Legislative Bulletin # 29-8
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In this issue:
- Legislative Committee Meeting Schedules
- Bills on the Move
- Bills Introduced

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Legislative Committee Meeting Schedule

The following list of committee meetings address issues and bills important to Municipalities for the upcoming week. For a complete list of bills visit the BASIS website. Most of the meetings are teleconferenced. It is best to go through your local LIO office to testify:

**Monday, March 23**
9:00 a.m. – **SB30** – Marijuana Crimes - (S) Finance Room 532
  **SB 64** – School Bond Debt Reimbursement - (S) Finance Room 532
1:00 p.m. – **HB 123** – Establish Marijuana Control Board – (H) Judiciary Capitol 120

**Tuesday, March 24**
8:00 a.m. – **HB146** - Municipal Tax Exemption - (H) CRA Barnes 124
  **HB 118** – Muni Energy Improvement Assessments – (H) CRA Barnes 124
  **SB19** – Boundaries of Road Service Areas – (H) CRA Barnes 124
  **SB 22** - Motor Vehicle Reg. Tax: Collection Costs - (H) State Affairs Capitol 106
1:30 p.m. – **HB 136** – School Bond Debt Reimbursement – (H) Finance Room 519
3:00 p.m. – **HB 148** – Medical Assistance Coverage; Reform – (H) H&SS Capitol 106
3:30 p.m. – **SB13** – Warrantless Search of Electronic Data - (S)CRA Beltz 105

**Wednesday, March 25**
1:00 p.m. – **HB 75** - Muni Reg of Marijuana; Local Election– (H) Judiciary Capitol 120
  **HJR 3** - Congress:Native Tribal Juris. & Authority (H) Judiciary Capitol 120

Legislative Information

The purpose of this newsletter is to help each and every one of you keep up with the legislation that could potentially have a positive or negative impact on your municipality. If you have any questions about any bills, please call us at the AML office. If you hear about legislation that we have missed, please let us know. Sometimes, with the huge flurry of issues, we might miss something.
Thursday, March 26
1:30 p.m. – HB 136 – School Bond Debt Reimbursement – (H) Finance Room 519
 SB 64 – School Bond Debt Reimbursement - (H) Finance Room 519
 (pending Referral)
3:00 p.m. – HB 148 – Medical Assistance Coverage; Reform – (H) H&SS Capitol 106

Saturday, March 28
3:00 p.m. – HB 148 – Medical Assistance Coverage; Reform – (H) H&SS Capitol 106

Bills on the Move

HB 1 – An Act declaring the Arctic policy of the State. This bill is still awaiting a schedule to move to Senate Rules. Two important changes to this bill is deletion of the reference to the Law of the Sea. As you might remember, this has been a priority of AML for a number of years. The Law of the Sea gives the U.S. a seat at the table when it comes to making decisions about the Arctic. However, many more conservative officials feel the Law of the Sea would give away U.S. sovereignty. Also added, was an interesting section that states, “Nothing in this Act is meant to support, endorse, or reestablish the Alaska Coastal Management Program that expired in 2011 and was rejected by state voters in 2012.”

HB 30 – An Act requiring school districts to develop and require completion of a history of American constitutionalism curriculum segment; and providing for an effective date. This bill moved out of (H) Education on 02/27/15 and on to (H) Finance. have a great bill we can pass because it is not going to cost the State anything! However, I think the fiscal note submitted by the Department of Education says it best. “The bill places the responsibility with the local school districts to develop and review the curriculum segment. A student must successfully complete a course in which the curriculum segment is taught in order to receive a diploma. A district may not grant a student waiver of this requirement.” It is NOT about the subject matter (constitutionalism, etc.), but about the fact that the State feels free to, in a time of drastically shrinking budgets, require us to develop a new class that will be required for graduation.

HB 47 – An Act requiring each municipality with a population that decreased by more than 25 percent between 2000 and 2010 that participates in the defined benefit retirement plan of the Public Employees’ Retirement System of Alaska to contribute to the system an amount calculated by applying a rate of 22 percent of the total of all base salaries paid by the municipality to employees of the municipality who are active members of the system during a payroll period; reducing the rate of interest payable by a municipality with a population that decreased by more than 25 percent between 2000 and 2010 that is delinquent in transmitting employee and employer contributions to the defined benefit retirement plan of the Public Employees’ Retirement System of Alaska; giving retrospective effect to the substantive provisions of the Act; and providing for an
**effective date.** This bill moved out of House C&RA and on to House L&C. A hearing is not currently scheduled in (H) L&C.

**HB 53** – An Act relating to the application of pesticides and broadcast chemicals in certain public places near fish habitat or water used for human consumption and on state-owned land, land leased by or to the state, state highways, and state-owned rights-of-way. This bill attempts to restore a public process to state pesticide and herbicide spraying programs and creates protective buffer zones around fish habitat and drinking water sources. This bill responds to regulatory changes made in March 2013 by DEC that eliminated opportunities for public comment on pesticide spraying programs, weakened public notice provisions, and removed requirements that agencies identify water bodies that could be harmed by pesticide application. This bill was heard in (H) Transportation on 03/10/15 where it was held.

**HB 58** – An Act making an entity that is exempt from federal taxation under 26 U.S.C. 501 (c)(3) (Internal Revenue Code) and a federally recognized tribe eligible for a loan from the Alaska energy efficiency revolving loan fund; and relating to loans from the Alaska energy efficiency revolving loan fund. – This bill was heard on 03/05/15 in House Energy. This bill would make it possible for tribal organizations, non-profits and REAAs eligible for a loan from the Alaska Energy Authority revolving loan fund. After being heard, the bill passed out of the Energy Committee and is now on the schedule for 03/20/15 in House L&C.

**HB 59** – An Act relating to marijuana concentrates; and providing for an effective date. This bill delays, for a year, regulations regarding manufacturing and commercialization of marijuana concentrates to allow for a smooth implementation of the initiative and charges the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board with creating regulations relating to marijuana concentrates that include labeling and packaging requirements and prohibitions on the combining of marijuana concentrates with nicotine and alcohol. On 03/10/15, this bill was heard and moved out of (H) Health & Social Services and on to (H) Judiciary. It also picked up another sponsor.

**HB 65** An Act relating to the disclosure of financial information by persons who are subject to the Legislative Ethics Act and by certain public officers, public employees, and candidates for public office. This bill was interesting in that it suddenly attracted a brand new section. Apparently, this section was added at the request of APOC, who stated that this change was requested by municipalities. The current law states that all municipalities with a population of 15,000 or above are required to submit all local public official financial disclosure statements electronically to APOC. The language inserted by APOC changed that to say that all municipalities with a population of more than 5,000 would meet this requirement. This change would affect twelve municipalities that are not included at this time. Now, these municipalities MAY have candidates file electronically if the candidate wishes. However, that is different than a requirement. This new requirement would have affected some communities that may have had a difficult time meeting that requirement (Bethel, Kotzebue, etc.).
requested that the language be stricken from the bill. It was. We are happy. The amended bill passed out of House Judiciary and is now on its way to the Senate.

**HB 72** "An Act making appropriations for the operating and loan program expenses of state government and for certain programs, capitalizing funds, making reappropriations, and 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." This past week, public testimony was heard throughout the state on this Operating Budget bill. We encouraged members to call about Revenue Sharing, even though it is not currently found in the operating budget that they are addressing. The reason for that, as you hopefully heard during our legislative meeting, is that the $60 million which has, in the past, been in the budget for deposit into the Revenue Sharing fund, has not been put into the operating budget. The $57 million that is "slated" to go to municipalities, is actually the result of the $52 million that was deposited during last years' budget. Still, we must be vigilant in reminding them that municipalities need that Revenue Sharing and we want to be sure that they do not reappropriate those funds for other uses. After a full week of testimony, they are now offering amendments based on testimony they have heard (at least we HOPE that is what is going on). I would list all of the amendments, however I am baffled, as there are 99 pages of amendments. I wouldn’t know where to start. I will wait until the new operating budget is accepted and printed and THEN I will tell you what the scoop is. If any of you desire to spend a few days going over all of the amendments, please feel free to do so. It did pass out of (H) Finance on a 25/14 vote. It has been referred to (S) Finance as of 03/16/15.

**HB 75** – An Act relating to the regulation of marijuana by municipalities; and providing for an effective date. The members of the Judiciary committee had many questions and concerns about the limiting of plants. They were concerned about constitutional issues. One member also had many questions about how local police would enforce many of the aspects of these laws. The issue of whether or not boroughs should be given area-wide or non-area-wide powers also came up again. This obviously has not been settled as of yet. A household maximum plant limit has been set at “not more than 12 marijuana plants, with six or fewer being mature: where two or more adults reside.” Also, the word “assisting,” which refers to someone tending plants for someone else who might need assistance with the care of those plants, is expanded in the definition to also include “aiding” or “supporting.” An addition has been inserted that would require the State Control Board (no matter who that might be), to notify the municipality about applications received within ten days of receipt of that application and to share the application fee with that municipality. An appeal process is included in the CS, so that those that may protest the State Control Board’s decision, have a forum with which to do so. Along with the listings of those businesses which could be prohibited by municipalities, language has been added referring to “marijuana clubs.” Also, a section is added to allow communities or “established villages,” (those that are not “municipalities”) to allow for local option. This is currently the practice with decisions on alcohol. Remember, however, that personal possession of marijuana cannot be prohibited, only the operation of marijuana establishments. The eleven pages of this bill
refer to Municipal REGULATORY BOARDS (which to most of us infer that we would be “regulating”). However, remember that I mentioned that SB 30 states that “regulation may only be done by the State.” Do you THINK that they could possibly pass two bills that are in direct conflict? DO YOU THINK THAT COULD EVER HAPPEN???? All of the above questions posed by members of (H) Judiciary have now caused this bill to come to a screeching halt. This was a bill worked on with AML, Mayors, Council Members, Assembly Members, Municipal Attorneys, authors of the initiative and (H)CRA Committee. Compromises were made and a bill was agreed upon. Now, due to disagreements with various members of (H) Judiciary, this bill might very well be dead.

HB 79 – An Act relating to controlled substances; relating to marijuana; relating to driving motor vehicles when there is an open marijuana container; and providing for an effective date. This is the companion bill to SB 30. It was to be heard on Monday, 03/09/15, however, the hearing was canceled. Now, there is a hearing scheduled for March 18th (see above), which is really focused on SB 30 which appears to be the vehicle of choice for this legislation.

HB 104 – An Act relating to immunity for a fire department and employees or members of a fire department. This is the companion bill for SB 43. This bill was heard in (H) CRA on 03/10/15. It was passed and referred to (H) Judiciary. It is not presently on the schedule for a hearing.

HB 118/SB56 - An Act adopting the Municipal Property Assessed Clean Energy Act; authorizing municipalities to establish programs to impose assessments for energy improvements in regions designated by municipalities; imposing fees; and providing for an effective date. – This bill would allow building owners to either borrow money from a municipality or a private lender to implement energy efficiency measures by making property tax assessments available to ensure repayment of the debt. Municipalities may issue bonds to fund a municipal lending. Building owners would voluntarily allow the local municipality to impose a tax assessment on their property. This assessment would be payable annually with property taxes, with the proceeds used to repay the lender or bond holders over the full life of the loan. Due to the assured revenue source, the financing costs should be reduced. This bill had a hearing in (H) Energy on 03/17/15. AML testified in support of this bill, as it is voluntary and simply provides options for municipalities and owners of commercial businesses to make energy efficient changes to the structure. It is expected to move of (H) Energy on 03/24/15 and move on to (H) CRA. Its companion bill (SB 56) moved out of (S)CRA on 03/18/15 and was moved on to (S) Finance.

HB123 - An Act establishing the Marijuana Control Board; relating to the powers and duties of the Marijuana Control Board; relating to the appointment, removal, and duties of the director of the Marijuana Control Board; relating to the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board; and providing for an effective date. This bill was heard on 03/16/15 in (H) L&C were it was held. It is scheduled again for this Friday (03/20/15) where it is expected to move out and go to (H) Judiciary. This bill was introduced by the
Governor and intends to set up a “hybrid” board under the DCCED and shall operate like the Alcohol Beverage Board

**HB 146** – An Act relating to a municipal tax exemption for certain subdivided property. This bill addresses land that has been subdivided. If the “owner” of the land has currently been paying taxes on an (i.e.) 10 acre plot and then subdivides the property until 10 – 1 acre plots, he may have a portion or all of the “increase” of his taxes, due to that subdivision action, partially or wholly exempted from taxation. The municipality must put this exemption into place through ordinance. The exemption on the increased taxes expires when the lots are sold or when a building is built on the property. If any of these lots are sold or built upon, the exemption still stands for the other lots in that subdivision.

**HB 148** – An Act relating to medical assistance reform measures; relating to eligibility for medical assistance coverage; relating to medical assistance cost containment measures by the Department of Health and Social Services; and providing for an effective date. This is the much awaited for “Governor’s Medicaid Bill.” It is scheduled next week with (H) Health & Social Services Committee on 03/24/15, 03/26/15 and 03/28/15. This bill takes advantage of available federal resources by accepting an estimated $146 million in federal Medicaid expansion money; and lays out the Governor’s plans to reform the state’s Medicaid system to ensure the program is affordable over the long term. It would also make health coverage available through Medicaid to Alaskans who earn about $20,314 or less ($9.76 per hour) or married couples who earn $27,490 or less. Through 2016, the federal government will pay 100% of the costs for newly covered Alaskans. After that, the federal match transitions to 90% in 2020 and beyond. An estimated 42,000 Alaskans will become eligible for Medicaid under this bill and it is expected to bring $146 million in new federal money to Alaska in FY16. It is also expected to generate an estimated 4,000 jobs and $1.2 billion in wages and salaries. Alaska can opt out with no penalties if state match goes above the 10% written into federal law.

**HJR 4** – Urging the United States Congress to provide a means for consistently and equitably sharing with all oil and gas producing states adjacent to federal outer continental shelf areas a portion of revenue generated from oil and gas development on the outer continental shelf to ensure that those states develop necessary infrastructure to support outer continental shelf development and preserve environmental integrity. This bill causes me to chuckle. It is great for one’s soul to listen to the Legislative list ALL of the reasons why Revenue Sharing, paid by the federal government to the State government is SO BLASTED IMPORTANT!!!! Why do the feds not get that? DUH!!!!! It was heard and held in Senate Resources. It also gathered a “plethora” of sponsors. Keep a sharp eye on those supporters. We would assume that they will also feel local Revenue Sharing is VERY important.

**HJR 7** – Opposing the proposed designation of an Aleutian Islands National Marine Sanctuary. – This resolution declares opposition to a nomination made by a Washington D.C. based Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER) for
the creation of an Aleutian Islands National Marine Sanctuary. Under the PEER proposal, all current restrictions on fishing and other commerce in the region would be made permanent and new restrictions that would likely prove burdensome to present and future economic activity would be added. In its information on the nomination process, NOAA states that “every nomination starts at the community level” and calls for “community-based support for the nomination.” However, it appears that the groups led by PEER never consulted the dozens of local communities that would bear the brunt of the creation of a sanctuary. This bill was heard in Senate Resources on 03/11/15 where it passed and was moved out of the committee. It is now awaiting transmittal to the Governor for signature.

**SB 1 – An Act prohibiting smoking in certain places; relating to education on the smoking prohibition; and providing for an effective date.** This bill prohibits smoking in enclosed areas in public places; in vehicles used for public transportation; at transportation facilities and depots; at retail stores or shopping centers; and on property owned by local government or by the state. It also prohibits smoking in office buildings, hotels, motels, restaurants, bars, retail stores, common areas in apartments and multiple family dwellings, places of employment, at public or private educational facilities, at adult care residences, at healthcare residences or on a marine vessel operating as a business. Also impacted will be state or municipal parks designated as children’s play areas, in public stadiums or amphitheaters and within 20 feet of a doorway, open window or heating/ventilation system. It does allow smoking at a retail tobacco store or e-cigarette store and on a fishing vessel used exclusively by one person. Smoking in private clubs is only allowed if that club does not serve alcohol. The party responsible for administration and enforcement will be the Department of Health and Social Services, as well as peace officers. This bill was heard in (S) Health & Social Services on 03/11/15 where it passed and moved out of committee. It also picked up many sponsors. It will now be transmitted to the House.

**SB 19 – An Act relating to Road Service Area Boundary Changes.** This legislation was introduced to help Fairbanks (who has a ga-zillion service areas) not find lots split between two service area. This would allow the borough assembly to place the tax lot into one of the service areas. This bill was heard and held in (S) CRA on 03/12/15 and was moved out of committee and has now moved on to the House where it is currently scheduled for (H) CRA on 03/24/15.

**SB 22 – An Act relating to the collection costs for the municipal motor vehicle registration tax; and providing for an effective date.** Approximately 16 municipalities throughout the State levy an Motor Vehicle Registration Tax. The State collects that tax and remits it to the municipality where that vehicle is registered. The State also keeps an 8% administrative fee. The sponsor of the bill feels that technology as enabled administration costs to decrease. Therefore, this bill would lower that percentage to 5.5% of the total tax. On 03/17/15, it was passed in (S) CRA and on the next day, it was referred to (S) State Affairs. It is not currently on the schedule.
SB 26 – An Act making appropriations, including capital appropriations and other appropriations; making appropriations to capitalize funds; and providing for an effective date. This is the first “flurry” of hearings on the capital budget and has mostly consisted of hearing about capital requests from presenters representing the different state agencies. It has been heard the first four days of this week and will also be heard on Friday (after this ebulletin goes to “press”). You can bet that this budget will be much, much smaller than any budget we have seen before. Stay tuned.

SB 30 – An Act relating to controlled substances; relating to marijuana; relating to driving motor vehicles when there is an open marijuana container; and providing for an effective date. This bill “shrank” from an 88 page bill to a 23 page bill. It appears to be a bit “regulatively” heavy, however. There are now pages and pages of what is how much marijuana can be transported, how it can be transported, what the violations are, etc. AML, however, did send a letter and testified to Section 33 which attempted to water down the ability for local government to regulate. In reaction to our testimony, an amendment was offered to delete that language. This newer version re-classifies marijuana as a “controlled substance.” Boy, did that bring the public commenters. Also a bone of contention was the added requirement that would limit the daily sales to one-ounce per person. How the record keeping could be accomplished to make sure that happens is a job creator for some poor soul. This bill is now sitting in Senate Finance, but things appear to have stalled. The bill was supposed to move out of Senate Finance, but the amendments sent everyone reeling and now the hearings have all been canceled and the “plan” for this bill to move out of the Senate and move on to the House has not happened. While we are discussing this subject, ALL of the marijuana bills have appeared to stall. This will put a whole new twist on how municipalities deal with marijuana.

SB 43 – An Act relating to immunity for a fire department and employees or members of a fire department. Employees of municipal fire departments are immune from liability, however, contract fire departments, made up mostly of volunteers, are not. This bill extends that immunity to contract fire departments. This bill was heard and held in (S) Judiciary on 03/18/15 where there was “invited” and public testimony. It is currently not on the schedule for another hearing.

SB 45 – An Act relating to parks and recreation service area boundary changes. This bill provides municipalities with a method for collecting taxes from property owners currently benefiting from services provided by taxes paid from others in the service area. As development occurs, “doughnut holes” are often left in service areas. These areas can continue to carry a vote to keep themselves from paying the taxes that others in their area already pay. This bill was scheduled to be heard in (S) C&RA, but was not heard last week, but has been rescheduled to 03/19/15.

SB 60/HB 116 - An Act establishing the Marijuana Control Board; relating to the powers and duties of the Marijuana Control Board; relating to the appointment, removal, and duties of the director of the Marijuana Control Board; relating to the
Alcoholic Beverage Control Board; and providing for an effective date. This is a companion bill to HB 123. Under this bill, the Director of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board will also be the director of the Marijuana Control Board. The Marijuana Control Board will have 5 members, represented by public health; rural; public safety; and the marijuana industry. This board will be under the Department of Commerce, Community & Economic Development (or Chris, as we now call it). It would also allow for “transition” regulations such that if the Alcoholic Control Board adopts any regulations before the Marijuana Control Board is created, those regulations can be implemented, enforced, amended, or repealed by the Marijuana Control Board. This bill was heard in (S) Labor & Commerce on 03/10/15 and held. The companion bill (HB 116) was heard and held in (H) Finance on 03/19/15.

SB 62 – An Act relating to the regulation of marijuana, marijuana testing, marijuana products, and marijuana accessories; relating to the licensing of marijuana retailers, producers, processors, boutique producers, brokers, and home growers; relating to taxation of marijuana; and providing for an effective date. This bill was heard in Senate State Affairs for a LONGGGGGGGGGGGG time on 03/05/15, where it was held. It was again scheduled for 03/12/15, but they never got to it. I have to say, I think the Legislature is having a bit of trouble on the marijuana legislation (all of it). They are not sure what to do and there seems to be a strong push and shove going on between those who want to regulate everything and the public, who says………………..“chill.” The marijuana initiative specifically stated that the registration fee for a business applicant, be capped at $5,000, with one-half of that fee being forwarded to the local government. I know you will find this hard to believe, but that section to share that application fee has been removed (the estimate for that amount is about $6 million shared by municipalities that allow sales/testing of some sort). We will have to watch this carefully.

SB 64 – An Act relating to school bond debt reimbursement; and providing for an effective date. Due to the deficit, this bill would see the state put a five-year moratorium on the school bond debt reimbursement program. This would have a huge impact on municipalities and we will watch as this bill moves through the process. On 03/17/15, this bill moved out of (S) Education and was referred to (S) Finance. There was a substantial amendment submitted and accepted in (S) Finance which would move the “effective” date of this legislation from May 1, 2015 back to January 1, 2015. That would prohibit any municipalities who have a bond packet currently on an upcoming ballot to NOT be reimbursed. When this moratorium expires in 2020, the reimbursement rates for school construction would be reduced from 70% to 50% for some projects and for others (criteria is found in AS 14.11.100) from 60% to 40%.
HB 23 – An Act relating to sexual abuse and sexual assault awareness and prevention efforts in public schools. This bill would require schools to create age-appropriate curricula. Curricula is instructed to include warning signs of abuse, referral and resource information, counseling and support, methods for increasing awareness, and actions a child may take to protect themselves.

HB 24 – An Act relating to the procurement of architectural, engineering, or land surveying services under state-funded contracts. This bill has visited us before. This bill requires all contracts, awarded under state-funded contracts, to be selected based on “qualifications” rather than price. Price may be used as part of the criteria if the people reviewing the contracts, are registered engineers, themselves. Otherwise, they don’t trust municipalities to do it right. The municipality shall also consider “proximity” to the project site. As far as we can tell, when a municipality puts out a bid for a state-funded job for the architectural, engineering or land surveying section of that project, the bids you select will be based on the qualities of a company. All of you will then sit down and negotiate the price. If you can’t come up with a price you all agree with, you must start over. The comment we got from some of the engineers pushing this bill was that price shouldn’t matter when it comes to selecting a good firm. OF COURSE PRICE MATTERS!!!!! Unless you have endless streams of money.

HB 34 – An Act relating to the amount of workers’ compensation benefits in the case of permanent partial impairment. This bill attempts to give injured workers a higher base for permanent total disability and permanent partial disability. It has been quite a while since the $177,000 amount was established, so it probably needs to be updated. More, most likely, will be added to this bill.

HB 57 – An Act relating to voter identification at the polls; and relating to the counting of absentee and questioned ballots. This bill is built upon the statute that requires certain identification before allowing a person to vote. However, added to this statute is section which states the identification may be waived if, “the voter is on the official registration list to vote in the precinct. If the identification requirements are waived under this subsection, the election official shall sign beside the voter’s name in the register kept under AS 15.15.180. It also states that an absentee ballot or a questioned ballot may NOT be counted if the voter voted in person and was not eligible for waiver of the identification requirement (personally known).

HB 78 – An Act bearing the short title of the “Alaska Competitive Energy Act of 2015”; and relating to the Regulatory Commission of Alaska. This bill would give boroughs and cities the ability to regulate, fix, establish and change the rates and charges imposed by a utility that is not subject to regulation. It appears to make changes to ensure that the “end user” is offered an affordable, competitive pricing
schedule and to bring unregulated utilities in line with the state energy policy (AS 44.99.115).

**HB 86** – An Act relating to investment of the Power Cost Equalization Endowment Fund; and providing for an effective date. This extends the language of the Power Cost Equalization Fund to no longer require a stated return (7%), but to have the investments done in a manner that will, “meet the objectives of the power cost equalization and rural electric capitalization fund.”

**HB 104** – An Act relating to immunity for a fire department and employees or members of a fire department. This bill to protect an employee or member of a fire department or the department itself from an act or omission in the execution of a function for which the department is established.

**HB 105** – An Act relating to the programs and bonds of the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority; related to the financing authorization through the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority of a liquefied natural gas production plant and natural gas energy projects and distribution systems in the state; amending and repealing bond authorizations granted to the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority; and providing for an effective date. This bill has no hearings scheduled at this time, but it has been referred to House Resources.

**HB 113** - An Act relating to accrual of service in the public employees' retirement system by a peace officer or firefighter while the peace officer or firefighter is unable to work and is receiving workers' compensation benefits; and requiring the state to make certain contributions under the defined contribution plan of the public employees' retirement system for a peace officer or firefighter who is unable to work and is receiving workers' compensation benefits. Introduced on 2/18/2015 and referred to House Labor & Commerce.

**HB 115** - An Act relating to the transfer of public land from the federal government to the state and to the disposal of that land; and providing for an effective date. Introduced on 2/18/2015 and referred to House Resources. It is scheduled for Public Testimony on 2/27/2015

**HCR 1** – Urging the Governor to acknowledge officially the sovereignty of Alaska tribal governments, to create clear and consistent policies for increased state collaboration and partnership with tribes, and to direct the attorney general to conduct a complete review of the state’s litigation against Alaska Native tribes; urging the Governor to acknowledge the inherent criminal jurisdiction of Alaska tribal governments over tribal members within the boundaries of their villages; urging the Governor to cooperate with tribes’ efforts to transfer Native land to trust; and urging the Governor to support multilateral negotiations between tribal governments, nontribal municipalities, and the state government to delineate clearly tribal geographical jurisdictions. This bill very simply lays out the following:
1) stop the lawsuits against Alaska Native tribes; 2) acknowledge the criminal jurisdiction that tribes have over their members within their village boundaries; 3) help tribes with the on-going effort to transfer Native land to trust; 4) support negotiations to define geographical jurisdiction; and 5) issue a proclamation officially acknowledging the sovereignty of Alaska tribal governments with clear and consistent policy.

**HCR 10** - Supporting the Alaska Maritime Workforce Development Industry Advisory Committee and further efforts to carry out the Alaska Maritime Workforce Development Plan.

**HJR 3** – Urging members of the Alaska delegation to the United States Congress to introduce substantially similar legislation to the Alaska Safe Families and Villages Act of 2013; urging the United States Congress to affirm the criminal jurisdiction of Alaska tribal governments over tribal members within the boundaries of their villages; urging the United States Congress to cooperate with tribes’ efforts to transfer Native land to trust; and supporting multilateral negotiations between tribal governments, nontribal municipalities, and the state and federal governments to delineate clearly tribal geographical jurisdictions.

This resolution intends to acknowledge tribal governments by the state to be forthcoming. It also urges Congress to introduce new legislation to go along with the discussion begun during 2013 which showed less than desirable conditions in many of the Native Alaska villages. One of the main “asks” is for the U.S. Congress to affirm the criminal jurisdiction of Alaska tribal governments over tribal members and to expedite the transfer of Native land to trust.

**HJR 8** – (SJR 4) Urging the federal government to empower the state to protect the state’s access to affordable and reliable electrical generation. This is another “federal overreach” message attempting to encourage the federal government to “empower” the state to regulate its own energy production and use, in order to protect access to affordable and reliable electrical generation for residents of the state.

**SB 7** – An Act directing the Regulatory Commission of Alaska to provide a report to the legislature relating to electrical transmission in certain areas of the state; and providing for an effective date. This bill would direct the RCA to first, evaluate the creation of an independent entity would have responsibility to maintain the reliability of the electrical transmission facilities of the Railbelt area. While, in the ideal world, this might be a very wise choice, again, I think AML needs to look at this state wide. Does this put more energy money into one area, making “less” energy money available for other areas that would LOVE to have someone “maintain” the reliability of their electrical transmission facilities?

**SB 12** – An Act relating to the payment of sick leave by employers; and providing for an effective date.

**SB 13** – An Act prohibiting the state and municipalities from using assets to assist a federal agency in collecting certain telephone records or electronic data
without a warrant; prohibiting the state from cooperating with a federal agency in collecting certain telephone records or electronic data without a warrant; and providing for an effective date. Added to the existing statute is the “prohibition against cooperation with federal agencies engaged in collection of telephone records or electronic data,” and “the collection by a federal agency of electronic data without a search warrant; in this paragraph, electronic data includes electronic mail and text messages; or the collection by a federal agency of telephone records without a search warrant, unless the records are collected in a manner consistent with state law.” Also, “Prohibition against cooperation with federal agencies engaged in collection of telephone records or electronic data.” I think that the most important “additions” to this bill, for our purposes, is the addition of “text” and emails.”

**SB 17** – An Act relating to denial of requests for disclosure of public records. This bill would require that a denial of a request for a public record be 1) in writing; 2) identify the type of record; 3) identify the date of the record; 4) identify the subject matter of the record; 5) state the reason for the denial; 6) if correspondence, identify the sender and recipient of the record; 7) includes notice of the right to appeal; 8) is dated and signed by the person issuing the denial.

**SB 34** – An Act relating to investment of the Power Cost Equalization Endowment Fund; and providing for an effective date. This extends the language of the Power Cost Equalization Fund to no longer require a stated return (7%), but to have the investments done in a manner that will, “meet the objectives of the power cost equalization and rural electric capitalization fund.”

**SB 36** – An Act relating to electronic publication of certain municipal notices and to publication and electronic distribution of reports by state agencies. This bill would allow a municipality, by ordinance, to provide for electronic notices on a website for three consecutive weeks rather than posting in a general in a newspaper of general circulation, once a week, for three weeks. Small communities, without a newspaper OR website, could still post in three public places for 30 days (current law).

**SB 61** – An Act establishing a museum construction grant program in the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development.

**SJR 13** – Supporting oil and gas exploration and development on the outer continental shelf offshore of the state; opposing attempts to prohibit future oil and gas development in the Beaufort and the Chukchi Seas, including the Hanna Shoal area; and requesting that the federal Administration cease and desist from restrictions that adversely affect active or future leases in high petroleum potential areas in the Beaufort and Chukchi Seas, including the Hanna Shoal area.
SR 1, 2, and 3 – Establishing a Senate Special Committee on World Trade (1), Arctic (2), and Energy (3). These three resolutions would set up (refer to HR 2, 3, and 4) Special Senate Committees to sunset at the end of the 2nd year of the 29th Legislature.

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