



Senate Finance Committee

The Senate Finance Committee is charged with producing and approving the Operating and Capital Budgets for the State. But is also responsible for reviewing and approving all legislation, from both the Senate and the House that requires funding, or would have some form of fiscal impact on Alaska.

Legislation Passed By The Senate Finance Committee

Senate Bill 2: PARENT LIABILITY FOR DAMAGE BY CHILD

Allows recovery of actual cost of intentional vandalism. The rationale: "Vandalism damages a school district's physical plant, has a negative impact on student learning, and demoralizes hard-working staff and students. Every dollar spent on repairing vandalism is a dollar we cannot invest in textbooks, teachers or technology.

Passed Senate Finance

Senate Bill 13: INSURANCE DISCRIMINATION BY CREDIT RATING

Limits the use of credit scoring by insurance companies in Alaska.

Passed Senate and House

Senate Bill 20: BOARD OF MARINE PILOTS

Extends the termination date of the Board of Marine Pilots.

Passed Senate and House

Senate Bill 25: TEACHERS' HOUSING/AHFC LOANS

Provides an incentive for trained teachers, counselors, and administrators to enter into the profession and settle down in local communities, by providing them with no money down financing for a home.

Passed Senate and House

Senate Bill 26: STATE EMPLOYEES CALLED TO MILITARY DUTY

Allows the Governor to ensure that state employees who are members of reserve and auxiliary military units, including the Alaska National Guard, Alaska Naval Militia, and The Alaska State Defense Force will not be financially penalized while on active duty. These courageous Alaskans could continue to receive their state salaries, or the equivalent, and some or all of their state benefits.

Passed Senate and House

Senate Bill 30: ABORTION: INFORMED CONSENT; INFORMATION

Enables women to make healthy, educated choices regarding their own individual and private circumstances, by establishing a website, maintained by the Department of Health and Social Services, where women and doctors can obtain information concerning reproductive choice.

Passed Senate and House

Senate Bill 41: Medicaid Costs and Crimes

Provides the legal tools for the fiduciaries of the Medicaid program to establish program integrity and maintain maximum fiscal control.

Passed Senate and House

Senate Bill 43: EXTEND STATE MEDICAL BOARD

Extends the termination date of the State Medical Board.

Passed Senate and House

Senate Bill 45: LB&A CRIMES AND COOPERATION

Provides prosecutors with the necessary tools to deter and punish those who hinder the investigative work of the legislative budget and audit committee. It also clarifies that information requested from state officials or agencies of state government cannot be claimed to be privileged, except from department commissioners.

Passed Senate and House

Senate Bill 78: MEDICAID FOR BREAST & CERVICAL CANCER

Removes the sunset provision of the 2001 legislation and allows for women who have been participating the program to continue, as well as allowing access to the program for women who will be diagnosed in the future.

Passed Senate and House

Senate Bill 79: EXTEND ALASKA MINERALS COMMISSION

Extends the termination date of the Alaska Minerals Commission.

Passed Senate and House

Senate Bills 100: APPROP: CAPITAL PROJECTS

Makes general fund appropriation for capital projects around the State.

Passed Senate and House

Senate Bill 128: COMMON CARRIER LIQUOR LICENSE

Applies to issuance of a new common carrier dispensary license or renewal of a common carrier dispensary license that occurs on or after the effective date of this Act.

Passed Senate and House

Senate Bill 147: CONTROL OF NUISANCE WILD ANIMALS

Provides authority to the Alaska Board of Game to adopt regulations to allow issuance of permits and licenses to sanctioned designees to control nuisance wild birds and nuisance wild small mammals. Currently, there is no statutory authority for nuisance wildlife control and the means by which ADF&G can sell a license or issue a permit.

Passed Senate and House

Senate Bill 148: PFD: ALLOWABLE ABSENCE FOR MILITARY SVC

Changes the allowable absences for certain members of the armed forces and their spouses and dependents for purposes of eligibility for permanent fund dividends.

Passed Senate and House

Senate Bill 149: TIMBER/ TIMBER SALES/ STATE FORESTS

Repeals certain timber sale requirements.

Passed Senate and House

Senate Bill 157: INPATIENT PSYCHIATRIC SERVICES

Requires the Department of Health and Social Services to use in state facilities, where available, for the psychiatric treatment of eligible persons.

Passed Senate and House

Senate Bill 177: PERS/TRS COLA FOR ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY

Relates to cost-of-living benefits for retired members in the public employees' retirement system and the teachers' retirement system that are called to active military duty.

Passed Senate and House

Senate Bill 185: ROYALTY REDUCTION ON CERTAIN OIL/TAX CREDIT

Amends statutes to provide for reduction of royalty on oil produced in certain Cook Inlet fields and platforms as they near the end of their production capability.

Passed Senate and House

Senate Concurrent Resolution 1: Support Roads/Hot Springs Loop Road

Encourages new economic development generated by new road construction.

Passed Senate and House

House Bill 11: Deposits to the Permanent Fund

Returns the percentage of all mineral lease, royalty, and sale revenues deposited into the Permanent Fund to the constitutionally mandated 25-percent. In 1980, the Legislature decided to deposit 50-percent of those revenues into the fund and has continued to do so; however, the State Constitution has always required only 25-percent. Prudhoe Bay contributes 25-percent of its oil revenues to the Permanent Fund; however, the Alpine and North Star oil fields contribute 50-percent of their revenues to the Permanent Fund. By changing the contribution rate of those fields to 25-percent and directing the remaining funds to the General Fund, Alpine and North Star contributions to the General Fund will replace the declining revenues from Prudhoe Bay. HB 11 will generate an estimated \$42.9 million (average) per year over the next seven years, and \$59.7 million in FY 2004 at an estimate \$25.28 per barrel average. Meanwhile, the decision will not withdraw funds from the Permanent Fund. The Fund will continue to receive 25-percent of state resource revenues; therefore, it will continue to grow.

Passed Senate and House

House Bill 12: Harassment By Electronic Communication

Expands the list of methods of harassment under law to include sending of obscene electronic communications or sending electronic communications that threaten physical injury or sexual contact.

Passed Senate and House

House Bill 16: Stranded Gas Act

Expands the areas of potential gas exploration and development that fall under the Act. Currently, the statute only qualifies natural gas projects that export the gas in liquefied form. HB 16 would allow gas development and transportation in any form and does not specify a pipeline route. HB 16 also extends the June 30, 2001 deadline to March 31, 2005 to allow the state and producers to begin new contract negotiations.

Passed Senate and House

House Bill 23: Restitution for Crime Victims

Enables the court to consider documented volunteer labor as a factor in the process of determining restitution.

Passed Senate and House

House Bill 59: Clean-up of Illegal Drug Sites

Requires the property owner to clean up hazardous materials when law enforcement agencies discover an illegal drug lab. The owner must provide test results that show the levels of contamination to be below Department of Environmental Conservation limits (DEC) before the property can be used again. The DEC or a law enforcement entity will provide cleanup guidelines, testing procedures and a list of laboratories for testing the property to the property owner. Future property buyers must be notified of the previous presence of a lab on the property.

Passed Senate and House

House Bill 71: Extend Board of Midwives

Extends the Board of Midwives until June 30, 2007.

Passed Senate and House

House Bill 74: Extend Board of Nursing

Extends the Board of Nursing to June 30, 2007.

Passed Senate and House

House Bill 90: Tax Credit for Salmon Development

Provides a tax credit for salmon product development. The purpose of the measure is to encourage industry to invest in the production of new value-added salmon products to improve the marketability of Alaska salmon through diversification of product forms. Additionally, the measure would provide an added impetus for new fishery businesses considering processing salmon to make investments in Alaska. House Bill 90 will assist in improving Alaska's competitive position in salmon markets as it is utilized to develop value-added salmon products for placement into world markets.

Passed Senate and House

House Bill 109: Treasury Warrants

Reduces the amount of time that a treasury warrant is valid from two years to six months. HB 109 transmits unclaimed treasury warrants to the administrator of unclaimed property in the Department of Revenue. Then stale-dated warrants can be paid immediately from the standing appropriation for unclaimed property instead of waiting for a new appropriation.

Passed Senate and House

House Bill 159: Financial Institution Examinations

Changes the date of frequency of examinations of Small Loan Companies from 12 months to 18 months to bring the schedule for the examinations in line with the rest of the banking code and eliminate the need for additional bank examiners. The bill also eliminates the Division of Banking, Securities, and Corporations' examination of the Commercial Fishing and Agriculture Bank (CFAB). This examination is unnecessary, because CFAB is required by statute to be audited annually by independent auditors and is subject to legislative audit.

Passed Senate and House

House Bill 160: Emission Control Permit Program

Reforms the permit review process to make permitting predictable, reliable and rational. HB 160 allows DEC's program to reflect national precedents, court decisions, and incorporate best practices from other states into Alaska permits. It differentiates major source from minor source permits. It regulates minor sources based on standardized permit conditions that incorporate best management practices. It exempts sources based on standardized permit conditions that incorporate best management practices. It exempts sources from permitting to the extent allowed under federal law.

Passed Senate and House

House Bill 187: Extend Board of Storage Tanks

Extends the Board of Storage Tank Assistance to June 30, 2007.

Passed Senate and House

House Bill 203: AIDEA Dividends to the State

Allows municipalities to set standards to reassess property damaged by a disaster and reduce taxes on that property.

Passed Senate and House