

Monday February 13, 2023
 To: Mayor and Council
 From: Chris Hladick
 RE: Legislative report

The primary focus in both bodies this past week was on departmental overviews and finance sub-committee hearings. When completed the standing Finance Committee's will 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. No actions or amendments have occurred.

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 Intertie, as informational hearings only.

Workforce Development and 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. No actual costs have been discussed.

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. The following schedule begins today through this Friday. There is lots more information at akleg.gov, this website is how you can tap into hearings that are televised.

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 Commissioner, Department of Family and Community 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 of Retirement	Tue 2/14/23 9:00 AM

<p>& Benefits - Kevin Worley, Chief Financial Officer - Betsy Wood, Chief Health Administrator + Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled TELECONFERENCED</p>	
<p>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</p>	<p>Tue 2/14/23 1:30 PM</p>
<p>SENATE FINANCE 532 -SENATE FINANCE + Federal Infrastructure Funding in Alaska TELECONFERENCED - Mike Anderson, Acting Infrastructure Investment Coordinator - Katherine Keith, Deputy Commissioner DOT + Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled TELECONFERENCED</p>	<p>Wed 2/15/23 9:00 AM</p>
<p>GRUENBERG 120 -HOUSE JUDICIARY *+ HJR2 CONST. AM: APPROP LIMIT TELECONFERENCED += HB38 APPROPRIATION LIMIT; GOV BUDGET TELECONFERENCED -- Public Testimony -- + Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled TELECONFERENCED</p>	<p>Wed 2/15/23 1:00 PM</p>

Description	Date, Time & Location
<p>ADAMS 519 -HOUSE FINANCE + Overview: Funding Status of Alaska Public TELECONFERENCED 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</p>	<p>Wed 2/15/23 1:30 PM</p>
<p>BARNES 124 -HOUSE LABOR & COMMERCE + Presentation: Overview from State of Alaska TELECONFERENCED Broadband by Thomas Lochner, Director + Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled TELECONFERENCED</p>	<p>Wed 2/15/23 3:15 PM</p>
<p>SENATE FINANCE 532 -SENATE FINANCE + Callan - Capital Markets & Permanent Fund TELECONFERENCED Sustainability - Greg Allen, CEO & Chief Research Officer - Steven Center, Senior Vice President + Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled TELECONFERENCED</p>	<p>Thu 2/16/23 9:00 AM</p>

DAVIS 106 -HOUSE COMMERCE, COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEV + Presentation: Alaska State Broadband Office by TELECONFERENCED Thomas Lochner, Director	Thu 2/16/23 11:30 AM
BELTZ 105 (TSBldg) -SENATE COMMUNITY & REGIONAL AFFAIRS + Overview: Alaska Office of Broadband by TELECONFERENCED 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 TELECONFERENCED (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

Description	Date, Time & Location
ADAMS 519 -HOUSE FINANCE + Overview: Governor's Budget Amendments by Neil TELECONFERENCED Steininger, 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
HB 22	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.

HB 54	Approp: Supplemental; Reapprop; Amending	RULES	(H) REFERRED TO FINANCE (2/1)
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SB 14	Rip For Public Employees/teachers	KAWA SAKI	(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.

SB 35	Peace Officer/firefighter Retire Benefits	KAWA SAKI	(S) REFERRED TO LA BOR & COMMERCE (1/18)
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The state would create a pension program for police and firefighters.