
Navigate AK Legislative Update — Week of May 11th — City of Whittier

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NAVIGATE AK

City of Whittier

WEEK OF MAY 11TH

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WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Session constitutionally must adjourn by May 20 — nine days away. The Legislature is in its final sprint with the budget, LNG tax bills, and dozens of outstanding bills still unresolved.

Alaska LNG / SAGA Act

Three competing versions of the LNG property tax bill remain unresolved, and the outcome is far from certain heading into the final week. The governor's original proposal would have replaced the existing municipal property tax on the Alaska LNG pipeline with a flat 6¢/mcf volumetric tax — a roughly 90% tax reduction. Both chambers have since rewritten it significantly. The House sets rates at 5¢/mcf for the treatment plant and pipeline, and 10¢/mcf for the liquefaction facility, for a total of 20¢/mcf. The Senate Resources version goes much higher: 15¢ each for the plant and pipeline and 25¢ for the liquefaction facility, totaling 55¢/mcf. Senate President Gary Stevens said last week he is "doubtful" a deal can be reached before adjournment. Governor Dunleavy is personally lobbying in Juneau, calling the tax relief essential to keep the project alive.

Budget

The Senate passed a \$13.9 billion operating budget with a \$1,150 Permanent Fund dividend — \$1,000 base dividend plus a \$150 energy relief rebate — in a 17–3 vote. The House earlier passed its own version with a \$1,500 PFD. A conference committee will need to reconcile the two this week. The education funding boost included in the House version — roughly \$82 million in one-time funding for schools — is a significant sticking point in negotiations. A final budget must pass before adjournment or the state faces a funding gap. The House Finance Committee passed the capital budget largely intact from the Senate version, and it is expected to reach the House floor for a full vote this week.

Education

The education funding debate continues on two tracks. HB 261, which is in hearings this week, would change how school districts calculate their average daily membership student count, allowing them to use the higher of the current year or a three-year rolling average — a stabilization measure for districts experiencing enrollment swings. Separately, HB 374 proposes increasing the base student allocation by \$630 per student, from \$6,660 to \$7,290. Both bills reflect sustained pressure from school districts across the state that are reporting structural deficits heading into the next fiscal year.

Behavioral health

SB 196 and its companion HB 138 would establish a 98¢-per-month surcharge on all phone lines to fund a dedicated Behavioral Health Crisis Services Fund, generating an estimated \$6 to \$8 million annually for the 988 hotline, crisis response teams, and outreach programs. Advocates and youth groups have been lobbying hard in Juneau throughout the session. As of March the bills had not advanced from committee, but the final session push may give them new momentum. HB 52, the Minors and Psychiatric Hospitals bill, which advanced out of the House this spring, is also on the Finance agenda this week.

Labor & construction

HB 260, the Construction Project Wages and Liability bill, is in House Finance this week. It would make project owners jointly liable for unpaid wage violations by subcontractors — a significant exposure concern for any entity that hires contractors on public or private projects. Separately, SB 268 would exempt seafood processing workers from the paid sick leave requirement passed by voters under Ballot Measure 1 in 2024. Senate Labor and Commerce takes up SB 268 on Friday.

SB 251 would repeal the Workers' Compensation Appeals Commission, routing appeals directly to Superior Court. Contractors and employers have raised concerns about potential cost increases and delays under the new structure. The bill has been in Senate Finance but has not yet moved to the floor.

Energy & utilities

SB 250, the Data Centers and Utilities bill, would establish energy supply and reliability requirements for large data center operations in Alaska — a growing issue as AI infrastructure demand increases across the state. HB 385 would simplify the rate filing process for utilities, reducing regulatory burden for electric cooperatives and other providers. Both bills are in committee this week.

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HEARINGS OF INTEREST

Monday, May 11

House Finance Committee

1:30 PM | ADAMS 519

- **HB 381 – OIL & GAS PROPERTY TAX: MUNI TAX**

Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled

Senate Resources Committee

3:30 PM | BUTROVICH 205

- **SB 280 – OIL & GAS PROPERTY TAX: MUNI TAX**

Testimony – Invitation Only

Tuesday, May 12

Senate Resources Committee

9:00 AM | BUTROVICH 205

- **SB 280 – OIL & GAS PROPERTY TAX: MUNI TAX**

Testimony – Invitation Only

House Finance Committee

1:30 PM | ADAMS 519

- **HB 381 – OIL & GAS PROPERTY TAX: MUNI TAX**

Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled

- **HB 193 – UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS; PAID PARENT LEAVE**

Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled

Senate Resources Committee

3:30 PM | BUTROVICH 205

- **HB 117 – COMMERCIAL FISHING; SET GILLNET COOP**

Invited & Public Testimony

- **SB 280 – OIL & GAS PROPERTY TAX: MUNI TAX**

Testimony – Invitation Only

Wednesday, May 13

Senate Resources Committee

9:00 AM | BUTROVICH 205

- **SB 280 – OIL & GAS PROPERTY TAX: MUNI TAX**

Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled

House Finance Committee

1:30 PM | ADAMS 519

- **HB 381 – OIL & GAS PROPERTY TAX: MUNI TAX**

Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled

- **SB 211 – EXTEND OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING BOARDS**

Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled

Senate Resources Committee

3:30 PM | BUTROVICH 205

- **SB 280 – OIL & GAS PROPERTY TAX: MUNI TAX**

Invited & Public Testimony

Thursday, May 14

Senate Resources Committee

9:00 AM | BUTROVICH 205

- **SB 280 – OIL & GAS PROPERTY TAX: MUNI TAX**

Testimony – Invitation Only

House Finance Committee

1:30 PM | ADAMS 519

- **HB 381 – OIL & GAS PROPERTY TAX: MUNI TAX**

Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled

Friday, May 15

House Finance Committee

1:30 PM | ADAMS 519

- **HB 381 – OIL & GAS PROPERTY TAX: MUNI TAX**

Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled

Senate Resources Committee

3:30 PM | BUTROVICH 205

• **SB 280 – OIL & GAS PROPERTY TAX: MUNI TAX**

Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled

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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.	Senate, May 11, 2026: (S) RULES TO CALENDAR 5/11/2026	HB0001B, AM CSHB 1(STA), introduced 05/18/2025, passed House 05/07/2026
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 2, 2026: (S) Heard & Held -- Please Note Time Change --	HB0013D, AM SCS CSSSHB 13(CRA), introduced 03/18/2026
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 derelict vessel prevention program fund.	House, Jul 30, 2025: (H) EFFECTIVE DATE(S) OF LAW 10/22/25	HB0031Z, AM Enrolled HB 31, 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;	Senate, Jan 20, 2026: (S) DPS INTENT LANGUAGE REPORT	HB0053Z, AM Enrolled HB 53, introduced 05/20/2025

		making supplemental appropriations; and providing for an effective date.		
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.	Senate, May 5, 2026: (S) Moved SCS CSHB 184(FIN) Out of Committee	HB0184B, AM CSHB 184(CRA), introduced 05/16/2025, passed House 02/27/2026
AK 34 HB 216	HOLLAND Josephson	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, Apr 30, 2026: (S) Heard & Held	HB0216A, AM HB 216, introduced 05/02/2025, passed House 03/25/2026

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 14, 2026: (S) -- Testimony Invitation Only --	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, Mar 26, 2026: (S) Moved CSSB 55(FIN) Out of Committee	SB0055B, AM CSSB 55(L&C) , introduced 03/26/2025
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 18, 2025: (H) Referred to FINANCE	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 12, 2026: (H) -- Public Testimony -- -- Please Note Time Change --	SB0140B, AM CSSB 140(FIN) , introduced 02/18/2026 , passed Senate 03/04/2026
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	Senate, Feb 27, 2026: (S) Minutes (SFIN)	SB0213A, AM SB 213 , introduced 01/21/2026

		fund; and providing for an effective date.		
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 9, 2026: (H) -- Please Note Time Change --	SB0214B, AM CSSB 214(FIN), introduced 04/16/2026, passed Senate 04/21/2026
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 14, 2026: (S) -- Testimony Invitation Only --	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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