

Keeping Alaska Families Strong

The Republican-led Majority passed legislation this session that supports the foundation of society – the family. The Legislature worked to reduce tax burdens, to support family-friendly activities, and to use education to discourage behavior that can hurt families.



Preserving Family Finances

SJR 12 urges the U.S. Congress to amend the federal tax code to reduce the marriage tax penalty. Under the current code, married couples pay an average of \$1,480 more in taxes each year than two unmarried people with the same total income.

HB 118 allows municipalities to free senior citizens, disabled veterans, and others receiving state-mandated local property tax exemptions from having to reapply for such exemptions each year.

HB 113 protects health insurance clients from inappropriately lengthy delays in claim processing, by requiring insurers to pay interest on outstanding claims if they did not process them within 30 working days of receipt.

SJR 21 urges the U.S. Congress to extend the authorization date for supplemental block grants to the State of Alaska under the Federal Temporary Assistance to Needy Families Program.

Keeping Family Members Safe

HB 164 encourages state courts to consider placing children from troubled families with grandparents, by assuring grandparents the chance to be heard at their grandchildren's Child in Need of Aid hearings or child custody hearings.

SB 198 creates the Statewide Suicide Prevention Council, made up of 15 members from rural and urban Alaska.

HB 200 establishes July 3 as Drunk Driving Victims Remembrance Day in Alaska, to help preserve the memories of Alaskans killed or victimized by drunken drivers, and to remind all drivers of the consequences of driving impaired.

SB 105 creates an Office of Victims' Rights and a Victims' Advocate to help guide crime victims through the legal process in the aftermath of a violent crime.

HCR 7 proclaimed April 2001 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

SCR 2 declared March 2001 as Sobriety Awareness Month.

Encouraging Family Activities

SB 72 lets the Board of Game create special hunting seasons before the start of the school year, allowing children to go hunting with their parents to take their children hunting without having to miss school.

SB 93 establishes the Arctic Winter Games Team Alaska Trust to provide a consistent funding source.

SJR 5 urges the NCAA to preserve preseason basketball tournaments, including the Great Alaska Shootout and the Top of the World Classic.