

Legislative Report

From Dianne Blumer <dianne@navigate-ak.com>

Date Sun 2/22/2026 1:00 PM

To Jackie Wilde <jwilde@whittieralaska.gov>

Cc City Clerk <cityclerk@whittieralaska.gov>

 1 attachment (156 KB)

City of Whittier Report-2026-02-22.pdf;

Legislative Report

Overview

It was a bustling week in Juneau as numerous visitors made their way to the Capitol City. The atmosphere in the hallways was lively, particularly as conversations centered on the Senate Resource Committee's decision to remove the sales tax component from Governor Dunleavy's fiscal package. Instead, the committee has chosen to prioritize discussions around oil, gas, and corporate taxes.

Key Legislative Topics

The fiscal package, the 2026 supplemental budget, the Permanent Fund Dividend, energy, and the gasline continue to be at the forefront of discussions.

Budget Updates

In the House Finance Committee, supplemental items for Fiscal Year 2026 have been stripped from the Governor's Capital and Operating budgets and included in HB 289, the supplemental appropriations bill. This compilation totals nearly \$500 million, which requires a 3/4 Constitutional Budget Reserve (CBR) vote. The urgency to fast track the "meet the match" funding, approximately \$70 million, has been included and debated, remaining the most critical component to move the supplemental budget forward quickly. Ideally, this funding would be separated out and passed solely to ensure that the state capitalizes on the 90/10 federal match.

Next week, the Senate Finance Committee will hold multiple rounds of public testimony regarding the operating, capital, mental health, and supplemental budgets. The committee invites public participation, organizing testimony by regional groups. A fuller committee schedule, including all relevant details, can be found in the attached Scheduled Hearings Update. This public testimony presents an excellent opportunity to record support for appropriations.

Simultaneously, other committees are continuing their departmental finance sub-committee meetings and are in the process of conducting closeouts this week to begin compiling the operating budget.

Additionally, Monday, February 23, marks the personal bill deadline for legislators. After this date, new bills can only be filed through committees, which may lead to a surge of new legislation in the upcoming week, although this can vary from session to session.

Energy

Next Thursday's House Energy Hearing will feature a pending introduction and referral of the Energy Affordability Omnibus bill. The Alaska Power Association (APA) has been closely monitoring the ongoing development of this energy omnibus bill for several weeks and anticipates that the bill will be made publicly available next week. Members will be updated as soon as the text is released.

Rural Health Transformation Update

The Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP) allows for creativity in proposals and solutions, while also requiring that the state meets specific criteria to secure funding in future years. Currently, professional compacting bills are under significant scrutiny within the Legislature. Eligible entities for RHTP funds consist of healthcare providers, tribes and tribal health organizations, hospitals and clinics, local governments, and healthcare workforce and training programs, among others.

Last week, the Department of Health launched a portal for receiving letters of interest from groups or programs applying for RHTP funds. This portal will remain active until Wednesday, March 11, when the selection process will commence. To assist in the submission process, the RHTP has partnered with the Alaska Community Foundation to provide office hours every Tuesday from 12 PM to 1 PM for any technical questions or troubleshooting. For more details about the Rural Health Transformation Program, please visit their website or email RHTP@alaska.gov.

How to Watch Live Committee Meetings

1. Go to AKLEG.GOV at the time of your desired committee hearing
2. Click on the 5th tab to the right, "Live Now"
3. Scroll down to your meeting and select "Watch Now"

Call-In Numbers

- From Anchorage and Juneau: (907) 586-9085
 - From anywhere else around the state (toll free): 1-844-586-9085
- *Let the operator know which committee hearing you need to be connected to.

How to Watch Previous Committee Meetings

1. Go to AKLEG.GOV
2. Click on 4th tab to the right, "Meetings"
3. Click on "Both Schedule" from the menu on the left
4. Make sure your date range is properly reflected in the date boxes on the right side of the screen.
5. Scroll down, find your meeting and click on the "Audio/Video" option on the right side of the screen.

Whittier Hearing Schedule

House FINANCE

Feb 23, 2026 01:30pm ADAMS 519

APPORTION TAXABLE INCOME;DIGITAL BUSINESS; AK INNOVATION COUNCIL; Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled

Website

| | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------|--|---|
| AK 34 HB 280 | HOUSE RULES | House, Feb 26, 2026: (H) FINANCE at 01:30 PM ADAMS 519 | HB0280A, AM HB 280, introduced 01/23/2026 |
| AK 34 HB 34 | HOLLAND | House, Feb 23, 2026: (H) FINANCE at 01:30 PM ADAMS 519 | HB0034B, AM CSHB 34(L&C), introduced 03/03/2025 |

Senate RESOURCES

Feb 23, 2026 03:30pm BUTROVICH 205

Presentation: Alaska's Interest in 8-Star by; Frank Richards, President & CEO, Alaska Gasline; Development Corporation; Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled; **Streamed live on AKL.tv**

Website

House COMMUNITY & REGIONAL AFFAIRS

Feb 24, 2026 08:00am BARNES 124

ALCOHOL SALES: LOCAL OPTION; -- Testimony --; HOUSE BILL: ELECTRIC UTILITY: CERTIFICATE OF; FITNESS; ; -- Invited & Public Testimony --; MUNICIPAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS; -- Testimony --; Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled

Website

| | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------|--|---|
| AK 34 HB 155 | FOSTER | House, Feb 24, 2026: (H) -- Testimony Invitation Only -- | HB0155A, AM HB 155, introduced 03/26/2025 |
| AK 34 HB 291 | COULOMBE G.Nelson | House, Feb 24, 2026: (H) -- Testimony Invitation Only -- -- Testimony Invitation Only -- | HB0291A, AM HB 291, introduced 02/04/2026 |

House FINANCE

Feb 24, 2026 01:30pm ADAMS 519

APPROP: OPERATING BUDGET;AMEND;SUPP; APPROP: MENTAL HEALTH BUDGET; Presentation: Alaska Permanent Fund Performance; by Callan & Associates; Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled

Website

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|---------------------------------|--|--|---|
| AK 34 HB 263 | HOUSE RULES BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR | House, Feb 27, 2026: (H) FINANCE at 01:30 PM ADAMS 519 | HB0263A, AM HB 263, introduced 01/23/2026 |
| AK 34 HB 265 | HOUSE RULES BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR | House, Feb 27, 2026: (H) FINANCE at 01:30 PM ADAMS 519 | HB0265A, AM HB 265, introduced 01/23/2026 |

Senate COMMUNITY & REGIONAL AFFAIRS

Feb 24, 2026 01:30pm BELTZ 105 (TSBldg)

JONESVILLE PUBLIC USE AREA; REINSTATEMENT NATIVE CORP/RELIGIOUS CORP; -- Invited & Public Testimony --; AUTOMATED TRAFFIC SAFETY CAMERAS; -- Invited & Public Testimony --; **Streamed live on AKL.tv**

Website

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|--|---|--|
| AK 34 SB 230 | RAUSCHER | Senate, Feb 24, 2026: (S) COMMUNITY & REGIONAL AFFAIRS at 01:30 PM BELTZ 105 (TSBldg) | SB0230A, AM SB 230, introduced 02/02/2026 |
| AK 34 HB 126 | FOSTER Jimmie Burke | Senate, Feb 24, 2026: (S) -- Invited & Public Testimony -- | HB0126C, AM CSHB 126(TRB) am, introduced 05/18/2025, passed House 05/18/2025 |
| AK 34 SB 235 | GRAY-JACKSON | Senate, Feb 24, 2026: (S) -- Invited & Public Testimony -- | SB0235A, AM SB 235, introduced 02/06/2026 |

Senate TRANSPORTATION

Feb 24, 2026 01:30pm BUTROVICH 205

Presentation: CDL Integrity in Alaska by; Jamie Benson, President/CEO, Alaska Trucking; Association, and Joey Crum, President/CEO.; Northern Industrial Training; **Streamed live on AKL.tv**

Website

House FINANCE

Feb 25, 2026 09:00am ADAMS 519

-- Please Note Time Change --; MARIJUANA: TAX/RETAIL STORES/REGISTRATION; Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled

Website

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|--------------------------------|-------------------------|--|---|
| AK 34 HB 91 | CARRICK | House, Feb 25, 2026: (H) -- Please Note Time Change -- | HB0091B, AM CSHB 91(STA), introduced 03/12/2025 |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|--|---|

House FINANCE

Feb 25, 2026 01:30pm ADAMS 519

APPROP: OPERATING BUDGET;AMEND;SUPP; APPROP: MENTAL HEALTH BUDGET; Overviews;; -FY27 Governor's Budget by Department of; Corrections; -FY27 Governor's Budget by Department of; Commerce, Community and Economic Development; Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled

Website

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|--|--|---|
| AK 34 HB 263 | HOUSE RULES BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR | House, Feb 27, 2026: (H) FINANCE at 01:30 PM ADAMS 519 | HB0263A, AM HB 263, introduced 01/23/2026 |
| AK 34 HB 265 | HOUSE RULES BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR | House, Feb 27, 2026: (H) FINANCE at 01:30 PM ADAMS 519 | HB0265A, AM HB 265, introduced 01/23/2026 |

Senate RESOURCES

Feb 25, 2026 03:30pm BUTROVICH 205

Presentation: Alaska Mining Update by; Deantha Skibinski, Alaska Miners Association; Presentation: Red Dog Mine Update by; Lance Miller, Vice President of Natural; Resources, NANA; Presentation: Critical Minerals & Accelerator; Project by; Dr. Lee Ann Munk, Director, Alaska Critical; Minerals Collaborative; Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled; **Streamed live on AKL.tv**

Website

House COMMUNITY & REGIONAL AFFAIRS

Feb 26, 2026 08:00am BARNES 124

Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled

Website

Senate FINANCE

Feb 26, 2026 09:00am SENATE FINANCE 532

Public Testimony: Juneau, Southeast, Prince; William Sound, Kodiak, Offnets; Please Sign Up by 10:15 AM; APPROP: OPERATING BUDGET;AMEND;SUPP; -- Public Testimony --; APPROP: CAPITAL/FUNDS/SUPP/REAPPROP; -- Public Testimony --; APPROP: MENTAL HEALTH BUDGET; -- Public Testimony --; APPROP: SUPPLEMENTAL; ; -- Public Testimony --; Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled; **Streamed live on AKL.tv**

Website

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|---------------------------------|---|--|---|
| AK 34 SB 213 | SENATE RULES BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR | Senate, Feb 27, 2026: (S) -- Public Testimony Two Minute Time Limit -- | SB0213A, AM SB 213, introduced 01/21/2026 |
| AK 34 SB 214 | SENATE RULES BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR | Senate, Feb 27, 2026: (S) -- Public Testimony Two Minute Time Limit -- | SB0214A, AM SB 214, introduced 01/21/2026 |

House FINANCE

Feb 26, 2026 01:30pm ADAMS 519

APPORTION TAXABLE INCOME;DIGITAL BUSINESS; VOTER PREREGISTRATION FOR MINORS; Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled

Website

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|---------------------------------|--|--|---|
| AK 34 HB 280 | HOUSE RULES | House, Feb 26, 2026: (H) FINANCE at 01:30 PM ADAMS 519 | HB0280A, AM HB 280, introduced 01/23/2026 |
| AK 34 HB 21 | STORY Galvin Himschoot | House, Feb 26, 2026: (H) FINANCE at 01:30 PM ADAMS 519 | HB0021B, AM CSHB 21(STA), introduced 02/21/2025 |

Senate FINANCE

Feb 26, 2026 01:30pm SENATE FINANCE 532

-- Please Note Time Change --; Public Testimony for Nome, Bethel, Kotzebue,; Utqiagvik, Unalaska, Dillingham, Offnets; Please Sign Up by 2:45 PM; APPROP: OPERATING BUDGET;AMEND;SUPP; -- Public Testimony --; APPROP: CAPITAL/FUNDS/SUPP/REAPPROP; -- Public Testimony --; APPROP: MENTAL HEALTH BUDGET; -- Public Testimony --; APPROP: SUPPLEMENTAL; ; -- Public Testimony --; Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled; **Streamed live on AKL.tv**

Website

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|---|--|---|
| AK 34 SB 213 | SENATE RULES BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR | Senate, Feb 27, 2026: (S) -- Public Testimony Two Minute Time Limit -- | SB0213A, AM SB 213, introduced 01/21/2026 |
| AK 34 SB 214 | SENATE RULES BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR | Senate, Feb 27, 2026: (S) -- Public Testimony Two Minute Time Limit -- | SB0214A, AM SB 214, introduced 01/21/2026 |

Senate TRANSPORTATION

Feb 26, 2026 01:30pm BUTROVICH 205

MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION; -- Testimony --; STATEWIDE PUBLIC & COMMUNITY TRANSIT PLAN; -- Testimony --; **Streamed live on AKL.tv**

Website

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|---------------------------------|---|---|--|
| AK 34 SB 239 | TILTON Myers Kawasaki | Senate, Feb 26, 2026: (S) -- Testimony Invitation Only -- | SB0239A, AM SB 239, introduced 02/11/2026 |
| AK 34 HB 26 | MINA Burke Bynum | Senate, Feb 26, 2026: (S) -- Testimony Invitation Only -- | HB0026D, AM CSHB 26(TRA), am, introduced 04/30/2025, passed House 05/02/2025 |

Senate FINANCE

Feb 27, 2026 09:00am SENATE FINANCE 532

Public Testimony for Fairbanks, Interior,; Copper River Valley, Offnets; Please Sign Up by 9:45 AM; APPROP: OPERATING BUDGET;AMEND;SUPP; -- Public Testimony --; APPROP: CAPITAL/FUNDS/SUPP/REAPPROP; -- Public Testimony --; APPROP: MENTAL HEALTH BUDGET; -- Public Testimony --; APPROP: SUPPLEMENTAL; ; -- Public Testimony --; Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled; **Streamed live on AKL.tv**

Website

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|---------------------------------|---|--|---|
| AK 34 SB 213 | SENATE RULES BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR | Senate, Feb 27, 2026: (S) -- Public Testimony Two Minute Time Limit -- | SB0213A, AM SB 213, introduced 01/21/2026 |
| AK 34 SB 214 | SENATE RULES BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR | Senate, Feb 27, 2026: (S) -- Public Testimony Two Minute Time Limit -- | SB0214A, AM SB 214, introduced 01/21/2026 |

House FINANCE

Feb 27, 2026 01:30pm ADAMS 519

APPROP: OPERATING BUDGET;AMEND;SUPP; APPROP: MENTAL HEALTH BUDGET; Overview: FY27 Governor's Budget by Department; of Family and Community Services; Presentation: Office of Children's Services; Budget Overview and Responses to Legislative; Audit; -- Testimony --; Les Gara, Former Alaska State Representative; Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled

Website

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|---------------------------------|--|--|---|
| AK 34 HB 263 | HOUSE RULES BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR | House, Feb 27, 2026: (H) FINANCE at 01:30 PM ADAMS 519 | HB0263A, AM HB 263, introduced 01/23/2026 |
| AK 34 HB 265 | HOUSE RULES BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR | House, Feb 27, 2026: (H) FINANCE at 01:30 PM ADAMS 519 | HB0265A, AM HB 265, introduced 01/23/2026 |

Senate FINANCE

Feb 27, 2026 01:30pm SENATE FINANCE 532

Public Testimony for Anchorage,; Matanuska-Susitna Valley, Kenai Peninsula; Please Sign Up by 2:45 PM; APPROP: OPERATING BUDGET;AMEND;SUPP; -- Public Testimony --; APPROP: CAPITAL/FUNDS/SUPP/REAPPROP; -- Public Testimony --; APPROP: MENTAL HEALTH BUDGET; -- Public Testimony --; APPROP: SUPPLEMENTAL; ; -- Public Testimony --; Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled; **Streamed live on AKL.tv**

Website

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|---|--|---|
| AK 34 SB 213 | SENATE RULES BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR | Senate, Feb 27, 2026: (S) -- Public Testimony Two Minute Time Limit -- | SB0213A, AM SB 213, introduced 01/21/2026 |
| AK 34 SB 214 | SENATE RULES BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR | Senate, Feb 27, 2026: (S) -- Public Testimony Two Minute Time Limit -- | SB0214A, AM SB 214, introduced 01/21/2026 |

Senate RESOURCES

Feb 27, 2026 03:30pm BUTROVICH 205

SUPPORT NATIVE CORP BUSINESS DEVELOP PRGM; -- Invited & Public Testimony --; BAN ON RUSSIAN SEAFOOD; -- Invited & Public Testimony --; CONFLICT OF INTEREST: BDS FISHERIES/GAME; -- Testimony --; Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled; **Streamed live on AKL.tv**

Website

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|---------------------------------|---|--|---|
| AK 34 SJR 26 | SENATE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON ARCTIC AFFAIRS | Senate, Feb 27, 2026: (S) -- Invited & Public Testimony -- | SJR026A, AM SJR 26, introduced 02/13/2026 |
| AK 34 HJR 29 | HOUSE FISHERIES | Senate, Feb 27, 2026: (S) -- Invited & Public Testimony -- | HJR029C, AM CSHJR 29(FSH) am., introduced 02/11/2026, passed House 02/11/2026 |
| AK 34 HB 33 | STUTES Himschoot Hannan | Senate, Feb 27, 2026: (S) -- Testimony Invitation Only - | HB0033A, AM HB 33, introduced 01/22/2025, passed House 05/13/2025 |