

# NAVIGATE AK

City of Unalaska

WEEK OF MAY 17TH

NAVIGATE AK

## WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Big week in Juneau. The gas line legislation is genuinely chaotic right now and both chambers are staring down the end of session (May 20<sup>th</sup>) 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 / gas line — 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 "skullduggery 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 Group, 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 acknowledged that a special session focused specifically on the gas line 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 could 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 <a href="#">HB 1</a>	<a href="#">MCCABE</a> <a href="#">Underwood</a> <a href="#">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, May 13, 2026: (H) DUE BACK FROM GOVERNOR 5/30/26	<a href="#">HB0001Z_AM</a> <a href="#">Enrolled HB 1,</a> <a href="#">introduced</a> <a href="#">05/12/2026</a>

AK 34 <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, May 15, 2026: (S) Referred to RULES	<a href="#">HB0013E_AM SCS CSSSHB 13(STA), introduced 05/15/2026</a>
AK 34 <a href="#">HB 18</a>	G.NELSON <a href="#">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>
AK 34 <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.	House, May 8, 2026: (H) DUE BACK FROM GOVERNOR 5/26/26	<a href="#">HB0026Z_AM Enrolled HB 26, introduced 05/01/2026</a>
AK 34 <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>
AK 34 <a href="#">HB 33</a>	<a href="#">STUTES Himschoot Hannan</a>	An Act relating to participation in matters before the Board of Fisheries and the Board of Game by the members of the respective boards; and providing for an effective date.	House, Apr 30, 2026: (H) EFFECTIVE DATE(S) OF LAW 4/30/26	<a href="#">HB0033Z_AM Enrolled HB 33, introduced 04/24/2026</a>
AK 34 <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>
AK 34 <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.	House, Apr 30, 2026: (H) MANIFEST ERROR(S)	<a href="#">HB0078Z_AM Enrolled HB 78, introduced 04/29/2026</a>
AK 34 <a href="#">HB 125</a>	<a href="#">JIMMIE Foster Kopp</a>	An Act relating to membership of the Board of Fisheries.	Senate, Apr 20, 2026: (S) CROSS SPONSOR(S): DUNBAR	<a href="#">HB0125C_AM CSHB 125(RES), introduced 05/07/2025</a>
AK 34 <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	House, Apr 2, 2025: (H) Referred to COMMUNITY & REGIONAL AFFAIRS	<a href="#">HB0169A_AM HB 169, introduced 04/02/2025</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.		
AK 34 <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; 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.	House, May 16, 2026: (H) AWAITING TRANSMITTAL TO GOV	<a href="#">HB0184C, AM SCS CSHB 184(FIN), introduced 05/13/2026, passed House 05/16/2026, passed Senate 05/15/2026</a>
AK 34 <a href="#">HB 203</a>	<a href="#">MCCABE</a> <a href="#">Foster</a> <a href="#">Tomaszewski</a>	An Act relating to the use of certain trawl or dredge fishing gear in state water; and providing for an effective date.	House, Mar 25, 2026: (H) COSPONSOR(S): G.NELSON	<a href="#">HB0203A, AM HB 203, introduced 04/22/2025</a>
AK 34 <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 HB 254, introduced 01/20/2026</a>
AK 34 <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 HB 264, introduced 01/23/2026</a>
AK 34 <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, May 16, 2026: (S) Moved SCS CSHB 280(FIN) Out of Committee -- Please Note Time Change - -	<a href="#">HB0280B, AM CSHB 280(FIN), introduced 03/27/2026, passed House 04/01/2026</a>
AK 34 <a href="#">HB 286</a>	<a href="#">ELAM</a> <a href="#">Carrick</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, May 6, 2026: (H) COSPONSOR(S): CARRICK	<a href="#">HB0286A, AM HB 286, introduced 01/28/2026</a>
AK 34 <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, Apr 23, 2026: (H) Heard & Held	<a href="#">HB0291A, AM HB 291, introduced 02/04/2026</a>
AK 34 <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 SB 10, introduced 01/22/2025</a>
AK 34 <a href="#">SB 14</a>	<a href="#">DUNBAR</a>	An Act relating to the Alaska Industrial Development and Export	Senate, May 1, 2025: (S) Minutes (SFIN)	<a href="#">SB0014A, AM SB 14,</a>

		Authority; and relating to workforce housing development projects.		<a href="#">introduced 01/22/2025</a>
<a href="#">AK 34 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="#">AK 34 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, May 15, 2026: (S) COSPONSOR(S): KAUFMAN	<a href="#">SB0055C. AM CSSB 55(FIN). introduced 05/14/2026</a>
<a href="#">AK 34 SB 78</a>	<a href="#">DUNBAR</a>	An Act relating to disclosure of information regarding employee compensation by employers, employees, and applicants for employment.	Senate, Apr 8, 2026: (S) Heard & Held	<a href="#">SB0078A. AM SB 78. introduced 01/29/2025</a>
<a href="#">AK 34 SB 79</a>	SENATE LABOR & COMMERCE	An Act relating to wage payments.	House, May 17, 2026: (H) -- Public Testimony -- -- Recessed to a Call of the Chair --	<a href="#">SB0079B. AM HCS SB 79(L&amp;C). introduced 05/18/2025</a>
<a href="#">AK 34 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="#">AK 34 SB 130</a>	SENATE RULES BY REQUEST OF TASK FORCE EVAL ALASKA SEAFOOD INDUSTRY	An Act relating to the fisheries product development tax credit; providing for an effective date by amending the effective date of sec. 2, ch. 31, SLA 2022; and providing for an effective date.	House, May 17, 2026: (H) PASSED Y40	<a href="#">SB0130D. AM CSSB 130(FIN). introduced 03/25/2026. passed Senate 04/01/2026</a>
<a href="#">AK 34 SB 131</a>	SENATE RULES BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR	An Act relating to the duties of the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute; and relating to the seafood marketing assessment.	Senate, May 7, 2025: (S) Referred to FINANCE	<a href="#">SB0131B. AM CSSB 131(RES). introduced 05/07/2025</a>
<a href="#">AK 34 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="#">AK 34 SB 161</a>	<a href="#">CRONK Yundt</a>	An Act relating to the use of certain trawl or dredge fishing gear in state water; and providing for an effective date.	Senate, Mar 4, 2026: (S) Heard & Held	<a href="#">SB0161A. AM SB 161. introduced 04/09/2025</a>
<a href="#">AK 34 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;	Senate, Feb 27, 2026: (S) Minutes (SFIN)	<a href="#">SB0213A. AM SB 213. introduced 01/21/2026</a>

		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.		
AK 34 <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; amending appropriations; and providing for an effective date.	House, May 16, 2026: (H) ENGROSSED	<a href="#">SB0214D_AM HCS CSSB 214(FIN) am H, introduced 05/13/2026, passed House 05/16/2026</a>
AK 34 <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, May 18, 2026: (S) FINANCE at 09:00 AM SENATE FINANCE 532	<a href="#">SB0227B_AM CSSB 227(RES), introduced 02/19/2026</a>
AK 34 <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.	Senate, May 4, 2026: (S) Heard & Held	<a href="#">SB0259C_AM CSSB 259(L&amp;C), introduced 04/28/2026</a>
AK 34 <a href="#">SB 268</a>	<a href="#">STEVENS</a>	An Act relating to minimum paid sick leave requirements for individuals employed in seafood processing.	Senate, May 16, 2026: (S) Referred to FINANCE	<a href="#">SB0268B_AM CSSB 268(CRA), introduced 05/11/2026</a>

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