

# BLUMER AND ASSOCIATES

## City of Unalaska Legislative Report

3/26/21

Overall a somewhat slow week in Juneau, outside finance subcommittee meetings and close outs, there was a fair amount of time spent on bills related to extending the Governor's emergency disaster declaration, which now the Administration indicates they really do not need.

Lawmakers learned this week that Alaska's share of the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan Act (ARP) could send about \$1.2 billion to the state, plus \$200 million more for housing aid, almost \$360 million for education and \$240 million directly to communities. It appears this discovery has led to a reduced sense of urgency with some Legislators to complete the budget process in a timely manner.

The federal aid does not all have to be spent this year, we are still waiting on more details on the spending rules and how the funds may be used to back-fill budget deficits.

Representative Spohnholz introduced a bill that would implement a spending cap, the proposal would set a cap based on an average of state spending over the past three years with allowances for inflation and population growth. Excluded from the proposed cap would be the PFD, school bond debit reimbursement and spending for emergencies, the bill is **HB141**. The Governor and Senator von Imhof also have introduced spending cap legislation.

**HB 76**, relating to the extension of the emergency disaster was amended, stripped down and passed out of the House, now heads to the Senate.

Both **HB 76** and **SB 56** are noticed for hearings in Senate Finance Monday at 1PM, and **HB 76** is notice for Tuesday at 9AM signaling the house version may be the intended vehicle.

**SB 24**, allowing virtual meetings passed both bodies and is awaiting transmittal to the Governor.

**SB74**, related to the GO Bonds was heard and passed out of Senate Transportation this week. Although, many are skeptical that this bill will progress. Alaska is in its 9th consecutive year of deficit spending, and a 10th is expected next year. Borrowing \$354 million would cost about \$93 million in net interest, according to Department of Revenue. Some Senators have stated we are in a different position financially than when the package was assembled, while others believe it is problematic to borrow when "we are already in the hole". They are considering the federal stimulus monies to replace the GO Bond idea. The Federal Government has not yet clarified what those funds can actually be spent on.

Under the amended bill that was passed out of Senate Transportation, the state would borrow \$303 million, and the list of projects has changed to exclude airports, which have already received a large amount of federal aid and other projects that are already under contract or are not shovel ready.

The House version of the GO Bonds bill, **HB93**, is on the schedule to be heard in House Finance on Monday, March 30<sup>th</sup> at 1:30PM.

AMHS, largely due to CARES Act funding, 2022 is expected to have total revenues of 7.3 percent more than 2021. That is with a 16 percent decrease in port calls. The Senate Finance committee asked DOT to look at a hypothetical scenario with more service.

DOT, Deputy Commissioner, Rob Carpenter articulated that the goal for each year has been that AMHS funding sources would be 50 percent General Fund and 50 percent fare and freight revenue. It wasn't clear if that was achievable for 2022.

Also discussed was the Tustemena Replacement fund. This project is in the DOT/PF State Transportation Infrastructure Plan (STIP) and is in the final design phase with about 65-70% completed. It is slated for construction in 2022. The Department is still working with the Federal Delegation for financing options.

### Weekly Schedule

<b>Time</b>	<b>Description</b>
Fri 3/26/21 9:00 AM	SENATE FINANCE 532 -SENATE FINANCE + COVID 19 - Federal Funding Update TELECONFERENCED - Neil Steininger, Director of OMB - Alexei Painter, Director of Legislative Finance Division Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
Sat 3/27/21 1:00 PM	HB 55 - Peace Officer/firefighter Retire Benefits
Sat 3/27/21 1:00 PM	GRUENBERG 120 - HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS GRUENBERG 120 -HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS  -- Please Note Time Change -- *+ HB5 SEXUAL ASSAULT; DEF. OF "CONSENT" TELECONFERENCED -- Testimony -- += HB55 PEACE OFFICER/FIREFIGHTER RETIRE BENEFITS TELECONFERENCED -- Testimony -- + Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled TELECONFERENCED **Streamed live on AKL.tv**
Mon 3/29/21 9:00 AM	SB 32 - College Credit For High School Students  SENATE FINANCE 532 - SENATE FINANCE

Time	Description
Mon 3/29/21 9:00 AM	SB 20 - Out Of State Teacher Reciprocity
Mon 3/29/21 1:00 PM	SENATE FINANCE 532 - SENATE FINANCE SJR 1 - Const Am: Guarantee Perm Fund Dividend
Mon 3/29/21 1:00 PM	BUTROVICH 205 - SENATE JUDICIARY SB 56 - Extending Covid 19 Disaster Emergency
Mon 3/29/21 1:00 PM	SENATE FINANCE 532 - SENATE FINANCE SB 9 - Alcoholic Beverage Control; Alcohol Reg
Mon 3/29/21 1:00 PM	BUTROVICH 205 - SENATE JUDICIARY HB 76 - Extending Covid 19 Disaster Emergency
Mon 3/29/21 1:00 PM	SENATE FINANCE 532 - SENATE FINANCE HB 57 - Funds Subject To Cbr Sweep Provision
Mon 3/29/21 1:00 PM	GRUENBERG 120 - HOUSE JUDICIARY SENATE FINANCE 532 -SENATE FINANCE += SB56 EXTENDING COVID 19 DISASTER EMERGENCY TELECONFERENCED *+ HB76 EXTENDING COVID 19 DISASTER EMERGENCY TELECONFERENCED
Tue 3/30/21 9:00 AM	-- Testimony -- + Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled TELECONFERENCED HB 76 - Extending Covid 19 Disaster Emergency
Tue 3/30/21 9:00 AM	SENATE FINANCE 532 - SENATE FINANCE SENATE FINANCE 532 -SENATE FINANCE += HB76 EXTENDING COVID 19 DISASTER EMERGENCY TELECONFERENCED
Tue 3/30/21 10:00 AM	-- Invited & Public Testimony -- -- -- + Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled TELECONFERENCED HB 41 - Shellfish Projects; Hatcheries; Fees
Tue 3/30/21 10:00 AM	GRUENBERG 120 - HOUSE FISHERIES HB 28 - Registration Of Boats: Exemption
Tue 3/30/21 1:30 PM	GRUENBERG 120 - HOUSE FISHERIES HB 93 - G.o. Bonds: State Infrastructure Projects  ADAMS 519 - HOUSE FINANCE

Time	Description
Tue 3/30/21 1:30 PM	BELTZ 105 (TSBldg) -SENATE TRANSPORTATION += SB103 AMHS OPERATION & PLANNING BOARD TELECONFERENCED -- Public Testimony -- += SB105 ROAD SERVICE AREA CONSOLIDATION TELECONFERENCED -- Public Testimony -- **Streamed live on AKL.tv**
Tue 3/30/21 1:30 PM	ADAMS 519 -HOUSE FINANCE *+ HB93 G.O. BONDS: STATE INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS TELECONFERENCED + Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled TELECONFERENCED
Tue 3/30/21 3:00 PM	HB 63 - Alaska Marine Highway Operations Board
Tue 3/30/21 3:00 PM	GRUENBERG 120 - HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS GRUENBERG 120 -HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS *+ HB137 MOTOR VEHICLE OFFICES TELECONFERENCED -- Testimony -- + HB63 ALASKA MARINE HIGHWAY OPERATIONS BOARD TELECONFERENCED -- Testimony -- + Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled TELECONFERENCED **Streamed live on AKL.tv**
Tue 3/30/21 3:30 PM	BELTZ 105 (TSBldg) - SENATE COMMUNITY & REGIONAL AFFAIRS
Wed 3/31/21 1:00 PM	HB 57 - Funds Subject To Cbr Sweep Provision
Wed 3/31/21 1:00 PM	GRUENBERG 120 - HOUSE JUDICIARY HB 26 - Conflict Of Interest: Bd Fisheries/game
Wed 3/31/21 1:00 PM	BARNES 124 - HOUSE RESOURCES GRUENBERG 120 -HOUSE JUDICIARY + Consideration of Governor's Appointees: TELECONFERENCED - Alaska Police Standards Council: Larry Nicholson, Daniel Weatherly, & Joseph White -- Public Testimony -- += HB57 FUNDS SUBJECT TO CBR SWEEP PROVISION TELECONFERENCED -- Public Testimony -- + Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled TELECONFERENCED += HB62 MARRIAGE WITNESSES TELECONFERENCED

<b>Time</b>	<b>Description</b>
Wed 3/31/21 1:30 PM	SB 15 - Open Meetings Act; Penalty
Wed 3/31/21 1:30 PM	BUTROVICH 205 - SENATE JUDICIARY BUTROVICH 205 -SENATE JUDICIARY + Consideration of Governor's Appointees TELECONFERENCED - Sam Cherot, Public Defender -- Public Testimony -- += SB15 OPEN MEETINGS ACT; PENALTY TELECONFERENCED -- Invited & Public Testimony -- - Senator Costello - Amendments, Fiscal Notes += SB65 LIABILITY CONSULTING HEALTH CARE PROVIDER TELECONFERENCED -- Invited & Public Testimony -- - Senators Kiehl, Begich + Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled TELECONFERENCED
Thu 4/1/21 10:00 AM	HB 64 - Fishery Development Assoc.; Assessments  GRUENBERG 120 - HOUSE FISHERIES

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%3D03%2F26%2F2021%26endDate%3D04%2F03%2F2021%26chamber%3D#tab2>

### **Bills of Interest**

<b>Bill</b>	<b>Short Title</b>	<b>Prime Sponsors</b>	<b>Current Status</b>	<b>Status Date</b>
HB 1	Audit Of Cares Act Funds	RAUSCHER	(H) CRA	2/18/2021
HB 2	Minimum Age To Sell Tobacco/nicotine	RAUSCHER	(H) CRA	2/18/2021
HB 3	Definition Of "disaster": Cybersecurity	JOHNSON	(H) RLS	3/20/2021
HB 4	Business/prof. License Immunity Covid-19	JOHNSON	(H) L&C	2/18/2021

<b>Bill</b>	<b>Short Title</b>	<b>Prime Sponsors</b>	<b>Current Status</b>	<b>Status Date</b>
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) RES	3/20/2021
HB 28	Registration Of Boats: Exemption	HOUSE FISHERIES	(H) FSH	2/18/2021
HB 30	Workers' Comp: Death; Perm Partial Impair	JOSEPHSON	(H) L&C	2/18/2021
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) FSH	2/18/2021
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

<b>Bill</b>	<b>Short Title</b>	<b>Prime Sponsors</b>	<b>Current Status</b>	<b>Status Date</b>
HB 55	Peace Officer/firefighter Retire Benefits	JOSEPHSON	(H) STA	2/18/2021
HB 56	Power Cost Equalization	FOSTER	(H) CRA	2/18/2021
HB 57	Funds Subject To Cbr Sweep Provision	JOSEPHSON	(H) JUD	2/18/2021
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) FSH	2/18/2021
HB 65	Boards Of Fisheries And Game Confirmation	STUTES	(H) FSH	2/18/2021
HB 66	Elections, Voting, Ballots	TUCK	(H) STA	2/18/2021
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	2/18/2021
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	PASSED (H)	3/26/2021

<b>Bill</b>	<b>Short Title</b>	<b>Prime Sponsors</b>	<b>Current Status</b>	<b>Status Date</b>
HB 79	Saltwater Sportfishing Operators/guides	RULES	(H) FIN	3/3/2021
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
HJR 1	Const Am: Permanent Fund; Pomv; Earnings	KREISS-TOMKINS	(H) W&M	3/10/2021
HJR 2	Const. Am: 90 Day Regular Session	CLAMAN	(H) STA	2/18/2021
HJR 6	Const. Am: Approp Limit; Budget Reserve	RULES	(H) W&M	3/24/2021
HJR 7	Const. Am: Perm Fund & Pfds	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
SB 1	Chokehold Ban	GRAY-JACKSON	(S) STA	1/22/2021



<b>Bill</b>	<b>Short Title</b>	<b>Prime Sponsors</b>	<b>Current Status</b>	<b>Status Date</b>
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) L&C	3/24/2021
SB 7	State Trooper Policies: Public Access	GRAY-JACKSON	(S) STA	1/22/2021
SB 8	Pre-k/elem Ed Programs/funding; Reading	BEGICH	(S) EDC	1/22/2021
SB 9	Alcoholic Beverage Control; Alcohol Reg	MICCICHE	(S) JUD	3/15/2021
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) STA	1/22/2021
SB 15	Open Meetings Act; Penalty	COSTELLO	(S) JUD	3/10/2021
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) CRA	1/22/2021
SB 18	Class Size Reduction Grant Program	BEGICH	(S) EDC	1/22/2021
SB 19	Extend Special Education Service Agency	STEVENS	3RD RDG,3/29 CAL(S)	3/26/2021
SB 20	Out Of State Teacher Reciprocity	STEVENS	(S) FIN	3/19/2021

<b>Bill</b>	<b>Short Title</b>	<b>Prime Sponsors</b>	<b>Current Status</b>	<b>Status Date</b>
SB 21	License Mobile Intensive Care Paramedics	REVAK	(H) HSS	3/24/2021
SB 23	Initiative Severability	REVAK	(S) STA	1/22/2021
SB 24	Virtual Meetings For Corporations	WILSON	AWAIT TRANSMIT GOV	3/25/2021
SB 25	State Gov't Finances: Website	WIELECHOWSKI	(S) STA	1/22/2021
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	(S) FIN	3/19/2021
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
SB 50	Approp: Cap; Reapprop; Supp; Amend	RULES	(S) FIN	1/25/2021

<b>Bill</b>	<b>Short Title</b>	<b>Prime Sponsors</b>	<b>Current Status</b>	<b>Status Date</b>
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) FIN	3/5/2021
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) STA	2/10/2021
SB 83	Elections; Voting; Ballot Reqs	RULES	(S) STA	2/12/2021
SB 100	State Income Tax	BEGICH	(S) STA	3/10/2021
SJR 1	Const Am: Guarantee Perm Fund Dividend	WIELECHOWSKI	(S) JUD	3/3/2021
SJR 3	Const. Am. Prohibiting Binding Caucuses	SHOWER	(S) STA	1/22/2021
SJR 9	Urge Exemption For Cruise Ships	KIEHL	(H) CALENDAR 3/29	3/26/2021