



Navigate AK Legislative Update — Week of May 17th — City of Whittier

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NAVIGATE AK

City of Whittier

WEEK OF MAY 17TH

NAVIGATE AK

WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Big week in Juneau. The gasoline legislation is genuinely chaotic right now and both chambers are staring down the end of session (May 20th) cliff with no clear path to a deal. A special session focused on the Alaska LNG project is increasingly likely regardless of what passes before adjournment.

[Alaska LNG / gasoline — the week's biggest story](#)

What started as a focused property tax bill to attract investment to the Alaska LNG project has turned into one of the most contentious legislative debates of the session. The House and Senate have produced wildly different versions of the governor's proposal, and the gap between them — and between the Legislature and the project developer — has grown wider as the deadline closes in.

On the House side, lawmakers rushed this week to move the property tax bills out of committee by Friday to give them any chance of reaching the floor before adjournment. The House version sets the alternative volumetric tax at 20 cents per thousand cubic feet total — 5 cents each for the gas treatment plant and

pipeline, and 10 cents for the liquefaction facility. That is about two and a half times higher than what Governor Dunleavy originally proposed.

The Senate version, meanwhile, has gone in a completely different direction. The Senate Resources Committee has rewritten SB 280 so extensively that AOGA publicly condemned it this week, accusing lawmakers of "skulduggery and hoodwinking." The latest Senate version — now on version L — not only sets the LNG throughput tax far higher than the House (15 cents each for the plant and pipeline, 25 cents for liquefaction, totaling 55 cents per mcf), but adds a new 30-cent-per-barrel tax on all Alaska oil production and increases the minimum production tax by 50 percent. Industry groups were blunt: "Investors across the nation and around the world are watching."

Governor Dunleavy has been personally lobbying for something that looks more like his original bill, warning that without meaningful tax relief the project cannot proceed. Glenfarne, the project's lead developer has to date refused to share current cost projections or expected gas prices, citing competitive sensitivity. Several legislators say they are being asked to grant a multibillion-dollar tax break to a project they cannot independently evaluate.

Senate President Gary Stevens said last week he was "doubtful" a deal could be reached in time. Leaders in both chambers have since acknowledged that a special session focused specifically on the gasline is likely after May 20, giving lawmakers more time to close the gap.

[Budget — conference committee in the homestretch](#)

The conference committee wrapped up their work on the operating budget Sunday morning, and the results will be put before each body for concurrence, before moving to the Governor for his review.

The capital budget passed the House floor on Saturday and heads back to the Senate for concurrence, which is likely since very moderate changes were made by the House.

[Education funding — HB 261 passes the House](#)

In a significant development Tuesday, the House passed HB 261 by a bipartisan 31–9 vote. The bill changes how school districts calculate their average daily membership student count, allowing districts to use the higher of the current year or a three-year rolling average. Under the new formula, districts would receive an additional \$143 million in state funding next year — providing badly

needed budget stability for schools that have been losing enrollment post-pandemic. Three Anchorage schools that were on the chopping block could remain open if the bill passes into law.

The Senate is the hurdle. Senate Education Chair Sen. Löki Tobin said Tuesday the bill's policy changes will need full Senate vetting with only days left — a tight timeline. Separately, the operating budget includes roughly \$111 million in one-time school funding and \$30 million specifically for districts with high energy costs, which could help even if HB 261 stalls in the Senate.

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BILL TRACKING LOG

BILL	SPONSORS	TITLE	LAST ACTION	LATEST VERSION
AK 34 HB 1	MCCABE Underwood Johnson	An Act relating to specie as legal tender in the state; and relating to borough and city sales and use taxes on specie.	House, May 13, 2026: (H) DUE BACK FROM GOVERNOR 5/30/26	HB0001Z, AM Enrolled HB 1, introduced 05/12/2026
AK 34 HB 13	GRAY Eischeid Fields	An Act relating to optional municipal property tax exemptions for certain long-term rental units, certain mobile home parks, real property rented to low-income families, real property owned and occupied as a permanent place of abode, and real property owned by first-time homebuyers.	Senate, May 15, 2026: (S) Referred to RULES	HB0013E, AM SCS CSSSHB 13(STA), introduced 05/15/2026
AK 34 HB 18	G.NELSON Rauscher Johnson	An Act relating to the transfer of a title on the death of the owner; and providing for an effective date.	House, Feb 13, 2026: (H) PRIME SPONSOR CHANGED: G.NELSON REPLACED RAUSCHER	HB0018A, AM HB 18, introduced 01/22/2025
AK 34 HB 26	MINA Burke Bynum	An Act relating to the duties of the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities; and relating to a statewide public and community transit plan.	House, May 8, 2026: (H) DUE BACK FROM GOVERNOR 5/26/26	HB0026Z, AM Enrolled HB 26, introduced 05/01/2026
AK 34 HB 31	STUTES Kopp Himschoot	An Act relating to the registration of commercial vessels; and relating to the	House, Jul 30, 2025: (H) EFFECTIVE	HB0031Z, AM Enrolled HB 31,

		derelict vessel prevention program fund.	DATE(S) OF LAW 10/22/25	introduced 05/20/2025
AK 34 HB 53	HOUSE RULES BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR	An Act making appropriations for the operating and loan program expenses of state government and for certain programs; capitalizing funds; amending appropriations; making supplemental appropriations; and providing for an effective date.	Senate, Jan 20, 2026: (S) DPS INTENT LANGUAGE REPORT	HB0053Z, AM Enrolled HB 53, introduced 05/20/2025
AK 34 HB 65	STUTES Tomaszewski Prax	An Act authorizing the Alaska Railroad Corporation to issue revenue bonds to finance the replacement of the Alaska Railroad Corporation's passenger dock and related terminal facility in Seward, Alaska; and providing for an effective date.	House, Mar 10, 2025: (H) EFFECTIVE DATE(S) OF LAW 3/7/25	HB0065Z, AM Enrolled HB 65, introduced 02/26/2025
AK 34 HB 78	HOUSE FINANCE	An Act relating to the public employees' retirement system and the teachers' retirement system; and providing certain employees an opportunity to choose between the defined benefit and defined contribution plans of the public employees' retirement system and the teachers' retirement system.	House, Apr 30, 2026: (H) MANIFEST ERROR(S)	HB0078Z, AM Enrolled HB 78, introduced 04/29/2026
AK 34 HB 80	HOUSE LABOR & COMMERCE	An Act relating to minimum standards for residential buildings; relating to construction contractors and residential contractor endorsements; establishing the Alaska State Residential Building Safety Council; and providing for an effective date.	House, Feb 12, 2025: (H) Minutes (HL&C)	HB0080A, AM HB 80, introduced 01/31/2025
AK 34 HB 169	TOMASZEWSKI	An Act relating to a municipal property tax exemption for real property owned and occupied as the primary residence and permanent place of abode by a resident 65 years of age or older, a disabled veteran, or the widow or widower of a resident 65 years of age or older or a disabled veteran; and providing for an effective date.	House, Apr 2, 2025: (H) Referred to COMMUNITY & REGIONAL AFFAIRS	HB0169A, AM HB 169, introduced 04/02/2025
AK 34 HB 184	STORY Hall Mina	An Act relating to financing by the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority for workforce housing development projects;	House, May 16, 2026: (H) AWAITING TRANSMITTAL TO GOV	HB0184C, AM SCS CSHB 184(FIN), introduced

		relating to a mandatory exemption from municipal property taxes for certain assets of the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority; and providing for an effective date by repealing the effective date of sec. 2, ch. 64, SLA 2018.		05/13/2026 , passed House 05/16/2026 , passed Senate 05/15/2026
AK 34 HB 216	HOLLAND Josephson Giessel	An Act approving the transfer of land owned by the Alaska Railroad Corporation to the City of Whittier; and providing for an effective date.	House, May 16, 2026: (H) AWAITING TRANSMITTAL TO GOV	HB0216B , AM SCS HB 216(CRA) , introduced 05/13/2026 , passed House 05/16/2026 , passed Senate 05/15/2026
AK 34 HB 254	VANCE Coulombe	An Act relating to increases in property assessments.	House, Jan 23, 2026: (H) COSPONSOR(S): COULOMBE	HB0254A , AM HB 254 , introduced 01/20/2026
AK 34 HB 264	HOUSE RULES BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR	An Act making appropriations, including capital appropriations, supplemental appropriations, and reappropriations; making appropriations to capitalize funds; and providing for an effective date.	House, Apr 9, 2026: (H) Heard & Held	HB0264A , AM HB 264 , introduced 01/23/2026
AK 34 HB 280	HOUSE RULES	An Act relating to the Multistate Tax Compact; relating to apportionment of income to the state, including the apportionment of income of broadcasters, financial institutions, and telecommunications service providers; and providing for an effective date.	Senate, May 16, 2026: (S) Moved SCS CSHB 280(FIN) Out of Committee -- Please Note Time Change --	HB0280B , AM CSHB 280(FIN) , introduced 03/27/2026 , passed House 04/01/2026
AK 34 HB 286	ELAM Carrick	An Act relating to an optional municipal tax exemption for the homes of volunteer firefighters and volunteer providers of emergency medical services or mobile intensive care paramedic services; and providing for an effective date.	House, May 6, 2026: (H) COSPONSOR(S): CARRICK	HB0286A , AM HB 286 , introduced 01/28/2026
AK 34 HB 291	COULOMBE G.Nelson Bynum	An Act relating to municipal exemptions from fees for landfills or dumping areas; and relating to optional municipal property tax exemptions.	House, Apr 23, 2026: (H) Heard & Held	HB0291A , AM HB 291 , introduced 02/04/2026

AK 34 SB 10	DUNBAR	An Act relating to family leave wage replacement coverage.	Senate, Jan 22, 2025: (S) Referred to LABOR & COMMERCE	SB0010A, AM SB 10, introduced 01/22/2025
AK 34 SB 14	DUNBAR	An Act relating to the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority; and relating to workforce housing development projects.	Senate, May 1, 2025: (S) Minutes (SFIN)	SB0014A, AM SB 14, introduced 01/22/2025
AK 34 SB 50	DUNBAR Josephson	An Act relating to the comprehensive plans of first and second class boroughs.	Senate, Jul 30, 2025: (S) EFFECTIVE DATE(S) OF LAW 10/14/25	SB0050Z, AM Enrolled SB 50, introduced 05/16/2025
AK 34 SB 55	STEDMAN Myers Shower	An Act relating to employer contributions in the teachers' retirement system; relating to supplemental employee benefits; and providing for an effective date.	Senate, May 15, 2026: (S) COSPONSOR(S): KAUFMAN	SB0055C, AM CSSB 55(FIN), introduced 05/14/2026
AK 34 SB 78	DUNBAR	An Act relating to disclosure of information regarding employee compensation by employers, employees, and applicants for employment.	Senate, Apr 8, 2026: (S) Heard & Held	SB0078A, AM SB 78, introduced 01/29/2025
AK 34 SB 79	SENATE LABOR & COMMERCE	An Act relating to wage payments.	House, May 17, 2026: (H) -- Public Testimony -- -- Recessed to a Call of the Chair --	SB0079B, AM HCS SB 79(L&C), introduced 05/18/2025
AK 34 SB 81	STEDMAN	An Act relating to employer contribution rates in the teachers' retirement system and the Public Employees' Retirement System of Alaska; and providing for an effective date.	Senate, Feb 11, 2026: (S) Referred to FINANCE	SB0081B, AM CSSB 81(L&C), introduced 02/11/2026
AK 34 SB 135	SENATE RULES BY REQUEST OF TASK FORCE EVAL ALASKA SEAFOOD INDUSTRY	An Act relating to the sharing of tax revenue from the fisheries business tax and fishery resource landing tax with municipalities; relating to municipal reports on the shared tax revenue; and providing for an effective date.	Senate, Apr 15, 2025: (S) Referred to FINANCE	SB0135B, AM CSSB 135(RES), introduced 04/15/2025
AK 34 SB 140	STEDMAN Tomaszewski Bynum	An Act relating to a matching grant program for fire station construction and renovation; and providing for an effective date.	House, May 16, 2026: (H) Referred to RULES	SB0140C, AM HCS CSSB 140(FIN), introduced 05/16/2026

AK 34 SB 191	GIESSEL	An Act approving the transfer of land owned by the Alaska Railroad Corporation to the City of Whittier; and providing for an effective date.	Senate, Mar 4, 2026: (S) Referred to RULES	SB0191A, AM SB 191, introduced 05/09/2025
AK 34 SB 213	SENATE RULES BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR	An Act making appropriations for the operating and loan program expenses of state government and for certain programs; capitalizing funds; amending appropriations; making supplemental appropriations; making appropriations under art. IX, sec. 17(c), Constitution of the State of Alaska, from the constitutional budget reserve fund; and providing for an effective date.	Senate, Feb 27, 2026: (S) Minutes (SFIN)	SB0213A, AM SB 213, introduced 01/21/2026
AK 34 SB 214	SENATE RULES BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR	An Act making appropriations, including capital appropriations, supplemental appropriations, and reappropriations; making appropriations to capitalize funds; amending appropriations; and providing for an effective date.	House, May 16, 2026: (H) ENGROSSED	SB0214D, AM HCS CSSB 214(FIN) am H, introduced 05/13/2026, passed House 05/16/2026
AK 34 SB 227	SENATE RULES BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR	An Act relating to the Multistate Tax Compact; relating to apportionment of income to the state; establishing a state sales and use tax; relating to taxes levied by cities and boroughs; relating to the corporate income tax; authorizing the Department of Revenue to enter into the Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Agreement or substantially similar agreement; relating to the oil and gas production tax; establishing an infrastructure maintenance surcharge on oil; establishing a pipeline corridor maintenance fund; and providing for an effective date.	Senate, May 18, 2026: (S) FINANCE at 09:00 AM SENATE FINANCE 532	SB0227B, AM CSSB 227(RES), introduced 02/19/2026
AK 34 SB 259	BJORKMAN	An Act relating to an optional municipal limit to increases of the full and true value of property owned and occupied as a permanent place of abode by a resident.	Senate, May 4, 2026: (S) Heard & Held	SB0259C, AM CSSB 259(L&C), introduced 04/28/2026

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