



# CONSTITUENT NEWSLETTER

*Session Report - April 2003*

## REP. LESIL MCGUIRE

**Serving House District 28 - Southeast Anchorage** including the neighborhoods of Bayshore, Dimond, Campbell Lake, Klatt, Oceanview, Sandlake, and Southport.

### IN THIS EDITION

**Judiciary Committee -**  
*Protecting Our Citizens*

**Coastal Trail Update**

**Dimond High Boundaries**

**Economic Development**  
*Oil & Gas Committee*  
*Trade & Tourism*  
*Committee*

**Constituent Input**  
*I want to hear from you!*

*Chair, House Judiciary*  
*Committee*

*Vice-Chair, Economic*  
*Development, Trade &*  
*Tourism Committe*

*Member, House Rules*  
*Committee*

*Member, Oil & Gas*  
*Committee*

*Member, State-Federal*  
*Research &*  
*Development*  
*Committee*



### To My Friends and Neighbors In District 28:

It seems like just yesterday I was in Anchorage celebrating Christmas and New Years with many of you! It is hard to believe we're already into April and the first session of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Alaska Legislature is more than half over.

As most you of you know, much that has happened since the first day of Session on January 21<sup>st</sup>, both here in Juneau and in Anchorage. I've continued to work tirelessly to bring resolution to the Coastal Trail issue. I have worked recently with Superintendent Comeau to ensure that students from the Bayshore neighborhood will be allowed to continue attending Dimond High School instead being forced to endure a significantly longer commute to the New South Anchorage High School upon completion, and will continue to work on boundary issues that impact other parts of this district.

On March 6<sup>th</sup>, Governor Murkowski finally revealed his budget plans to The Legislature and all Alaska residents. Like many of you, I continue to support the Governor's goal of making government more efficient, but he and I will need your ongoing input to better understand how some of these proposals will impact you on a day-to-day basis. What remains absolutely clear is that we are committed to closing our fiscal gap. But, I want to assure you that I will continue to rely upon your input and advice in making these difficult decisions. I am here to represent you.

Since assuming the chairmanship of the House Judiciary Committee, I have continued my work to protect Alaska's children from violent predators and making "deadbeat" parents responsible for child support. In addition to these efforts, my colleagues on the committee and I have been working on legislation that would strengthen restitution requirements for victims of violent crimes, require clean up of drug sites where hazardous chemicals are present, and protect Alaskans from harassment through email. We have been busy!

I've heard from many of you in the last several months, and I look forward to hearing from even more you over the coming months. Hopefully, if all goes well, session will adjourn on May 21<sup>st</sup> and I will be able to return home shortly thereafter and spend a great summer visiting with all of you.

# HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE:

## *Protecting Alaska's Citizens, Punishing Alaska's Predators*

As Chair of the House Judiciary Committee, Rep. McGuire continues her work of protecting Alaska's citizens and ensuring justice for all Alaskans.

Since January, the Committee has worked on a number of important bills that strengthen Alaska's criminal code. Many of these bills have been incorporated into Gov. Murkowski's comprehensive crime package. In a press conference on Thursday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Governor outlined this package, which included a number of bills under Rep. McGuire's charge. Further, the Governor incorporated a "Minor-In-Possession" bill Rep. McGuire has been working on for introduction to the House Floor. This bill is designed to deter Alaska's youth from the perils of drug and alcohol abuse. Following is a highlight of several of these bills:

### ***HB 52 – "Computer Forfeiture for Sex Crimes"***

This is one of Rep. McGuire's personal bills. Under this bill, the courts would be offered an additional punitive tool, and victims an additional protection, by allowing courts to order the forfeiture of computer equipment used by those preying on Alaska's children through the internet. An ancillary benefit of such forfeitures is that the computer equipment will be offered to state and local law enforcement agencies for their ongoing investigations of high-tech pedophiles. The bill passed the House unanimously on March 5<sup>th</sup> and is currently scheduled to be heard by the Senate State Affairs Committee on April 8<sup>th</sup>.

### ***HB 1 – "Stalking and Protective Orders"***

Co-sponsored by Rep. McGuire, this measure closes a dangerous loophole in Alaska Statute by allowing victims of stalking who are unacquainted with their stalker the security of a judicial protective order. As the law reads currently, in order for a

stalking victim to receive a protective order against their stalker, they must have immediate personal knowledge of their assailant. Punishment for violating protective orders issued in this instance would be a Class A misdemeanor. The Judiciary Committee passed the bill out unanimously on February 14<sup>th</sup> and is waiting to be heard in the House Finance Committee. This bill is co-sponsored by Reps. Harry Crawford and Cheryl Heinze.

### ***HB 12 – "Harassment through Electronic Mail"***

Sponsored by Rep. Kevin Meyer and co-sponsored by Rep. McGuire, provisions of the bill expand the methods of harassment to include sending obscene electronic communications, or electronic communications that threaten physical injury or sexual contact. Despite the fact that these activities do not include physical contact, the trauma to victims is just as real and law enforcement has noted an increase in these types of incidences. HB 12 was passed out by the House Judiciary Committee on February 12<sup>th</sup>, passed by House on February 19<sup>th</sup>, and is awaiting scheduling for a final vote before the Senate. Following approval by the Senate, the bill will be transmitted to the Governor for his approval.

### Council of State Governments

#### **MCGUIRE SELECTED FOR LEADERSHIP POST**

Rep. Lesil McGuire was named Vice-Chair for the Committee on the Future of Western Legislatures and a member of the Executive Committee by the Council of State Governments-West. Sen. Bart Davis of Idaho serves as the committee's chair.

Rep. McGuire began her association with CSG-West in 2001 while attending the Western Legislative Academy where she was elected by fellow freshman legislators from around the country as the Academy's Freshman Class President.

## SESSION CONTACT INFORMATION:

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# CONSTITUENT INPUT

*I want to know what you think*

1. **The fiscal gap is estimated to be \$500 million for Fiscal Year 2004. Which one of the following methods do you support to close the fiscal gap? (Please choose one of the following options.)**

- Reduce state spending only.  
 Institute some form of broad-based taxes only.  
 Use the earnings of the Permanent Fund only.  
 Institute a cap on spending plus some form of broad-based taxes.  
 Institute a cap on spending plus use of the earnings of the Permanent Fund.  
 Use a combination of the above choices.

2. **What is your number one priority for The Legislature to address this session?**

- Developing the economy  
 Closing the fiscal gap  
 Solving subsistence  
 Improving schools  
 Other (please specify)
- 
- 
- 

*Please mail back to: State Capitol, Rm. 118 - Juneau, AK 99801 or Fax: (907) 465-6592*