

**May 18, 2023**

To: Mayor and City Council, City of Dillingham

From: Chris Hladick, Lobbyist

## **Alaska Regular Session Ending Report**

**2023 Legislative Session**

***33<sup>rd</sup> Legislature – 1<sup>st</sup> Session***

***Note:*** *The Regular Session (121 days) concluded last night. A special session was called by the Governor – to commence immediately and run for up to thirty (30) days. See press release below. While a number of bills were adopted this session, a number of key bills failed to pass – including the annual Operating, Capital, and Mental Health Budgets.*

*The special session may go on for a while! But the key issues remain the same. The BSA increase is only a one-time appropriation and the PFD is being argued as we speak.*

### **Governor Dunleavy Calls Legislature into Immediate Special Session**

**Wednesday, May 17, 2023 (Juneau)** – This evening, Governor Mike Dunleavy issued a proclamation for a 30-day special session to begin **Thursday, May 18, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.**

The call for the special session is limited to the FY24 budget.

“Unfortunately, the House and Senate could not agree on an operating and capital budget and other important pieces of legislation. The people of Alaska need stability to ensure that necessary state services are funded,” said Governor Dunleavy. “As a result, I’m calling a special session so the House and Senate can continue working together to arrive at a base operating budget that will provide for state government and essential services.

The special session will be called in Juneau on Thursday, May 18 at 10:00 a.m. On the call will be the FY24 budget. “I have faith in the legislature that an operating budget can be completed and passed in short order.”

Click [here](#) for a copy of the proclamation.

**Bills Passed during 2023 Regular Session:**

<b>Bill</b>	<b>Short Title</b>	<b>Prime Sponsor(s)</b>	<b>Status Date</b>
<a href="#">HB 8</a>	ELECTRIC-ASSISTED BICYCLES	REPRESENTATIVE CARRICK	05/11/2023
<a href="#">HB 23</a>	FILIPINO AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH	REPRESENTATIVE MINA	05/12/2023
<a href="#">HB 51</a>	DESIG. REFRIGERANT USE; PFAS USE/DISPOSAL	REPRESENTATIVE WRIGHT	05/17/2023
<a href="#">HB 56</a>	VETERINARIANS; CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE DATA	REPRESENTATIVE RUFFRIDGE	05/13/2023
<a href="#">HB 61</a>	LIMITATIONS ON FIREARMS RESTRICTIONS	REPRESENTATIVE TILTON	05/17/2023
<a href="#">HB 62</a>	RENEWABLE ENERGY GRANT FUND	REPRESENTATIVE EDGMON	05/03/2023
<a href="#">HB 69</a>	RECLASSIFICATION OF FIRST CLASS CITIES	REPRESENTATIVE CRONK	05/13/2023
<a href="#">HB 78</a>	AK COMMUNITY HEALTH AIDE APPRECIATION DAY	REPRESENTATIVE MCCORMICK	04/19/2023
<a href="#">HB 79</a>	APPROP: SUPPLEMENTAL	HOUSE RULES BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR	03/31/2023
<a href="#">HB 103</a>	EXTEND ALASKA MINERALS COMMISSION	REPRESENTATIVE CRONK	04/17/2023
<a href="#">HB 112</a>	PROFESSION OF PHARMACY	REPRESENTATIVE RUFFRIDGE	05/17/2023
<a href="#">HB 123</a>	ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION FOR ANCSA CORPS	REPRESENTATIVE C.JOHNSON	05/13/2023
<a href="#">HB 128</a>	OIL TERMINAL FACILITY	HOUSE TRANSPORTATION	05/15/2023
<a href="#">HB 141</a>	ESTABLISHING DON YOUNG DAY	HOUSE RULES	05/16/2023
<a href="#">SB 10</a>	HUNTING/TRAPPING/FISHING: DISABLED VETS	SENATOR KIEHL	03/08/2023
<a href="#">SB 25</a>	REPEALING FUNDS, ACCOUNTS, AND PROGRAMS	SENATOR KAUFMAN	05/10/2023

<a href="#"><u>SB 38</u></a>	INTERFERENCE WITH EMERGENCY SERVICES	SENATOR WILSON	05/11/2023
<a href="#"><u>SB 48</u></a>	CARBON OFFSET PROGRAM; CARBON STORAGE	SENATE RULES BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR	05/17/2023
<a href="#"><u>SB 57</u></a>	ADULT HOME CARE; MED ASSIST.; HEALTH INFO	SENATE RULES BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR	05/10/2023
<a href="#"><u>SB 58</u></a>	MEDICAID ELIGIBILITY: POSTPARTUM MOTHERS	SENATE RULES BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR	05/05/2023
<a href="#"><u>SB 80</u></a>	2023 REVISOR'S BILL	SENATE RULES BY REQUEST OF LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL	04/20/2023
<a href="#"><u>SB 81</u></a>	OFFICE VICTIMS' RIGHTS: COMP, APPTMT	SENATE RULES BY REQUEST OF LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL	05/16/2023
<a href="#"><u>SB 86</u></a>	REJECT COMPENSATION COMM RECOMMENDATIONS	SENATE FINANCE	03/20/2023
<a href="#"><u>SB 87</u></a>	LUMBER GRADING PROGRAM	SENATOR BJORKMAN	05/01/2023
<a href="#"><u>SB 98</u></a>	AK PERM FUND CORP. & PCE ENDOWMENT FUND	SENATE FINANCE	05/16/2023
<a href="#"><u>SB 119</u></a>	STATE IDENTIFICATION CARD FOR PRISONERS	SENATOR MYERS	05/13/2023
<a href="#"><u>SB 123</u></a>	LICENSE REQUIREMENTS: COMM. DRIVERS	SENATE TRANSPORTATION	05/12/2023
<a href="#"><u>SB 126</u></a>	ARCHITECT/ENGINEER REGISTRATION BOARD	SENATE LABOR & COMMERCE	

***Bills Introduced This Week:***

**SENATE**

<b>Bill</b>	<b>Short Title</b>	<b>Prime Sponsor(s)</b>
<a href="#"><u>SB 149</u></a>	FOOD STAMP PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY	SENATOR GIESSEL
<a href="#"><u>SB 150</u></a>	ESTABLISH STATE LOTTERY BOARD/LOTTERIES	SENATOR KAUFMAN
<a href="#"><u>SB 151</u></a>	MISSING/MURDERED INDIGENOUS PEOPLE;REPORT	SENATOR OLSON
<a href="#"><u>SB 152</u></a>	COMMUNITY ENERGY FACILITIES; NET METERING	SENATOR WIELECHOWSKI
<a href="#"><u>SB 153</u></a>	OVERTIME PAY EXEMPTION	SENATE RULES BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR

<a href="#">SB 154</a>	BIDDER PREF MILITARY CAREER SKILLS PROG	SENATOR WIELECHOWSKI
<a href="#">SB 155</a>	PORT OF ALASKA; PORT AUTHORITY	SENATE FINANCE
<a href="#">SB 156</a>	COMM PSSG VESSEL ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE	

## **HOUSE**

<b>Bill</b>	<b>Short Title</b>	<b>Prime Sponsor(s)</b>
<a href="#">HB 202</a>	OPIOID OVERDOSE DRUGS IN SCHOOLS	REPRESENTATIVE D.JOHNSON
<a href="#">HB 203</a>	PAYMENT OF WAGES; PAYROLL CARD ACCOUNT	REPRESENTATIVE MCKAY
<a href="#">HB 204</a>	OVERTIME PAY EXEMPTION	HOUSE RULES BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR
<a href="#">HB 205</a>	CRIMINALIZE ABORTION; PRIVACY; COURTS	REPRESENTATIVE EASTMAN
<a href="#">HB 206</a>	DAY CARE MATCHING BENEFIT PROGRAM	REPRESENTATIVE ORTIZ

## **Major News Articles / Political Items of Interest**

### State Budget/Programs

#### [Alaska Senate sends budget to House with hours left before legislative session ends](#)

The Alaska House has less than six hours to either agree to the Senate's spending plan or send the Legislature into a special session.

#### **Capitol Live: Senate delays budget until final day, increasing negotiating pressure on House**

The Senate has upped the gamesmanship with the House by adjourning for the day without taking action on the budget bill, meaning a compromise plan will need to be debated by and pass through both chambers during a 13-hour period Wednesday to avoid a special session. Senate President Gary Stevens said the budget was not debated or passed during Tuesday's floor session because differences with the House have not been resolved, and he doesn't want to send a bill to them that fails to pass and thus ensures a special session.

<https://www.juneauempire.com/news/capitol-live-underwater-oil-prices-special-session-odds-rise-and-tax-trio-oddities/>

### **Alaska Legislature called into special session after House adjourns without final budget vote**

The Alaska Legislature is set to start a special session Thursday morning after failing to reach agreement on state budget by the midnight deadline Wednesday that marked the end of the annual regular session. The House adjourned at 9 p.m. without taking a vote on a budget, three hours after the Senate sent over a take-it-or-leave-it spending plan.

<https://www.adn.com/politics/alaska-legislature/2023/05/17/senate-sends-budget-to-house-with-hours-left-before-legislative-session-ends/>

### **Special session set to begin Thursday after Legislature adjourns without budget**

*House refuses to consider Senate spending bill sent over hours before adjournment deadline*

The Alaska Legislature adjourned without passing a budget Wednesday night, as the House refused to consider the revised version of the spending plan sent over by the Senate just five hours before the midnight deadline, prompting Gov. Mike Dunleavy to call a special session beginning at 10 a.m. Thursday.

<https://www.juneauempire.com/news/special-session-set-to-begin-thursday-after-legislature-adjourns-without-budget/>

## Politics/Policy Calls

### **Dunleavy never introduced the sales tax he promised was ready three weeks ago**

While our dependence on oil surpassed Seward's Folly as a point of discussion decades ago, it's been about three weeks since [Gov. Mike Dunleavy discovered the "folly"](#) of basing state government finances on oil prices. "To simply ride oil in a do-or-die situation for the state of Alaska is folly. It's probably not a good idea," Dunleavy announced, contradicting the blithe assumptions and promises that marked his campaigns for governor in 2018 and 2022.

[Read More](#)

### **Senate passes bill to impose statewide tax on e-cigarettes**

Imposing a 25% statewide tax on retail e-cigarette products passed the state Senate with its sponsor saying he's "reasonably confident" that it will not be vetoed by Gov. Mike Dunleavy, as happened with similar legislation last fall.

<https://www.juneauempire.com/news/senate-passes-bill-to-impose-statewide-tax-on-e-cigarettes/>

### **Alaska Legislature fails to block pay raises for lawmakers, governor and cabinet**

Alaska state legislators failed to block a 67% pay raise for themselves and a roughly 20% salary increase for the governor and his cabinet.

<https://www.adn.com/politics/alaska-legislature/2023/05/16/alaska-legislature-fails-to-block-pay-raises-for-lawmakers-governor-and-cabinet/>

**Julie Coulombe: The illusion of compromise**

In coming to Juneau, I had every intention to approach the legislature with an open mind, build bridges, and work toward consensus. It is important to me to always keep what is best for Alaska at the forefront.

<https://mustreadalaska.com/julie-coulombe-the-illusion-of-compromise/>

**Ban on gun store shutdowns during disasters passes Senate**

A bill prohibiting state and municipal officials from closing firearms businesses such as retail stores and shooting ranges during declared disasters passed the state Senate by a 17-3 vote, clearing the way for it to be sent to Gov. Mike Dunleavy.

<https://www.juneauempire.com/news/ban-on-gun-store-shutdowns-during-disasters-passes-senate/>

**Alaska House follows Senate to pass bill authorizing sale of carbon credits from state land**

The Alaska House of Representatives on Tuesday passed a bill that would allow the state to set up a system for using state land to sell carbon-offset credits. The House action amounted to final passage of the bill, which was approved the [previous day by the state Senate](#).

<https://www.adn.com/politics/alaska-legislature/2023/05/17/alaska-house-follows-senate-to-pass-bill-authorizing-sale-of-carbon-credits-from-state-land/>