, Access, & Deployment (BEAD) in Alaska - Thomas Lochner, Director of the Alaska Broadband Office + Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled TELECONFERENCED	Fri 2/17/23 9:00 AM
BELTZ 105 (TSBldg) -SENATE LABOR & COMMERCE  -- Testimony -- Workforce Challenges in Alaska from the Perspective of Alaska Municipal League Presentation from Nils Andreassen, Executive Director *+ SB55 EXTEND STATE MEDICAL BOARD TELECONFERENCED -- Invited & Public Testimony -- **Streamed live on AKL.tv**	Fri 2/17/23 1:30 PM



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Description	Date, Time & Location
ADAMS 519 -HOUSE FINANCE + Overview: Governor's Budget Amendments by Neil Steining, Director, Office of Management and Budget + Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled	TELECONFERENCED Fri 2/17/23 1:30 PM

Bill	Title	Prime Sponsor	Status & Upcoming Hearings	Position
<a href="#">HB 22</a>	Peace Officer/firefighter Retire Benefits	JOSEPH-SON	(H) Moved HB 22 Out of Committee (2/2)	

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

<a href="#">HB 54</a>	Approp: Supplemental; Reapprop; Amending	RULES	(H) REFERRED TO FINANCE (2/1)	
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<a href="#">SB 14</a>	Rip For Public Employees/teachers	KAWASAKI	(S) Heard & Held (2/10)	
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School districts would be able to create incentive programs to encourage employees to retire early in order to cut staff.

<a href="#">SB 35</a>	Peace Officer/firefighter Retire Benefits	KAWASAKI	(S) REFERRED TO LABOR & COMMERCE (1/18)	
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The state would create a pension program for police and firefighters.