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 web site. Most of these meetings are teleconferenced. They also started to video stream all committee meetings in the state capitol. Check it out at http://akl.tv.

It is best if you go through your local LIO office. If you are unable to go through your local LIO office, you must call the Chair of the Committee in which the bill is being heard for "authorization" and the new off-net call in number.

**Monday, February 24th, 2014**

**HB278** – Education: Funding/Tax Credits/Programs – 8:00 A.M. (H) Education

**SB139** – Education: Funding/Tax Credits/Programs – 8:00 A.M. (S) Education

**SB138** – Gas Pipeline; AGDC; Oil & Gas Prod. Tax – 8:00 A.M. (S) Resources

**HB225** – School Funding: REQ’D Local Contribution – 1:00 P.M. (H) Judiciary

**HB199** – VPSO Firearms – 1:30 P.M. (H) Finance

**Tuesday, February 25th, 2014**

**SB138** – Gas Pipeline; AGDC; Oil & Gas Prod. Tax – 9:00 A.M. (S) Resources

**HB223** – Muni Tax Exemption: Mil. Facility Zone – 3:30 P.M. (S) CRA

**SB138** – Gas Pipeline; AGDC; Oil & Gas Prod. Tax – 5:00 P.M. (S) Finance

**Wednesday, February 26th, 2014**

**HB278** – Education: Funding/Tax Credits/Programs – 8:00 A.M. (H) Education

**SB139** – Education: Funding/Tax Credits/Programs – 8:00 A.M. (S) Education

**SB138** – Gas Pipeline; AGDC; Oil & Gas Prod. Tax – 9:00 A.M. (S) Finance

**Thursday, February 27th, 2014**

**SB138** – Gas Pipeline; AGDC; Oil & Gas Prod. Tax – 9:00 A.M. (S) Finance

**SB98** – VPSO Firearms – 9:00 A.M. (S) State Affairs

**Friday, February 28th, 2014**

**HB278** – Education: Funding/Tax Credits/Programs – 8:00 A.M. (H) Education

**SB139** – Education: Funding/Tax Credits/Programs – 8:00 A.M. (S) Education

**SB147** – Base Student Allocation – 8:00 A.M. (S) Education
HB278 - TITLE: "An Act increasing the base student allocation used in the formula for state funding of public education; repealing the secondary student competency examination and related requirements; relating to high school course credit earned through assessment; relating to a college and career readiness assessment for secondary students; relating to charter school application appeals and program budgets; relating to residential school applications; increasing the stipend for boarding school students; extending unemployment contributions for the Alaska technical and vocational education program; relating to earning high school credit for completion of vocational education courses offered by institutions receiving technical and vocational education program funding; relating to education tax credits; making conforming amendments; and providing for an effective date."

This bill would increase the Base Student Allocation (BSA) in FY15 by $85 per student to $5,765, FY16 by $58 per student to $5,823 and FY17 by $58 per student to $5,881. It will also remove the High School Exit Exam, require that a school district provide a high school student an opportunity to “test out” of a class and allow students to earn course credits in math, language arts, science, social studies, and world languages by demonstrating mastery of content through a district-approved assessment. This bill will give tax credits to a private sector business for partnering with a local school district to provide scholarships to students earning dual credits. It will extend the sunset date of the technical vocational education program until 2024. This bill will also require a school board to provide a written approval or denial of a charter school application with relevant findings and allow the denied applicant to appeal the denial to the commissioner for reconsideration. Lastly, this bill would require the Department of Education and Early Development to open an annual application period for Residential Schools. HB278 was heard and held in House Education.

HB199 - TITLE: "An Act relating to Department of Public Safety regulations allowing village public safety officers to carry firearms."

This bill will establish the legislature’s intent that Village Public Safety Officers (VPSOs) by allowed to carry firearms. Under the legislation, VPSOs equipped with firearms would have to meet satisfactory standards. This bill was moved out of House State Affairs.

SB157 - TITLE: "An Act relating to municipal fire protection service area boundary changes."

This bill would allow a municipality to decrease or transfer, by ordinance, a small number of parcels in a fire service area without holding an election of the entire service area. It would enable fire response from the most proximate fire department and allow for municipalities to define more natural service area boundaries. This Bill was heard and held in Senate Community and Regional Affairs.

HB19 - TITLE: "An Act relating to permanent motor vehicle registration; relating to the registration fee for noncommercial trailers and to the motor vehicle tax for trailers; and providing for an effective date."

This bill was heard in House Rules this last Tuesday (02/18/2014). This bill intends to allow owners of vehicles that are 8 years old or older (the vehicles..............not the owners), to permanently register those vehicles. While bringing in additional motor vehicle registration tax to those 16 municipalities that take part in that program due to all those with older cars coming in to re-register, those same municipalities would not see the motor vehicle registration tax for the remainder of the life of that vehicle. The total MVRT collected in the 16 communities, on cars 8 years old or older, was $15.7 million in 2012. That would be a substantial loss to municipalities. So, Rep. Craig Johnson (Anchorage) offered an amendment that was accepted by the committee to have the program changed to an “opt-in” program. This would allow a community that wishes to offer permanent registrations on older vehicles and/or feels they can afford to give up the tax revenues, opt-in to the program. AML and a number of Mayors affected by this bill testified. God bless them all!
SB138 - **TITLE:** "An Act relating to the purposes of the Alaska Gasline Development Corporation to advance to develop a large-diameter natural gas pipeline project, including treatment and liquefaction facilities; establishing the large-diameter natural gas pipeline project fund; creating a subsidiary related to a large-diameter natural gas pipeline project, including treatment and liquefaction facilities; relating to the authority of the commissioner of natural resources to negotiate contracts related to North Slope natural gas projects, to enter into confidentiality agreements in support of contract negotiations and implementation, and to take custody of gas delivered to the state under an election to pay the oil and gas production tax in kind; relating to the sale, exchange, or disposal of gas delivered to the state under an election to pay the oil and gas production tax in kind; relating to the duties of the commissioner of revenue to direct the disposition of revenues received from gas delivered to the state in kind and to consult with the commissioner of natural resources on the custody and disposition of gas delivered to the state in kind; relating to the authority of the commissioner of natural resources to propose modifications to existing state oil and gas leases; making certain information provided to the Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Revenue exempt from inspection as a public record; making certain tax information related to an election to pay the oil and gas production tax in kind exempt from tax confidentiality provisions; relating to establishing under the oil and gas production tax a gross tax rate for gas after 2021; making the alternate minimum tax on oil and gas produced north of 68 degrees North latitude after 2021 apply only to oil; relating to apportionment factors of the Alaska Net Income Tax Act; authorizing a producer’s election to pay the oil and gas production tax in kind for certain gas and relating to the authorization; relating to monthly installment payments of the oil and gas production tax; relating to interest payments on monthly installment payments of the oil and gas production tax; relating to settlements between producers and royalty owners for oil and gas production tax; relating to annual statements by producers and explorers; relating to annual production tax values; relating to lease expenditures; amending the definition of gross value at the ‘point of production’ for gas for purposes of the oil and gas production tax; adding definitions related to natural gas terms; clarifying that credit may not be taken against the in-kind levy of the oil and gas production tax for gas for purposes of the exploration incentive credit, the oil or gas producer education credit, and the film production tax credit; making conforming amendments; and providing for an effective date."

This bill lays out all of the “workings” between the partners in the advancement of a large-diameter natural gas pipeline. This bill is LONGGGGGGGGGGGGG, and if you have a particularly boring evening ahead of you, feel free to read it. It deals with: what funding may be used for this pipeline; the creation of subsidiaries for the pipeline project; the creation of a public corporation; defines a subsidiary board for the pipeline; allocates certain powers to those board members; allowing for the share of royalty gas leases; the confidentiality of tax information; the authority of the Revenue Commissioner and the DNR Commissioner. Then there are pages and pages about the taxing formulas which made my head hurt. Hopefully, it will get clearer to all of us as time goes by. This bill was heard and held in Senate Resources.

HB223 - **TITLE:** "An Act authorizing municipalities to exempt or partially exempt for up to 10 years property in a military facility zone that creates or supports industry, development, or educational or training opportunities."

This bill gives authority for a local government to seek up to 10 years of full or partial property tax exemptions in a Military Facility Zone that creates or supports industry, development, educational or training opportunities related to defense activities in Alaska. It allows broad authority for local property tax exemptions to be specifically defined by individual local communities, providing the maximum benefit to their region. This bill was heard and held in Senate Community and Regional Affairs.
NONE!!