

# *City of Dillingham*

## House District 37 / Senate District S

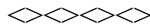
~ 6/24/2021 ~  
( Day 153 )

### *32<sup>nd</sup> Alaska State Legislature ~ 2<sup>nd</sup> Special Session*

#### June 2021 – LEGISLATIVE REPORT

*Cliff Stone / City Lobbyist*

~ *Governor calls Legislature into another session to pass a FY22 budget* ~



June 18<sup>th</sup> marked the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> special session (Day 151 total). The governor called the Legislature back into a 2<sup>nd</sup> special session to officially begin June 23. As I write, we are in the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of that session with no resolve in sight.

HB 69 passed the legislature this past week; however, the provision of a July 1<sup>st</sup> effective date failed to obtain a two-thirds vote of the House. Section 18 of the Alaska Constitution addresses the effective date of legislation and states that a bill does not take effect until 90 days after enactment unless two-thirds of the legislature “provide for another effective date.” According to the Dept. of Law, “expenditures of state funds provided under CCS HB 69 cannot be made until that bill becomes law which is ninety days after its enactment – with a very limited exception for spending that is necessary to meet constitutional obligations of the state such as maintaining the health and safety of its residents or to comply with federal requirements.

One of the failed votes will cut this year’s Permanent Fund dividend from about \$1,100 to roughly \$525. The state’s rural-power subsidy (PCE) will end, high school students will lose state-funded scholarships, and a variety of construction projects will be put on hold for lack of funding.

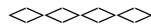
The governor’s proclamation for the second session declares that a bill similar to CCS **HB 69** making CCS **HB 69** effective immediately under AS.01.10.070 (c); making appropriations from the Earnings Reserve account, including for the payment of Alaska Permanent Fund dividends; and making appropriations under Article IX, Section 17(c), Constitution of the State of Alaska, from the Constitutional Budget Reserve Fund.

Last month’s report encapsulates the Operating and Capital funding that is currently in **HB 69 and HB 71**. There is still ongoing work that the governor would like resolved as well on the Permanent Fund. If it’s not, than a previously announced August special session is in the air. The governor also wants to address other elements of a comprehensive state fiscal plan including a constitutional spending limit, consideration of new revenue measures, a prohibition on new taxes without voter approval.

But the budget is now up in the air, with the Governor's announcement yesterday that he will not accept this budget and shut down State government instead. More to come on that, as we learn more.

However, things are still moving forward with ARPA, with new updates from DCRA and Treasury. For cities, "NEU" funds will require DCRA to distribute according to a formula developed by U.S. Treasury. DCRA's requirements should stem from requirements of the federal law and Treasury. They include at least: Recipient needs a DUNS number, certification that the funds being received are not more than 75% of an annual budget, signed Terms and Conditions, and signed commitment to the Civil Rights Act

DCRA has also required from each recipient a resolution that signifies this agreement, and fulfills the State's obligations for reporting back to Treasury the fund's distribution. DCRA will be communicating to each local government the process in place. See the complete DCRA announcement under AML's news posted on June 18<sup>th</sup>.



## **BILLS OF INTEREST**

The following bills are highlighted as items of interest for your community. I have not updated these from last month's report as there was limited movement at this state of the session. The House had introduced 221 bills to date and various resolutions. The latest count for the Senate is 142 bills and a variety of resolutions. All bills not acted on will carry into 2022.

**HB 1 – Audit of CARES Act Funds**

**HB 4 – COVID-19 related**

**HB 37 – Income Tax, PF, and ERA**

**HB 55 – PERS related/Peace officers and Firefighters**

**HB 56 – Power Cost Equalization (PCE)**

**HB 73 / SB 53 – PF Advisory Vote**

**HB 75 / SB 55 – Employer Contributions to PERS**

**HB 76 – Extending the COVID-19 Disaster Emergency**

**HB 123 – State Recognition of Tribes**

**HB 188 – Seafood Product Development Tax Credit**

**HB 220 – Retirement Systems: Defined Benefit Option**

**SB 6 – PERS/TRS Retirement Incentives**

**SB 37 – PERS/TRS Retirement Plans**

**SB 56 – Extending the COVID-19 Disaster Emergency**

**SB 81 – VPSO Program – Grants**

**SB 93 – Health Insurance: All-Payer Claims Database**

**SB 108 – State Recognition of Tribes**

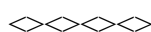
**SB 130 – Electronic Pull-tab Games**

**SB 130/HB 204 – Workers Comp for Fire Fighters**

**SJR 10 – Constitutional Amendment: In Person Public Education**

**SR 2 – COVID-19 Emergency Declaration**

Be sure to check out the latest Legislative Updates from the Alaska Municipal League (AML). I try not to repeat any information that is presented there. It is an excellent source of the bills and topic matters that are important to towns and villages all across Alaska. If you haven't registered for Legislative Updates for AML Members meetings, you may be able to [use this link for Zoom](#); or dial in by calling +1 253 215 8782 - Meeting ID: 881 8150 7680 Passcode: 449972.



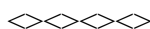
## **BUDGET BILLS 2021**

For a handy reference, below are the budget-type bills that have been introduced so far this year. They will be considered through out this first session. Currently many of these bills are being considered in the respective Finance Committees. Other bills have been assigned to various other committees. *Please note that HB 93 and its companion SB 74 as drafted by the governor, does not contain any monies for your breakwater or harbor projects. The only avenue to have these projects inserted into the bills for consideration is up to your representatives – Senator Hoffman and Rep. Edgmon.*

### **HB 68 / SB 48 – Supplemental Appropriations (FY21)**

- **HB 69 / SB 49 – FY22 Operating Budget**
- **HB 70 / SB 50 – FY22 Capital Budget with reappropriations and making supplemental appropriations**
- **HB 71 / SB 51 – FY22 Mental Health Budget**
- **HB 84 / SB 68 – FY22 Supplemental, Reappropriations, and Appropriations from the CBR**
- **HB 72 / SB 52 – Appropriation from the ERA for payment of the PFD**
- **HB 37 – Income Tax, PF Earnings Reserves**
- **HB 57 – CBR Sweep Provisions**
- **HB 67 – K-12 Appropriation for Academic Recovery from COVID-19**
- **HB 92 – Revenue Anticipation, Borrowing and Credit**
- **HB 93 / SB 74 – G.O. Bonds: State Infrastructure Projects**
- **HB 141 – Appropriation Limit; Government Budget**
- **HB 165 – Appropriations: Earnings Reserve to Permanent Fund**
- **HB 169 – Appropriations: Education and Pupil Transportation**
- **HB 181 – Appropriations: Special American Rescue Plan Act**
- **HB 197 – Appropriations: ERA for Payment of PFD**
- **HB 202 – PFD: Royalties**
- **HB 214 – Income Tax**
  
- **HJR 1 – Constitutional Amendment: Permanent Fund, POMV, and Earnings**
- **HJR 6 / SJR 5 – Constitutional Amendment: Budget Reserve Appropriation Limit**
- **HJR 7 / SJR 6 – Constitutional Amendment: Permanent Fund and PFD’s**
- **HJR 8 / SJR 7 – Constitutional Amendment: State Tax Voter Approval**
- **HJR 10 – Constitutional Amendment: Permanent Fund and POMV and Dividend**
- **HJR 10 – Constitutional Amendment: Permanent Fund and ERA**
  
- **SB 100 – State Income Tax**
- **SB 102 – Amend Compact for a Balanced Budget**
- **SB 128 – Appropriations: Special American Rescue Plan Act**

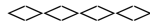
*Create Your Own Budget for the State of Alaska* Commonwealth North has created an **online tool** that allows Alaskans to modify most aspects of Alaska’s budget, so revenues match up with expenses. As many of you know, Alaska is at a budget crossroads, and difficult decisions must be made to preserve essential services and ensure Alaska remains a vibrant and successful place to live, work and play. While the tool isn’t perfect, I think users will gain a deeper insight into our state budget and get an idea how budget cuts, taxes and investments in state services impact our bottom line. In case the link above doesn’t work: <https://www.akbudget.com/>



## **GOVERNOR'S CORNER** <http://gov.alaska.gov>

*Handy phone numbers for Governor's offices: Anchorage: 907-269-7450 and Juneau: 907-465-3500*

The Governor followed through and signed a proclamation ending the State of Alaska COVID-19 Disaster Declaration. He took immediate action following the signing of House Bill 76, legislation that ensures the continuation of COVID-19 federal relief to impacted Alaskans and liability protections for Alaska businesses.



### **TESTIFYING**

If you are planning to testify on any particular bill or subject matter, check the committee calendar the day of or the day before the scheduled hearing as sometimes a bill is rescheduled or cancelled at the last minute. You should also be able to ascertain if they are even accepting public testimony on any particular day. If you can't attend a hearing at your local LIO you can participate by using the following numbers.

The **toll-free number** can only be used if you have had prior approval to call in from the appropriate committee chair. That number will be distributed upon your request and subsequent approval.

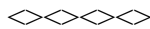
**In Juneau the number is: (907) 463-5009.**

Go to: <http://www.akleg.gov/basis/start.asp> for a complete description of a bill that is up in committee. Fiscal notes and other documents that the legislative office has posted in regards to that particular bill should also be available. Type in the appropriate bill/resolution number in the space provided. *Remember – Bills that have already been heard or previous scheduled in committee can come back before that body without prior notification.*

**Live on the Web** [ [www.360north.org](http://www.360north.org) ]

Most committee hearings can be seen and heard on Gavel Alaska/360 North on the web or look for Cable Channel-18 in Juneau. You can also access schedules, various programs, and online archives from the website above. *Note: With COVID-19 restrictions, Gavel Alaska may not be broadcasting as normal. You might have to go to the following website:*

[www.alaskalegislature.TV](http://www.alaskalegislature.TV)



### **WEBSITES OF INTEREST**

**! COVID-19 ~ Information ! / <https://covid19.alaska.gov>**

In Alaska, a COVID-19 Help Line has been set up at **211** or dial: 1-800-478-2221

**During the COVID-19 public health emergency, the Capitol is closed to the public. To reach your legislator, please find Senate contact information [here](#) and House of Representatives contact information [here](#). For the latest COVID-19 information, please visit the [Alaska Department of Health & Social Services](#).**

Schools can get more help at: [aksmartstart2020@alaska.gov](mailto:aksmartstart2020@alaska.gov)

\* U.S. REAL ID Compliant license – deadline extended to October 1, 2021.  
- <http://doa.alaska.gov/dmv/>

**Online Public Notices for Alaska**

<https://aws.state.ak.us/OnlinePublicNotices/default.aspx>

**2021 Alaska Legislature Publications List** <http://akleg.gov/publications.php>

**2021 1<sup>st</sup> Session Staff Contacts** <http://akleg.gov/docs/pdf/Legislator-Staff-List.pdf>

**2021 Legislators by District** <http://akleg.gov/docs/pdf/Legislators-by-District.pdf>

**2021 House/Senate Committees** <http://akleg.gov/docs/pdf/commlist.pdf>

**2021 Senate Finance Subcommittee** <http://akleg.gov/docs/pdf/SFINSubcmte21.pdf>

**2021 Legislature Photo Sheet** <http://akleg.gov/docs/pdf/Legislator-Photo-Sheet.pdf>

**Representative Bryce Edgmon: 907-465-4451 // Senator Lyman Hoffman: 907-465-4453**

**Congressional Delegation websites**

<http://murkowski.senate.gov/public>

[www.sullivan.senate.gov](http://www.sullivan.senate.gov)

<http://donyoung.house.gov>

**DC Phone Nr**

Murkowski: 202-224-6665

**DC Phone Nr**

Sullivan: 202-224-3004

**DC Phone Nr**

Young: 202-225-5765

**Anchorage Phone Nr**

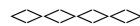
Murkowski: 907-271-3735

**Anchorage Phone Nr**

Sullivan: 907-271-5915

**Anchorage Phone Nr**

Young: 907-271-5978



~ End Report ~

*Enjoy your family and friends this 4<sup>th</sup> of July while remembering our country and what it means to be an American.*

*This will be my last report as the City of Dillingham’s lobbyist. Unrelated to the pandemic, I’m had some health issues that have taken there toll this past year. We’ve also got 7 grandchildren that are close by that are eager for my wife Denise and I to spend more time with them.*

*When I joined the team in Dillingham in 2011, little did I realize the journey we would embark upon. I’ve enjoyed my time working with all of you. Thank you for the privilege to be of service to some of the hardest working people I’ve known.*

*Stay safe and strong out there! ~ Cliff*