

BLUMER AND ASSOCIATES

City of Unalaska Legislative Report

4/26/21

This week has been mostly focused on the budget and the stimulus funding.

The Governor introduced **HB 181**, an Act making special appropriations relating to the American Rescue Plan Act (APRA) which was presented to House Finance by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Of the \$1.5B total ARPA funding, about \$1B is currently described as an unallocated general fund. OMB gave a high-level overview and outlined the Governors proposed categories that are essentially placeholders, stipulations from the US Department of Treasury are expected May 10th.

The House Finance committee has indicated its intent to roll much of the ARPA funds into the operating budget over the next week in order to streamline the decision-making to occur before the end of legislative session. Should the legislature not pass legislation to appropriate these incoming funds, the Governor would be left with the authority using the RPL process, a process which was criticized last year.

The document from Governor's Office outlining appropriation categories and proposed funding can be found [HERE](#).

You should expect legislators to put their own stamp on the plans for this \$1.5 billion relief package — about one-third of which is already earmarked for specific programs. Here's how the governor's initial proposal aims to split up the money:

- There's \$150 million designated for revitalizing Alaska's tourism industry
- There's \$325 million set aside for aid to businesses and other organizations impacted by the pandemic, which would also go to "prepare Alaska's economy for investment" at the end of the pandemic
- Another \$325 million is designated for infrastructure investments in areas like broadband and water and sewer projects
- \$80 million would go toward emergency response, which the administration says would address economic impacts, the negative effects of domestic violence, food security and assistance to households and individual Alaskans
- About \$140 million would pay for existing government services and programs

Another \$450 million is already designated for specific purposes by the federal legislation. That includes \$230 million for payments to Alaska municipalities, most of which is already earmarked based on a federal formula.

The remaining \$220 million goes toward specific programs based on the ARPA, which includes:

- \$5 million for mental health treatment and grants
- \$28 million for childcare assistance for health care workers, emergency responders and other essential workers
- \$45 million for grants directly to qualified childcare providers
- \$24 million to help low-income Alaskans pay their heating bills
- \$22 million for COVID-19 testing and \$32 million for vaccinations, though each of these appropriations would be stretched out over several years
- \$7 million for grants for senior and disability programs like meal delivery and family caregivers
- \$6 million for upgrading Alaska's unemployment insurance computer system.
- \$6.5 million for transportation grants, which includes money for intercity buses.
- \$31 million for the University of Alaska. Half of the money must go toward grants to students, according to budget documents

Late afternoon on Friday, the House Finance Committee unveiled a draft proposal that calls for spending about \$700 million of the \$1 billion in ARPA funding and the remainder would be saved for spending next year. The proposal would send millions to nonprofits, local governments and tourism-related organizations. By substituting federal money for tax dollars in various places within the state budget, the plan frees about \$230 million for infrastructure spending and \$175 million for other uses, possibly use in a Permanent Fund dividend. The proposal if passed by the House will need approval of the Senate and Governor, who could veto elements. Some Senators would prefer to reserve about half of the \$1 billion for next year.

The House's plan includes the following:

\$454.5 million in federal aid would replace tax dollars in parts of the state budget. That frees \$230 million for the state's capital budget — used to fund construction and renovation projects — and \$175 million for the Permanent Fund dividend. This approach is needed because the federal money comes with rules that might preclude its use for things like the dividend. \$6 million for domestic violence shelters and similar organizations, which are suffering from federal budget cuts. \$30 million in grants to small businesses, similar to the AK CARES program that ended last year, \$80 million for local governments that have lost tax revenue because of the COVID-19 pandemic. \$30 million for nonprofit organizations, \$20 million for local economic development organizations to promote Alaska tourism. \$10 million for the Alaska Travel Industry Association.

The plan does not create any permanent new government programs, something requested by the House's Republican minority

SB 15, Open Meetings Act heard an overview of a committee substitute from Community & Regional Affairs (CRA). SB 15's full title: An Act relating to the Open Meetings Act; and establishing a civil penalty for violations of the open meeting requirements by members of governmental bodies. Amendments to arrive at this version changed SB 15, now it only applies to elected officials and invokes a 3-tier system, 1st infraction is a warning; 2nd is a civil penalty up to \$1K; and 3rd class B misdemeanor punishable by up to 90 days in jail and up to \$2K fine.

One testifier spoke in opposition and CSSB 15 moved out of committee.

HB 100, extending the Technical and Vocational Education Program (TVEP) beyond its "sunset" this year, was up April 16 in House Finance Committee. There is no Senate bill, so this must pass the House and get through the Senate by the May 19 adjournment. The bill would distribute \$11.5 million to 11 training providers including the University of Alaska. This bill is now in the Rules Committee waiting to be scheduled on the Floor.

HB 170, AIDEA would be authorized to participate in low-cost financing of green projects, an area conventional banks generally steer clear of because of lack of knowledge and track record, and the small size of most projects relative to perceived risks. The goal is for AIDEA to "de-risk" projects and leverage financing by partnering with conventional financing, like the authority does now with its commercial loan participations with banks on real estate and other business lending. This bill passed out of the Energy Committee and is now up for two hearings this week, Monday and Friday for public testimony, in House Labor and Commerce.

SJR 13, related to improving broadband internet access passed out of Senate Community and Regional Affairs and will be brought up in Senate Labor and Commerce, Monday at 1:30pm.

HB 63, related to the Alaska Marine Highway Operation Board, with several amendments, moved out of State Affairs this week and be passed to the Rules Committee for Floor scheduling.

Weekly Schedule

Time	Description
Mon 4/26/21 9:00 AM	SB 128 - Approp: Special; American Rescue Plan Act
	SENATE FINANCE 532 - SENATE FINANCE
Mon 4/26/21 1:00 PM	HJR 1 - Const Am: Permanent Fund; Pomv;earnings
	GRUENBERG 120 - HOUSE JUDICIARY
Mon 4/26/21 1:00 PM	HB 135 - Geothermal Resources
	BARNES 124 - HOUSE RESOURCES
Mon 4/26/21 1:30 PM	SB 53 - Perm Fund; Advisory Vote
	BUTROVICH 205 - SENATE JUDICIARY

Time	Description
Mon 4/26/21 1:30 PM	SB 12 - Military Spouse Courtesy License
Mon 4/26/21 1:30 PM	BELTZ 105 (TSBldg) - SENATE LABOR & COMMERCE HB 28 - Registration Of Boats: Exemption
Mon 4/26/21 3:30 PM	ADAMS 519 - HOUSE FINANCE HB 79 - Saltwater Sportfishing Operators/guides
Tue 4/27/21 8:00 AM	BUTROVICH 205 - SENATE RESOURCES HB 16 - Search And Rescue Surplus State Property
Tue 4/27/21 8:00 AM	BARNES 124 - HOUSE COMMUNITY & REGIONAL AFFAIRS HB 11 - Defensive Display Of Firearm
Tue 4/27/21 9:00 AM	BARNES 124 - HOUSE COMMUNITY & REGIONAL AFFAIRS SB 75 - Appropriation Limit
Tue 4/27/21 9:00 AM	SENATE FINANCE 532 - SENATE FINANCE SB 10 - Free/reduced Tuition For Essential Worker
Tue 4/27/21 9:00 AM	SENATE FINANCE 532 - SENATE FINANCE HB 69 - Approp: Operating Budget/loans/funds
Tue 4/27/21 1:30 PM	ADAMS 519 - HOUSE FINANCE HB 69 - Approp: Operating Budget/loans/funds
Wed 4/28/21 9:00 AM	ADAMS 519 - HOUSE FINANCE SB 34 - State-tribal Education Compact Schools
Wed 4/28/21 9:00 AM	BUTROVICH 205 - SENATE EDUCATION HB 69 - Approp: Operating Budget/loans/funds
Wed 4/28/21 1:30 PM	ADAMS 519 - HOUSE FINANCE
Wed 4/28/21 1:30 PM	BELTZ 105 (TSBldg) - SENATE LABOR & COMMERCE HB 69 - Approp: Operating Budget/loans/funds
Thu 4/29/21 8:00 AM	ADAMS 519 - HOUSE FINANCE HB 16 - Search And Rescue Surplus State Property
Thu 4/29/21 8:00 AM	BARNES 124 - HOUSE COMMUNITY & REGIONAL AFFAIRS HB 11 - Defensive Display Of Firearm
	BARNES 124 - HOUSE COMMUNITY & REGIONAL AFFAIRS

Time	Description
Thu 4/29/21 11:30 AM	HJR 6 - Const. Am: Approp Limit; Budget Reserve
Thu 4/29/21 1:30 PM	DAVIS 106 - HOUSE WAYS & MEANS HB 69 - Approp: Operating Budget/loans/funds
Thu 4/29/21 3:00 PM	ADAMS 519 - HOUSE FINANCE HB 66 - Elections, Voting, Ballots
Fri 4/30/21 8:00 AM	GRUENBERG 120 - HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS SB 21 - License Mobile Intensive Care Paramedics
Fri 4/30/21 8:00 AM	GRUENBERG 120 - HOUSE LABOR & COMMERCE HB 18 - Teachers: National Board Certification
Fri 4/30/21 1:00 PM	DAVIS 106 - HOUSE EDUCATION HB 135 - Geothermal Resources
Fri 4/30/21 1:30 PM	BARNES 124 - HOUSE RESOURCES SB 76 - Abandoned Vehicles; Private Property
Fri 4/30/21 1:30 PM	BELTZ 105 (TSBIldg) - SENATE LABOR & COMMERCE SB 53 - Perm Fund; Advisory Vote
	BUTROVICH 205 - SENATE JUDICIARY

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%3DA1%26com%3D%26startDate%3D04%2F26%2F2021%26endDate%3D05%2F04%2F2021%26chamber%3D#tab2>

Bills of Interest

Bill	Short Title	Prime Sponsors	Current Status	Status Date
HB 2	Minimum Age To Sell Tobacco/nicotine	RAUSCHER	(H) CRA	2/18/2021
HB 3	Definition Of "disaster": Cybersecurity	JOHNSON	(S) STA	4/21/2021
HB 4	Business/prof. License Immunity Covid-19	JOHNSON	(H) L&C	2/18/2021

Bill	Short Title	Prime Sponsors	Current Status	Status Date
HB 9	Income Tax; Pfd Payment/credit	HANNAN	(H) STA	2/18/2021
HB 11	Defensive Display Of Firearm	RAUSCHER	(H) CRA	2/18/2021
HB 12	Hold Legislative Sessions In Anchorage	RAUSCHER	(H) CRA	2/18/2021
HB 15	Temp Permits & Licenses; Military License	THOMPSON	(H) L&C	2/18/2021
HB 16	Search And Rescue Surplus State Property	JOHNSON	(H) CRA	2/18/2021
HB 18	Teachers: National Board Certification	KREISS-TOMKINS	(H) EDC	3/10/2021
HB 23	Ballot Custody/tamper; Voting; Voter Reg	RAUSCHER	(H) STA	2/18/2021
HB 26	Conflict Of Interest: Bd Fisheries/game	HOUSE FISHERIES	(H) RLS	4/16/2021
HB 28	Registration Of Boats: Exemption	HOUSE FISHERIES	(H) FIN	3/31/2021
HB 30	Workers' Comp: Death; Perm Partial Impair	JOSEPHSON	(H) FIN	4/7/2021
HB 31	Observe Daylight Saving Time All Year	ORTIZ	(H) STA	2/18/2021
HB 37	Income Tax; Permanent Fund; Earnings Res.	WOOL	(H) CRA	2/18/2021
HB 41	Shellfish Projects; Hatcheries; Fees	ORTIZ	(H) FIN	3/31/2021
HB 45	Workers' Comp. And Contagious Diseases	JOSEPHSON	(H) FIN	3/20/2021
HB 50	Municipal Regulation Of Trapping	JOSEPHSON	(H) RES	2/18/2021

Bill	Short Title	Prime Sponsors	Current Status	Status Date
HB 55	Peace Officer/firefighter Retire Benefits	JOSEPHSON	(H) FIN	4/16/2021
HB 56	Power Cost Equalization	FOSTER	(H) CRA	2/18/2021
HB 57	Funds Subject To Cbr Sweep Provision	JOSEPHSON	(H) FIN	4/5/2021
HB 59	Workplace Violence Protective Orders	CLAMAN	(H) STA	2/18/2021
HB 63	Alaska Marine Highway Operations Board	STUTES	(H) STA	3/20/2021
HB 64	Fishery Development Assoc.; Assessments	STUTES	(H) FIN	4/21/2021
HB 65	Boards Of Fisheries And Game Confirmation	STUTES	(H) FSH	2/18/2021
HB 66	Elections, Voting, Ballots	TUCK	(H) STA	4/21/2021
HB 67	Approp: K-12 Acad. Recovery From Covid-19	STORY	(H) EDC	2/18/2021
HB 68	Approp: Supplemental; Amending	RULES	(H) FIN	2/18/2021
HB 69	Approp: Operating Budget/loans/funds	RULES	(H) FIN	2/18/2021
HB 70	Approp: Cap; Reapprop; Supp; Amend	RULES	(H) FIN	3/31/2021
HB 72	Approp: Era For Payment Of Pfd	RULES	(H) FIN	2/18/2021
HB 73	Perm Fund; Advisory Vote	RULES	(H) STA	2/18/2021
HB 75	Employer Contributions To Pers	RULES	(H) L&C	2/18/2021
HB 76	Extending Covid 19 Disaster Emergency	RULES	(S) CALENDAR 4/26	4/23/2021

Bill	Short Title	Prime Sponsors	Current Status	Status Date
HB 79	Saltwater Sportfishing Operators/guides	RULES	(H) AWAIT NEXT COM	4/23/2021
HB 82	Gas Leases; Renewable Energy Grant Fund	RULES	(H) FSH	3/1/2021
HB 84	Approp: Supp; Reapprop; Amending; Cbr	RULES	(H) FIN	2/18/2021
HB 88	Equal Pay & Minimum Wage Act	TARR	(H) STA	2/18/2021
HB 93	G.o. Bonds: State Infrastructure Projects	RULES	(H) FIN	2/18/2021
HB 95	Elections; Election Investigations	RULES	(H) STA	2/18/2021
HB 96	Elections; Voting; Ballot Reqs	RULES	(H) STA	2/18/2021
HB 134	Amhs Operation & Planning Board	RULES	(H) TRA	3/10/2021
HB 135	Geothermal Resources	RULES	(H) RES	3/10/2021
HB 181	Approp: Special; American Rescue Plan Act	RULES	(H) FIN	4/19/2021
HJR 1	Const Am: Permanent Fund; Pomv; Earnings	KREISS-TOMKINS	(H) JUD	4/22/2021
HJR 2	Const. Am: 90 Day Regular Session	CLAMAN	(H) JUD	4/9/2021
HJR 6	Const. Am: Approp Limit; Budget Reserve	RULES	(H) W&M	3/24/2021
HJR 7	Const. Am: Perm Fund & Pfd	RULES	(H) STA	2/18/2021
HJR 8	Const. Am: State Tax; Voter Approval	RULES	(H) STA	2/18/2021
HJR 13	Urge Exemption For Cruise Ships	ORTIZ	(H) TRA	3/1/2021

Bill	Short Title	Prime Sponsors	Current Status	Status Date
SB 1	Chokehold Ban	GRAY-JACKSON	(S) STA	1/22/2021
SB 2	Peace Officers: De-escalation, Misconduct	GRAY-JACKSON	(S) STA	1/22/2021
SB 3	Police Officers: Oral Warning/de-escalate	GRAY-JACKSON	(S) STA	1/22/2021
SB 4	Prohibit Peace Off. Shoot Moving Vehicle	GRAY-JACKSON	(S) STA	1/22/2021
SB 6	Rip For Public Employees/teachers	KAWASAKI	(S) FIN	4/19/2021
SB 7	State Trooper Policies: Public Access	GRAY-JACKSON	(S) JUD	4/23/2021
SB 8	Pre-k/elem Ed Programs/funding; Reading	BEGICH	(S) EDC	1/22/2021
SB 9	Alcoholic Beverage Control; Alcohol Reg	MICCICHE	(S) FIN	4/14/2021
SB 10	Free/reduced Tuition For Essential Worker	BEGICH	(S) FIN	3/24/2021
SB 11	Community Property Trusts	BEGICH	(S) JUD	3/22/2021
SB 12	Military Spouse Courtesy License	KAWASAKI	(S) L&C	4/23/2021
SB 15	Open Meetings Act; Penalty	COSTELLO	(S) FIN	4/21/2021
SB 16	Equal Pay/ Living Wage Act; Sex Discrim.	BEGICH	(S) L&C	1/22/2021
SB 17	Energy Efficiency & Policy: Pub. Bldgs	BEGICH	(S) L&C	4/9/2021
SB 18	Class Size Reduction Grant Program	BEGICH	(S) EDC	1/22/2021
SB 19	Extend Special Education Service Agency	STEVENS	(H) AWAIT NEXT COM	4/23/2021

Bill	Short Title	Prime Sponsors	Current Status	Status Date
SB 20	Out Of State Teacher Reciprocity	STEVENS	(S) RLS	4/23/2021
SB 21	License Mobile Intensive Care Paramedics	REVAK	(H) L&C	4/16/2021
SB 23	Initiative Severability	REVAK	(S) JUD	4/14/2021
SB 24	Virtual Meetings For Corporations	WILSON	CHAPTER 1 SLA 21	3/31/2021
SB 25	State Gov't Finances: Website	WIELECHOWSKI	(S) FIN	4/9/2021
SB 29	Cook Inlet: New Admin Area; Permit Buyback	MICCICHE	(S) FIN	3/10/2021
SB 30	Colorectal Cancer Screen Coverage	BEGICH	(S) HSS	1/25/2021
SB 31	Prohibiting Binding Caucuses	SHOWER	(S) STA	1/25/2021
SB 32	College Credit For High School Students	STEVENS	(H) EDC	4/9/2021
SB 34	State-tribal Education Compact Schools	STEVENS	(S) EDC	1/25/2021
SB 37	Teachers & Pub Employee Retirement Plans	KIEHL	(S) L&C	1/25/2021
SB 41	Health Insurance Info.; Incentive Program	HUGHES	(S) L&C	1/25/2021
SB 43	Elections, Voting, Campaign Finance	HUGHES	(S) JUD	2/22/2021
SB 44	Personal Use Fishing Priority	KAWASAKI	(S) RES	1/25/2021
SB 48	Approp: Supplemental; Amending	RULES	(S) FIN	1/25/2021
SB 49	Approp: Operating Budget/loans/funds	RULES	(S) FIN	1/25/2021

Bill	Short Title	Prime Sponsors	Current Status	Status Date
SB 50	Approp: Cap; Reapprop; Supp; Amend	RULES	(S) FIN	1/25/2021
SB 52	Approp: Era For Payment Of Pfd	RULES	(S) FIN	1/25/2021
SB 53	Perm Fund; Advisory Vote	RULES	(S) JUD	2/24/2021
SB 54	Ahfc Water & Sewer Bonds/transportation	RULES	(S) FIN	3/5/2021
SB 55	Employer Contributions To Pers	RULES	(S) RLS	4/19/2021
SB 56	Extending Covid 19 Disaster Emergency	RULES	(S) FIN	2/12/2021
SB 68	Approp: Supp; Reapprop; Amending; Cbr	RULES	(S) FIN	2/3/2021
SB 73	Anticipation Of Revenue; Borrowing; Credit	RULES	(S) FIN	2/5/2021
SB 74	G.o. Bonds: State Infrastructure Projects	RULES	(S) FIN	3/24/2021
SB 75	Appropriation Limit	VON IMHOF	(S) FIN	2/5/2021
SB 76	Abandoned Vehicles; Private Property	KIEHL	(S) L&C	4/23/2021
SB 83	Elections; Voting; Ballot Reqs	RULES	(S) STA	2/12/2021
SB 100	State Income Tax	BEGICH	(S) STA	3/10/2021
SB 128	Approp: Special; American Rescue Plan Act	RULES	(S) FIN	4/19/2021
SJR 1	Const Am: Guarantee Perm Fund Dividend	WIELECHOWSKI	(S) FIN	4/19/2021
SJR 3	Const. Am. Prohibiting Binding Caucuses	SHOWER	(S) STA	1/22/2021

Bill	Short Title	Prime Sponsors	Current Status	Status Date
SJR 9	Urge Exemption For Cruise Ships	KIEHL	LEGIS RESOLVE 1	4/9/2021