

# NAVIGATE AK

City of Unalaska

WEEK OF APRIL 13

NAVIGATE AK

## WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

### **Session Overview**

The Operating Budget advanced to the House Floor this week, where members are working methodically through amendments. Extended floor sessions are expected to continue, and we will provide a full report once the process concludes or early next week.

### **Tax Reform Proposals**

Activity around the Governor's proposed legislation to replace local property taxes and other municipal revenue sources with an alternative statewide tax structure was relatively quiet this past week. That is expected to change significantly in the coming weeks, with sustained committee action anticipated. We are tracking this closely given the potential downstream effects on local government budgets, service delivery capacity, and organizations that rely on state and municipal funding.

### **Pension Reform: HB 78**

Senate Finance amended HB 78, the bill proposing a return to a Defined Benefit pension system for public employees. The committee increased the employer contribution rate from 22% to 24%, which would add approximately \$28 million in costs for local governments, school districts, and other political subdivisions. The central question taking shape is whether communities are willing to support a return to Defined Benefit plans at this higher cost threshold. For behavioral health and human service providers that contract with or employ public-sector workers, the outcome of this debate could affect workforce recruitment, retention, and the broader labor market for clinical and support staff.

### **Health Policy Watch**

- **Medicaid and workforce funding:** As the Operating Budget moves through the amendment process, line items related to Medicaid provider rates, behavioral health grants, and workforce development are in play. We continue to advocate for funding levels that support the behavioral health workforce pipeline.
- **Health Information Exchange (HIE):** Alaska's Health Information Exchange

remains a focal point in discussions around care coordination and Medicaid modernization. For behavioral health providers, HIE participation directly impacts the ability to coordinate treatment across systems while maintaining compliance with 42 CFR Part 2 substance use disorder confidentiality requirements. We are monitoring any legislative or regulatory action that could affect data sharing mandates or participation timelines.

- Pension reform implications: As noted above, increased employer contribution rates under HB 78 could tighten municipal budgets, which in turn may affect funding available for behavioral health contracts and community-based services.

### **Looking Ahead**

The House returns to the floor Monday to continue work on the Operating Budget. Committee activity across both chambers is expected to pick up significantly, particularly around tax reform and pension legislation. We will continue to monitor all developments relevant to behavioral health policy, workforce funding, and municipal finance, and will provide updates as the landscape evolves.

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NAVIGATE AK

## **HEARINGS OF INTEREST**

**Apr 13, 2026**

**House RESOURCES**

01:00pm | BARNES 124

### **Committee Page**

OIL & GAS PROPERTY TAX; MUNI TAX; -- Testimony --; Presentation: Alaskans Views of Energy Options; by Gwen Holdmann, Chief Scientist, Alaska Center; for Energy and Power; and Diane Hirshberg,; Director, Institute of Social and Economic; Research

### **Bills:**

- **HB 381**  
**Senate RESOURCES**

03:30pm | BUTROVICH 205

### **Committee Page**

OIL & GAS PROPERTY TAX; MUNI TAX; -- Testimony --; Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled; \*\*Streamed live on AKL.tv\*\*

**Bills:**

- [SB 280](#)

**Apr 14, 2026**

**Senate RESOURCES**

09:00am | BUTROVICH 205

[Committee Page](#)

-- Please Note Time Change --; OIL & GAS PROPERTY TAX; MUNI TAX; -- Testimony --; NATURAL GAS PROJECTS/INCOME TAX/SURCHARGE; -- Testimony --; Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled; \*\*Streamed live on AKL.tv\*\*

**Bills:**

- [SB 280](#)
- [SB 275](#)

**House ENERGY**

01:00pm | GRUENBERG 120

[Committee Page](#)

Presentations;; -Geothermal Energy in Alaska by Erin Campbell,; Ph.D, State Geologist and Director of Alaska; Division of Geological and Geophysical Surveys; - Geologic Hydrogen in Alaska by Commissioner; Mark Myers, Ph.D, U.S Arctic Research Commission

**Apr 15, 2026**

**House RESOURCES**

01:00pm | BARNES 124

[Committee Page](#)

OIL & GAS PROPERTY TAX; MUNI TAX; -- Testimony --

**Apr 16, 2026**

**Senate RESOURCES**

09:00am | BUTROVICH 205

**[Committee Page](#)**

-- Please Note Time Change --; OIL & GAS PROPERTY TAX; MUNI TAX; --  
Testimony --; NATURAL GAS PROJECTS/INCOME TAX/SURCHARGE; --  
Testimony --; Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled; \*\*Streamed live on AKL.tv\*\*

**Bills:**

- **[SB 280](#)**
- **[SB 275](#)**

**Apr 17, 2026**

**House RESOURCES**

01:00pm | BARNES 124

**[Committee Page](#)**

OIL & GAS PROPERTY TAX; MUNI TAX; -- Testimony --; FISH & GAME  
WILDLIFE REFUGES

**Bills:**

- **[HB 381](#)**
- **[HB 321](#)**

**Senate RESOURCES**

03:30pm | BUTROVICH 205

**[Committee Page](#)**

OIL & GAS PROPERTY TAX; MUNI TAX; Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled;  
\*\*Streamed live on AKL.tv\*\*

**Bills:**

- **[SB 280](#)**
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## BILL TRACKING LOG

BILL	SPONSORS	TITLE	LAST ACTION	LATEST VERSION
<a href="#">HB 1</a>	<a href="#">MCCABE Underwood Johnson</a>	An Act relating to specie as legal tender in the state; and relating to borough and city sales and use taxes on specie.	House, Mar 27, 2026: (H) COSPONSOR(S): SCHWANKE	<a href="#">HB0001B. AM CSHB 1(STA), introduced 05/18/2025</a>
<a href="#">HB 13</a>	<a href="#">GRAY Eischeid Fields</a>	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, Mar 18, 2026: (S) Referred to STATE AFFAIRS	<a href="#">HB0013D. AM SCS CSSHB 13(CRA), introduced 03/18/2026</a>
<a href="#">HB 18</a>	<a href="#">G.NELSON Rauscher Johnson</a>	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	<a href="#">HB0018A. AM HB 18, introduced 01/22/2025</a>
<a href="#">HB 26</a>	<a href="#">MINA Burke Bynum</a>	An Act relating to the duties of the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities; and relating to a statewide public and community transit plan.	Senate, Apr 8, 2026: (S) CROSS SPONSOR(S): GIESSEL	<a href="#">HB0026E. AM SCS CSHB 26(TRA), introduced 03/25/2026</a>
<a href="#">HB 31</a>	<a href="#">STUTES Kopp Himschoot</a>	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	<a href="#">HB0031Z. AM Enrolled HB 31, introduced 05/20/2025</a>
<a href="#">HB 53</a>	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	<a href="#">HB0053Z. AM Enrolled HB 53, introduced 05/20/2025</a>
<a href="#">HB 65</a>	<a href="#">STUTES Tomaszewski Prax</a>	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	<a href="#">HB0065Z. AM Enrolled HB 65, introduced 02/26/2025</a>
<a href="#">HB 78</a>	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.	Senate, Apr 9, 2026: (S) Heard & Held -- Please Note Time Change --	<a href="#">HB0078D. AM SCS CSHB 78(L&amp;C), introduced 02/02/2026</a>
<a href="#">HB 80</a>	HOUSE LABOR & COMMERCE	An Act relating to minimum standards for residential buildings; relating to	House, Feb 12, 2025: (H) Minutes (HL&C)	<a href="#">HB0080A. AM HB 80,</a>

		construction contractors and residential contractor endorsements; establishing the Alaska State Residential Building Safety Council; and providing for an effective date.		<a href="#">introduced</a> <a href="#">01/31/2025</a>
<a href="#">HB 169</a>	<a href="#">TOMASZEWSKI</a>	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	<a href="#">HB0169A, AM</a> <a href="#">HB 169,</a> <a href="#">introduced</a> <a href="#">04/02/2025</a>
<a href="#">HB 184</a>	<a href="#">STORY</a> <a href="#">Hall</a> <a href="#">Mina</a>	An Act relating to financing by the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority for workforce housing development projects. <b>first hearing, teleconferenced • Senate</b> <b>FINANCE</b> Apr 15, 2026 09:00am SENATE FINANCE 532	Senate, Apr 15, 2026: (S) -- Invited & Public Testimony --	<a href="#">HB0184B, AM</a> <a href="#">CSHB</a> <a href="#">184(CRA),</a> <a href="#">introduced</a> <a href="#">05/16/2025,</a> <a href="#">passed House</a> <a href="#">02/27/2026</a>
<a href="#">HB 216</a>	<a href="#">HOLLAND</a> <a href="#">Josephson</a>	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 30, 2026: (S) Referred to COMMUNITY & REGIONAL AFFAIRS	<a href="#">HB0216A, AM</a> <a href="#">HB 216,</a> <a href="#">introduced</a> <a href="#">05/02/2025,</a> <a href="#">passed House</a> <a href="#">03/25/2026</a>
<a href="#">HB 254</a>	<a href="#">VANCE</a> <a href="#">Coulombe</a>	An Act relating to increases in property assessments.	House, Jan 23, 2026: (H) COSPONSOR(S): COULOMBE	<a href="#">HB0254A, AM</a> <a href="#">HB 254,</a> <a href="#">introduced</a> <a href="#">01/20/2026</a>
<a href="#">HB 264</a>	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	<a href="#">HB0264A, AM</a> <a href="#">HB 264,</a> <a href="#">introduced</a> <a href="#">01/23/2026</a>
<a href="#">HB 280</a>	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, Apr 10, 2026: (S) Referred to FINANCE	<a href="#">HB0280B, AM</a> <a href="#">CSHB</a> <a href="#">280(FIN),</a> <a href="#">introduced</a> <a href="#">03/27/2026,</a> <a href="#">passed House</a> <a href="#">04/01/2026</a>
<a href="#">HB 286</a>	<a href="#">ELAM</a>	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, Mar 20, 2026: (H) Referred to FINANCE	<a href="#">HB0286A, AM</a> <a href="#">HB 286,</a> <a href="#">introduced</a> <a href="#">01/28/2026</a>
<a href="#">HB 291</a>	<a href="#">COULOMBE</a> G.Nelson <a href="#">Bynum</a>	An Act relating to municipal exemptions from fees for landfills or dumping areas; and relating to optional municipal property tax exemptions.	House, Mar 24, 2026: (H) Heard & Held	<a href="#">HB0291A, AM</a> <a href="#">HB 291,</a> <a href="#">introduced</a> <a href="#">02/04/2026</a>
<a href="#">SB 10</a>	<a href="#">DUNBAR</a>	An Act relating to family leave wage replacement coverage.	Senate, Jan 22, 2025: (S) Referred to LABOR & COMMERCE	<a href="#">SB0010A, AM</a> <a href="#">SB 10,</a> <a href="#">introduced</a> <a href="#">01/22/2025</a>

<a href="#">SB 14</a>	<a href="#">DUNBAR</a>	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)	<a href="#">SB0014A. AM SB 14, introduced 01/22/2025</a>
<a href="#">SB 50</a>	<a href="#">DUNBAR Josephson</a>	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	<a href="#">SB0050Z. AM Enrolled SB 50, introduced 05/16/2025</a>
<a href="#">SB 55</a>	<a href="#">STEDMAN Myers Shower</a>	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	<a href="#">SB0055B. AM CSSB 55(L&amp;C), introduced 03/26/2025</a>
<a href="#">SB 79</a>	SENATE LABOR & COMMERCE	An Act relating to wage payments.	House, May 18, 2025: (H) Referred to FINANCE	<a href="#">SB0079B. AM HCS SB 79(L&amp;C), introduced 05/18/2025</a>
<a href="#">SB 81</a>	<a href="#">STEDMAN</a>	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	<a href="#">SB0081B. AM CSSB 81(L&amp;C), introduced 02/11/2026</a>
<a href="#">SB 135</a>	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	<a href="#">SB0135B. AM CSSB 135(RES), introduced 04/15/2025</a>
<a href="#">SB 140</a>	<a href="#">STEDMAN Tomaszewski Bynum</a>	An Act relating to a matching grant program for fire station construction and renovation; and providing for an effective date.	House, Mar 20, 2026: (H) CROSS SPONSOR(S): BYNUM	<a href="#">SB0140B. AM CSSB 140(FIN), introduced 02/18/2026, passed Senate 03/04/2026</a>
<a href="#">SB 191</a>	<a href="#">GIESSEL</a>	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	<a href="#">SB0191A. AM SB 191, introduced 05/09/2025</a>
<a href="#">SB 213</a>	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)	<a href="#">SB0213A. AM SB 213, introduced 01/21/2026</a>
<a href="#">SB 214</a>	SENATE 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.	Senate, Apr 9, 2026: (S) Scheduled but Not Heard	<a href="#">SB0214A. AM SB 214, introduced 01/21/2026</a>

<a href="#">SB 227</a>	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, Apr 8, 2026: (S) -- Testimony Invitation Only -- -- MEETING CANCELED --	<a href="#">SB0227B. AM CSSB 227(RES), introduced 02/19/2026</a>
<a href="#">SB 259</a>	<a href="#">BJORKMAN</a>	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. <b>teleconferenced • Senate LABOR &amp; COMMERCE</b> Apr 15, 2026 01:30pm BELTZ 105 (TSBldg)	Senate, Apr 15, 2026: (S) Uniform Rule 23 Waived -- Please Note Time Change --	<a href="#">SB0259A. AM SB 259, introduced 02/23/2026</a>