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## Legislative Report


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

Date Sun 2/15/2026 2:18 PM

To Jackie Wilde <jwilde@whittieralaska.gov>

Cc City Clerk <cityclerk@whittieralaska.gov>

 1 attachment (155 KB)

City of Whittier Report-2026-02-15.pdf;

### Legislative Report: February 9 - February 13

The Alaska Legislature is currently engaged in a detailed examination of Governor Dunleavy's fiscal plan, which comprises several controversial budget proposals, particularly concerning tax policies and state spending. Lawmakers are expressing skepticism regarding the sustainability and implications of these proposals, primarily focusing on two tax bills, HB 284 and SB 227, which have ignited significant debates within legislative circles.

#### Key Components of the Fiscal Plan

##### 1. Tax Compact and Sales Tax Proposals

HB 284 and SB 227

These are focused on restructuring tax mechanisms in Alaska, particularly regarding oil and gas taxation. The proposals have faced considerable backlash from lawmakers, raising concerns about potential economic repercussions and the effectiveness of the new tax structures.

##### 2. Capping State Spending Growth

HB 275 and SB 223

A cap on annual state spending growth at 1%, without adjustments for inflation. Lawmakers worry this measure could jeopardize essential public services and hinder the government's ability to respond to economic fluctuations or emergencies, risking the long-term sustainability of state-funded programs.

##### 3. Agency Sunset Reviews

HB 274 and SB 222

Establishment of a legislative committee to conduct "sunset reviews" of government agencies every six years. Agencies would require a legislative vote for continuation or termination.

##### 4. Permanent Fund Constitutional Amendment

HJR 30 and SJR 23

A multipronged amendment that aims to, merge the Permanent Fund's two accounts into one, cap the annual draw from the fund at 5% and allocate half of the annual draw for dividends to eligible Alaskans. Lawmakers question the long-term viability of the fund and the impact of the proposed changes on dividend distributions and state revenue.

The ongoing discussions within the Alaska Legislature reveal a critical need for careful evaluation of Governor Dunleavy's fiscal strategies. The contentious elements, particularly those involving taxation and state spending caps, underscore the complexities of developing a balanced and effective fiscal policy responsive to the needs of Alaskans while ensuring economic stability. As lawmakers proceed with their review, the next steps will be decisive in shaping the state's financial future.

#### Meet the Match Initiative Update

On Friday, the House Finance Committee advanced a Committee Substitute for HB 289, which primarily consolidates Governor Dunleavy's supplemental budget requests with modifications. This initiative is designed to address various funding needs, including those related to recent emergencies and to mitigate potential financial uncertainties in the construction industry. An additional allocation of \$30 million is included in the bill to create a financial buffer, referred

to as “head space.” This funding is intended to provide flexibility for unknown or unanticipated budget shortfalls, particularly in relation to fluctuations in oil prices.

The Committee Substitute for HB 289 will continue through the legislative process, where it will undergo much scrutiny and discussion. The goal is to fast track this bill to ensure the funds are available for a healthy summer season.

### Extension of Disaster Declaration

The Alaska Legislature has voted to extend the state of disaster related to the 2025 West Coast Storm until early March, reflecting ongoing challenges from the natural disaster that struck the region.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) estimates that the total costs related to the storm could reach at least \$125 million when accounting for both federal and state expenses, indicating that further budgetary discussions will likely be necessary.

### Rural Health Transformation Project (RHTP)

Huge topic, \$272 million for 2026 to be distributed in grants by October 1, 2026.

Through the RHTP, Alaska providers and clinics, hospitals, non-profits, community organizations and tribal organizations will have the opportunity to put forth their creative ideas to improve, innovate and expand the services they provide to better serve Alaskans.

This is an exciting new opportunity to improve health care access and quality of care for Alaskans. If you want to stay up to date on the progress of the RHTP, you can access a wealth of information on the Alaska Department of Health RHTP website. Here is the [RHTP website](#).

- Timeline
  - Letters of Interest must be submitted between Feb. 17 – March 11
  - Readiness and Planning Grants expected to be awarded in April
  - Full implementation proposals are expected to be awarded in May

### Whittier

HB 216 and SB 191 Land Transfer Bills were both heard in the respective Community and Regional Affairs Committee meetings with testimony from the City of Whittier and the Railroad. Next step is public testimony which will hopefully happen this week.

Things are already moving quickly, to stay current on bills moving and committee hearings you can go to the [Alaska State Legislature](#) page where you will find the most up to date information.

## Whittier Hearing Schedule

#### House FINANCE

Feb 16, 2026 01:30pm ADAMS 519

APPROP: SUPPLEMENTAL; APPROP: OPERATING BUDGET;AMEND;SUPP; APPROP: CAPITAL/FUNDS/SUPP/REAPPROP; APPROP: MENTAL HEALTH BUDGET; Overview: FY27 Governor s Budget Overview by; Judiciary; Bills

Previously Heard/Scheduled

#### Website

<a href="#">AK 34 HB 289</a>	HOUSE RULES BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR	House, Feb 18, 2026: (H) -- Please Note Time Change --	<a href="#">HB0289A, AM HB 289, introduced 02/04/2026</a>
<a href="#">AK 34 HB 263</a>	HOUSE RULES BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR	House, Feb 20, 2026: (H) FINANCE at 01:30 PM ADAMS 519	<a href="#">HB0263A, AM HB 263, introduced 01/23/2026</a>
<a href="#">AK 34 HB 264</a>	HOUSE RULES BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR	House, Feb 16, 2026: (H) FINANCE at 01:30 PM ADAMS 519	<a href="#">HB0264A, AM HB 264, introduced 01/23/2026</a>
<a href="#">AK 34 HB 265</a>	HOUSE RULES BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR	House, Feb 20, 2026: (H) FINANCE at 01:30 PM ADAMS 519	<a href="#">HB0265A, AM HB 265, introduced 01/23/2026</a>

#### Senate RESOURCES

Feb 16, 2026 03:30pm BUTROVICH 205

LNG IMPORT FACILITIES; -- Public Testimony --; TAX COMPACT; SALES TAX; OIL & GAS TAX; -- Invited & Public Testimony --; Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled; \*\*Streamed live on AKL.tv\*\*

#### Website

AK 34 <a href="#">SB 180</a>	SENATE RESOURCES	Senate, Feb 18, 2026: (S) RESOURCES at 03:30 PM BUTROVICH 205	<a href="#">SB0180A, AM SB 180, introduced 04/22/2025</a>
AK 34 <a href="#">SB 227</a>	SENATE RULES BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR	Senate, Feb 18, 2026: (S) RESOURCES at 03:30 PM BUTROVICH 205	<a href="#">SB0227A, AM SB 227, introduced 01/26/2026</a>

#### [House COMMUNITY & REGIONAL AFFAIRS](#)

Feb 17, 2026 08:00am BARNES 124

TRANSFER OF RAILROAD LAND TO WHITTIER; -- Public Testimony --; AUTOMATED TRAFFIC SAFETY CAMERAS; -- Testimony --; FIREFIGHTER/EMS PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION; -- Testimony --; Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled

#### [Website](#)

AK 34 <a href="#">HB 216</a>	<a href="#">HOLLAND</a>	House, Feb 17, 2026: (H) -- Public Testimony --	<a href="#">HB0216A, AM HB 216, introduced 05/02/2025</a>
AK 34 <a href="#">HB 282</a>	<a href="#">FIELDS</a>	House, Feb 17, 2026: (H) -- Testimony Invitation Only --	<a href="#">HB0282A, AM HB 282, introduced 01/26/2026</a>
AK 34 <a href="#">HB 286</a>	<a href="#">ELAM</a>	House, Feb 17, 2026: (H) -- Testimony Invitation Only --	<a href="#">HB0286A, AM HB 286, introduced 01/28/2026</a>

#### [Senate FINANCE](#)

Feb 17, 2026 09:00am SENATE FINANCE 532

CONST. AM: VOTES NEEDED FOR VETO OVERRIDE; VEHICLES/BOATS: TRANSFER ON DEATH TITLE; FIRE STATION GRANT PROGRAM; AK WORK & SAVE PROGRAM; RETIRE. SAVINGS BD; -- Invited & Public Testimony --;

EXTEND OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING BOARDS; -- Invited & Public Testimony --; Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled; \*\*Streamed live on AKL.tv\*\*

#### [Website](#)

AK 34 <a href="#">SB 140</a>	<a href="#">STEDMAN</a>	Senate, Feb 17, 2026: (S) FINANCE at 09:00 AM SENATE FINANCE 532	<a href="#">SB0140A, AM SB 140, introduced 03/24/2025</a>
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#### [House FINANCE](#)

Feb 17, 2026 01:30pm ADAMS 519

APPROP: SUPPLEMENTAL; APPROP: OPERATING BUDGET;AMEND;SUPP; APPROP: MENTAL HEALTH BUDGET; Overview: FY27 Governor s Budget Overview by; Department of Law; Overview: FY27 Governor s Budget Overview by; Department of Public Safety; Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled

#### [Website](#)

AK 34 <a href="#">HB 289</a>	HOUSE RULES BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR	House, Feb 18, 2026: (H) -- Please Note Time Change --	<a href="#">HB0289A, AM HB 289, introduced 02/04/2026</a>
AK 34 <a href="#">HB 263</a>	HOUSE RULES BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR	House, Feb 20, 2026: (H) FINANCE at 01:30 PM ADAMS 519	<a href="#">HB0263A, AM HB 263, introduced 01/23/2026</a>
AK 34 <a href="#">HB 265</a>	HOUSE RULES BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR	House, Feb 20, 2026: (H) FINANCE at 01:30 PM ADAMS 519	<a href="#">HB0265A, AM HB 265, introduced 01/23/2026</a>

#### [Senate COMMUNITY & REGIONAL AFFAIRS](#)

Feb 17, 2026 01:30pm BELTZ 105 (TSBldg)

CONFLICT OF INTEREST: BDS FISHERIES/GAME; FARM & AGRICULTURAL LAND ASSESSMENTS; JONESVILLE PUBLIC USE AREA; -- Invited & Public Testimony --; \*\*Streamed live on AKL.tv\*\*

#### [Website](#)

AK 34 <a href="#">HB 33</a>	<a href="#">STUTES</a> <a href="#">Himschoot</a> <a href="#">Hannan</a>	Senate, Feb 17, 2026: (S) COMMUNITY & REGIONAL AFFAIRS at 01:30 PM BELTZ 105 (TSBldg)	<a href="#">HB0033A, AM HB 33, introduced 01/22/2025, passed House 05/13/2025</a>
AK 34 <a href="#">SB 200</a>	<a href="#">BJORKMAN</a>	Senate, Feb 17, 2026: (S) COMMUNITY & REGIONAL AFFAIRS at 01:30 PM BELTZ 105 (TSBldg)	<a href="#">SB0200A, AM SB 200, introduced 01/21/2026</a>
AK 34 <a href="#">SB 230</a>	<a href="#">RAUSCHER</a>	Senate, Feb 17, 2026: (S) -- Invited & Public Testimony --	<a href="#">SB0230A, AM SB 230, introduced 02/02/2026</a>

#### [Senate TRANSPORTATION](#)

Feb 17, 2026 01:30pm BUTROVICH 205

Presentation: Typhoon Halong Response by; Deputy Commissioner Katherine Keith.; Department of Transportation & Public Facilities; Merle Sena, Department of Transportation & Public; Facilities; \*\*Streamed live on AKL.tv\*\*

#### [Website](#)

#### [House FINANCE](#)

Feb 18, 2026 09:00am ADAMS 519

-- Please Note Time Change --; APPROP: SUPPLEMENTAL; APPORTION TAXABLE INCOME;DIGITAL BUSINESS; Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled

#### [Website](#)

AK 34 <a href="#">HB 289</a>	HOUSE RULES BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR	House, Feb 18, 2026: (H) -- Please Note Time Change --	<a href="#">HB0289A, AM HB 289, introduced 02/04/2026</a>
AK 34 <a href="#">HB 280</a>	HOUSE RULES	House, Feb 18, 2026: (H) -- Public Testimony --	<a href="#">HB0280A, AM HB 280, introduced 01/23/2026</a>

#### [House FINANCE](#)

Feb 18, 2026 01:30pm ADAMS 519

APPORTION TAXABLE INCOME;DIGITAL BUSINESS; -- Public Testimony --; APPROP: OPERATING BUDGET;AMEND;SUPP; APPROP: MENTAL HEALTH BUDGET; Overview: FY27 Governor's Budget Overview by; Department of Health; Update: H.R.1 SNAP and Medicaid Implementation.; Department of Health; Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled

#### [Website](#)

AK 34 <a href="#">HB 280</a>	HOUSE RULES	House, Feb 18, 2026: (H) -- Public Testimony --	<a href="#">HB0280A, AM HB 280, introduced 01/23/2026</a>
AK 34 <a href="#">HB 263</a>	HOUSE RULES BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR	House, Feb 20, 2026: (H) FINANCE at 01:30 PM ADAMS 519	<a href="#">HB0263A, AM HB 263, introduced 01/23/2026</a>
AK 34 <a href="#">HB 265</a>	HOUSE RULES BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR	House, Feb 20, 2026: (H) FINANCE at 01:30 PM ADAMS 519	<a href="#">HB0265A, AM HB 265, introduced 01/23/2026</a>

#### [Senate RESOURCES](#)

Feb 18, 2026 03:30pm BUTROVICH 205

LNG IMPORT FACILITIES; BIG GAME HUNTING PERMITS; ; -- Invited & Public Testimony --; Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled;; TAX COMPACT; SALES TAX; OIL & GAS TAX; \*\*Streamed live on AKL.tv\*\*

#### [Website](#)

AK 34 <a href="#">SB 180</a>	SENATE RESOURCES	Senate, Feb 18, 2026: (S) RESOURCES at 03:30 PM BUTROVICH 205	<a href="#">SB0180A, AM SB 180, introduced 04/22/2025</a>
AK 34 <a href="#">SB 216</a>	SENATE RULES BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR	Senate, Feb 20, 2026: (S) -- Invited & Public Testimony --	<a href="#">SB0216A, AM SB 216, introduced 01/21/2026</a>
AK 34 <a href="#">SB 227</a>	SENATE RULES BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR	Senate, Feb 18, 2026: (S) RESOURCES at 03:30 PM BUTROVICH 205	<a href="#">SB0227A, AM SB 227, introduced 01/26/2026</a>

#### [House COMMUNITY & REGIONAL AFFAIRS](#)

Feb 19, 2026 08:00am BARNES 124

Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled

#### [Website](#)

#### [House FINANCE](#)

Feb 19, 2026 01:30pm ADAMS 519

Overview: Governor s Budget Amendments by; Office of Management and Budget; Overview: Zero-Based Budgeting by Office of; Management and Budget; Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled

#### [Website](#)

#### [Senate TRANSPORTATION](#)

Feb 19, 2026 01:30pm BUTROVICH 205

Presentation: Anchorage Pedestrian Safety by; Municipality of Anchorage.; Anchorage Police Department, Department of; Transportation and Public Facilities; Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled; \*\*Streamed live on AKL.tv\*\*

#### [Website](#)

#### [House FINANCE](#)

Feb 20, 2026 01:30pm ADAMS 519

APPROP: OPERATING BUDGET;AMEND;SUPP; APPROP: MENTAL HEALTH BUDGET; Overview: Alaska Permanent Fund by Alaska; Permanent Fund Corporation; Overview: FY27 Governor s Budget Overview by; Department of Revenue; Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled

#### [Website](#)

AK 34 <a href="#">HB 263</a>	HOUSE RULES BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR	House, Feb 20, 2026: (H) FINANCE at 01:30 PM ADAMS 519	<a href="#">HB0263A, AM HB 263, introduced 01/23/2026</a>
AK 34 <a href="#">HB 265</a>	HOUSE RULES BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR	House, Feb 20, 2026: (H) FINANCE at 01:30 PM ADAMS 519	<a href="#">HB0265A, AM HB 265, introduced 01/23/2026</a>

#### [Senate RESOURCES](#)

Feb 20, 2026 03:30pm BUTROVICH 205

BIG GAME HUNTING PERMITS; -- Invited & Public Testimony --; \*\*Streamed live on AKL.tv\*\*

#### [Website](#)

AK 34  
[SB 216](#)

SENATE RULES BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR

Senate, Feb 20, 2026: (S) -- Invited & Public Testimony --

[SB0216A, AM SB 216, introduced 01/21/2026](#)