



## Cordova Legislative Information Office E-News - Issue 15, Volume 30-2

Issued Friday, March 16th, 2018. Covering last week and looking forward through March 24th.  
Non-partisan legislative information for the communities and individuals in District P – 32.

### LIO Update

It is Day 60 of the 2<sup>nd</sup> session of the 30<sup>th</sup> Alaska Legislature. When it started in mid-January, many were hoping for a 90-day session but few expect that to be possible today. However, bills are beginning to move through each house and this week agreement was reached to adopt [House Bill 321](#), the “fast track” supplemental appropriations bill, which assures Medicaid program costs through April, and also funds the Alaska Marine Highway System through the remainder of FY18. Major items included in this \$110.2 million supplemental appropriation:

- \$45 million for the Medicaid program to cover costs through April,
- \$18.3 million for the Department of Corrections to cover higher than anticipated numbers of inmates and inmate health care costs,
- \$24 million to fully fund the Alaska Marine Highway System.

HB 321 also deposits \$30 million for the Community Assistance Fund for distribution in FY 19, transfers \$4 million to the Alaska Disaster Relief Fund, and provides \$5 million for the Alaska Permanent Fund to pay for increased investment management resources related to recent growth to the fund.

The [House Finance Committee](#) considered nearly 100 amendments to the proposed operating budget bills for the next fiscal year, FY19. Late this afternoon, the committee moved both [HB 286](#), the primary operating budget for FY19, and [HB 285](#), the Mental Health appropriations bill, out of committee. Both these bills may now be scheduled for consideration next week by the full House of Representatives during House Floor sessions. You can [check here](#) to see when the House will be debating those bills.

In other important budget news, today, the Department of Revenue released its Spring 2018 updated forecast of revenues. This document uses new data to update their Fall 2017 revenue forecast which was used by the Governor in preparing the proposed FY19 budget. Significantly, the Dept. of Revenue wrote to the Governor “...*Unrestricted General Fund (UGF) revenue is now forecast to be \$2.3 billion in fiscal year FY 2018 and \$2.3 billion in FY 2019. The forecast represents an increase in expected UGF revenue of \$256 million for FY 2018 and \$212 million for FY 2019, compared to the projection in the fall 2017 forecast.*” [Click here](#) to see the letter and Spring 2018 Forecast of Revenues.

#### *Other highlights of the past week:*

- The House approved [HB 259](#), regarding confining vehicle loads and sponsored by Representative Louise Stutes; [HB 79](#), an omnibus reform to workers’ compensation, and [HB 301](#), updating alcohol laws regarding road houses.
- The Senate Education Committee moved [SB 185](#) to the Finance Committee. This bill would establish a process to rehire educators who retire under the Teachers’ Retirement System.

**Next week’s committee agendas** include a number of opportunities for public comment on Governor’s

appointees to various Boards and Commissions. Among them is a hearing Tuesday morning for appointees Orville Huntington (from Huslia) and Duncan Fields (from Kodiak) to the Board of Fisheries.

**For details on public testimony opportunities**, see the attached one page list of hearings scheduled next week; or, you can reconfirm these meetings at the [Public Testimony](#) page at the [Alaska Legislature](#) website.

## **Recent Action on Bills and Resolutions**

Visit the [Subject Summary](#) page and click on whatever subject interests you to see what legislation may be under consideration. **Reminder:** We can track bills for you here at the LIO, or you can setup your own tracking through the [Bill Tracking Management Facility](#) (BTMF) webpage. After indicating your interest in specific bills, you'll receive an email notice whenever an action occurs related to that bill.

## **News Clips & Press Releases**

**The links to the articles in Cordova LIO E-News are provided for information purposes only. The Cordova LIO does not endorse or promote the views expressed in any of the articles or sites linked here. This is not an all-encompassing list; articles and press releases are added as time allows. The primary mission of the LIO is to facilitate communication between Constituents and Legislators; this mission takes priority over all other LIO activities.**

[Parish's education trust fund bill passes House](#) JE 3/16  
[Concerns over Governor's nominee for AK Board of Fisheries](#) KTVA 3/15  
[Alaska Permanent Fund Corporation issues warning to Alaska lawmakers](#) JE 3/16  
[Alaska senator backs bill to allow pot business banking](#) AP 3/16  
[Senators propose spending limit to curb future sprees](#) APM 3/15  
[Salmon, Integrity ballot initiatives approved for election](#) KTUU 3/15  
[Wrangell declares water emergency](#) APM 3/15  
[The Interior Department is preparing for a massive overhaul — and Alaska is its model](#) ADN 3/15  
[New poll shows Juneau leaning pro-road](#) KTOO 3/15  
[Alaska Senate bill looks to address 'graying of the fleet'](#) KTOO 3/15  
[Alaska House votes to boost unemployment benefits](#) JE 3/15  
[Alaska students rally on Capitol steps for school safety](#) AP 3/15  
[Legislative per diem pay likely headed for state ballot](#) KFSK 3/14  
[Fish board takes on hatchery issues](#) PC 3/14  
[Walker hopeful plan to pay off oil tax credit debt with bonds will pass this session](#) KTOO 3/14  
[Sea otter resolution gets first hearing in Senate committee](#) KFSK 3/14  
[Alaskans scorchingly reject Permanent Fund amendment](#) JE 3/14  
[The trans-Alaska pipeline fights off 22 million cyber attacks. Daily.](#) APM 3/14  
[Legislative per diem pay likely headed for state ballot](#) KFSK 3/14  
[Proposed constitutional amendment would protect dividends, sort of](#) KTOO 3/13  
[Timeline set for environmental study of Alaska LNG project](#) AP 3/13  
[Federal agency says gas line can be approved in 2020](#) KTUU 3/13  
[Lawmakers might have more control over the Permanent Fund than they think](#) KTOO 3/13  
[Alaska 'red flag' gun bill gets hearing](#) FDNM 3/13  
[Premera to invest \\$50M in Alaska health care after tax cut](#) ADN 3/13  
[HB 316 would give pass to Alaskans charged with weed possession prior to legalization](#) MSF 3/13  
[Ferry reform effort gets a legislative boost](#) KTOO 3/13  
[Bill proposes taking out bonds to pay off \\$800 million in outstanding oil & gas tax credits](#) KTUU 3/11  
[Alaska's population declines for first time in decades](#) AP 3/11  
[High school environmentalists bring youth voice to the Capitol](#) JE 3/11  
[Alaska House leaders eye constitutional measure for dividend](#) APM 3/11  
[Fate unclear for Alaska smoke-free workplace bill](#) AP 3/11  
[Young, Sullivan praise Trump administration at republican convention](#) KTUU 3/10  
[Opening up about opioids](#) PC 3/10  
[Lisa Murkowski says Trump's steel tariffs could jack up cost of Alaska natural gas project](#) WE 3/9  
[As Alaska GOP candidates for governor square off, speculation abounds about others](#) ADN 3/9

[Number of women in Alaska Legislature reaches new high](#) AP 3/9  
[Petersburg assembly joins call for increased sea otter harvest](#) KTOO 3/9  
[Pricey projects loom for Alaska as erosion threatens runways, roads and more](#) ADN 3/9  
[No oiled wildlife found as cleanup of oil spill near Kodiak Island continues](#) ADN 3/9

## **Quotes for the week**

“Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass. It's about learning how to dance in the rain.”  
—Vivian Greene - *Author, Motivational Speaker*

“A book is a device to ignite the imagination.”  
—Alan Bennet (born 1934) *Playwright, Screenwriter, Actor And Author*

“If you have much, give of your wealth; if you have little, give of your heart.”  
—Arabic Proverb

## **Links and Contacts**

- [Alaska State Legislature](#) [Senator Gary Stevens](#) [Representative Louise Stutes](#)  
1-800-821-4925 1-800-865-2487  
[Senator Lisa Murkowski](#) [Senator Dan Sullivan](#) [Representative Don Young](#)

[Governor Bill Walker](#) [Lt. Governor Byron Mallott](#) [President Donald Trump, White House](#)

- [State of Alaska](#) [My Government](#) [Directory of State Officials](#)

Cordova LIO: **907-424-5461**, Toll free **1-855-424-5461**, Fax 907-424-5462, [Cordova.LIO@akleg.gov](mailto:Cordova.LIO@akleg.gov)  
Office hours are generally Monday thru Friday, 8 to 12:00 and 1 to 4:30. Hours vary to accommodate teleconference schedules and LIO tasks, and may include evenings and weekends, when requested, and confirmed, by prior appointment.

- **For immediate assistance after hours or on weekends call the: Juneau LIO at 1-800-478-4648**  
The Legislative Affairs Agency is on Twitter @AKlegislature. Find the Alaska Legislative Information Offices on Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/AlaskaLIO/>. Track the Alaska State Legislature on mobile apps.



## **Permanent Fund Dividend Division**

***ONLY two weeks left to submit your application!***

The Permanent Fund Dividend **application period ends March 31<sup>st</sup>**.

The Cordova LIO is helping with PFD applications during regular office hours, or by appointment. Please call 424-5461 to schedule an appointment. The LIO can make certified copies of passports and birth certificates so you don't have to mail your originals to the PFD Division.

The Permanent Fund Dividend Division encourages all applicants to file online and use Direct Deposit each year. If you prefer a paper PFD application we will have them and so will the City of Cordova, and the museum.

If you live in another community the PFD Division has a list of [PFD distribution sites](#) for your community. You can also call the Division and request that one be mailed to you: (907) 465-2326.

- ***Alaska Legislative History:***

**Alaska Legislative History.**

Excerpt from the **“100 Years of Alaska’s Legislature”**

23<sup>rd</sup> State Legislature – 2003-2004

“...Lawmakers rejected the Governor's proposals for a three percent statewide sales tax and to use more than \$600 million a year from Alaska Permanent Fund earnings to help fill the state's budget deficit. Legislators did approve a tax on the rental of cars and recreational vehicles, and in a 2004 special session, approved a \$1 per-pack cigarette tax to be phased-in over three years...”

If you would prefer not to receive this newsletter, or other LIO updates, please reply to this email and write “**unsubscribe**” in the subject line, and we will remove you from our email list. Thanks.

For those interested, there are two PDF attachments:

(1) detailing all **Standing Committee** Meetings

Scheduled March 17-24, 2018

Including the House Fisheries Committee

(2) Listing **Public Testimony Opportunities**

Each day the week of March 19<sup>th</sup>



Upcoming  
Public...h19.pdf



CommMtgSch-  
March...24.pdf