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ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

SUMMER CONFERENCE 2021

LEGISLATION OF INTEREST

MUNICIPAL
RETIREMENT
ELECTIONS
LANDS
HEALTH
PUBLIC SAFETY
FISCAL PLAN

RESOURCES
ENERGY
INFRASTRUCTURE
TRANSPORTATION
COVID RESPONSE
REVENUES &

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- HB 32 IMMUNITY RV PARKS AND CAMPGROUNDS
- HB 50 MUNICIPAL REGULATION OF TRAPPING
- HB 88 EQUAL PAY & MINIMUM WAGE ACT
- HB 90 VEHICLE RENTALS AND VEHICLE RENTAL NETWORKS
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SB 61 O&G LEASE DNR: MODIFY NET PROFIT SHARE

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SB 188 SEAFOOD PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT

ENERGY, INFRASTRUCTURE, AND TRANSPORTATION

HB 74 // SB 54 AHFC WATER, SEWER, TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS BONDING

HB 134 // SB 103 // HB 63 AMHS BOARD

HB 154 EXEMPTION OF LOW VOLTAGE PROJECTS

SB 74 // HB 93 GO BONDS; STATE INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

SB 123 ENERGY INDEPENDENCE PROGRAM AND FUND

SJR 11 ROAD BELT ELECTRICAL TRANSMISSION LINE

COVID₁₉ RESPONSE

- HB 1 AUDIT CARES ACT
- HB 76 EXTEND PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY DISASTER DECLARATION
- HB 128 USE OF INTERNET FOR CHARITABLE GAMING
- HB 150 IMMUNITY FROM LIABILITY: COVID-19 EXPOSURE
- HB 45 WORKERS' COMP CONTAGIOUS DISEASE PRESUMPTION OF COMPENSIBILITY
- HJR 13 URGE EXEMPTION FOR CRUISE SHIPS
- IMMUNITY FROM LIABILITY: COVID-19 EXPOSURE
- APPROPRIATION K-12 RECOVERY FROM COVID-19

REVENUES AND FISCAL PLAN

- **HB 9 INCOME TAX // PFD**
 - **HB 37 STATE INCOME TAX; PERMANENT FUND**
 - **HB 130 CORPORATE TAX**
 - **HB 141 APPROPRIATION LIMIT**
 - **SB 100 STATE INCOME TAX**
 - **SB 107 O&G PRODUCTION TAX**
 - **SB 53 PERMANENT FUND ADVISORY VOTE**
 - **SB 13 O&G PROPERTY TAX**
 - **HB 202 PERMANENT FUND DIVIDEND; ROYALTIES**
 - **APPROPRIATE EARNINGS RESERVE TO PERMANENT FUND**
- HB 57 FUNDS SUBJECT TO CBR SWEEP PROVISION**
HJR 6 CONST AMEND; APPROPRIATION LIMIT; CBR
HJR 7 CONST AMEND; PERMANENT FUND & PFDS
HJR 8 CONST AMEND; STATE TAX VOTER APPROVAL
HJR 10 CONST AMEND; PERMANENT FUND; POMV; PFD
SJR 5 CONST AMEND; APPROPRIATION LIMIT
SJR 6 CONST AMEND PFD // PCE
SJR 7 CONST AMEND STATE TAX VOTER APPROVAL
HB 73 PERMANENT FUND ADVISORY VOTE
HB 189 EMPLOYMENT TAX FOR EDUCATION

SB 6 Retirement Incentive Program

- Option for state agencies, municipalities and school districts to consider as a means to reduce payroll costs without layoffs.
- The bill would implement a temporary, voluntary Retirement Incentive Program intended to increase state savings by allowing public employees to retire up to three years early.
- Long- serving public employees are among the highest paid in the state. In many cases, pensions paid to retiring employees would cost the state less money than their current salaries.
- Providing high-salaried employees the option to retire early would save Alaska money through lower personnel costs.

SB 9 – Title 4 Rewrite

- Amended to allow for all municipalities with planning powers to petition the Alcohol Board for the issuance of additional licenses if the municipality meets or exceeds the number of the particular licenses allowed by the population limits.
- It would allow for more local control. Currently, there is co-regulation on marijuana without limitations on marijuana licenses set by state law and it is working well.
- It was also amended to allow for more flexibility and to continue the COVID19 practice of permitting on-line alcohol beverage education courses.

SB 15 – OPEN MEETINGS ACT

If a public official knowingly violates the Open Meetings Act:

- First Offense of violation results in a warning
- Second Offense results in a civil penalty not to exceed \$1,000
- Third Offense results in a class B misdemeanor

HB 55 PEACE OFFICER FIREFIGHTER RETIRE BENEFITS

HB 55 is intended to address recruitment and retention across the state and address unforeseen costs of Tier 4 – overtime, increased training costs, loss of experience.

- Alaska is one of the few jurisdictions that does not presently offer a defined benefit type retirement for public safety employees.
- Many municipal public employees do not participate in Social Security or the Supplemental Annuity Plan (SBS-AP).
- Would create a new hybrid retirement plan option for state and municipal peace officers and firefighters under PERS with protections against unforeseen future liabilities.
- Side-boards include reduced benefits:

SB 131 WORKERS' COMP DISABILITY FOR FIREFIGHTERS

This legislation would add breast cancer to the list of cancers covered under 23.30.121(b) for firefighters as a compensable disease.

- (b) For a firefighter covered under AS 23.30.243,
 - (1) there is a presumption that a claim for compensation for disability as a result of the following diseases is within the provisions of this chapter:
 - (A) respiratory disease;
 - (B) cardiovascular events that are experienced within 72 hours after exposure to smoke, fumes, or toxic substances; and
 - (C) the following cancers:
 - (i) primary brain cancer;
 - (ii) malignant melanoma; (iii) leukemia;
 - (iv) non-Hodgkin's lymphoma; (v) bladder cancer;
 - (vi) ureter cancer;
 - (vii) kidney cancer;
 - (viii) prostate cancer; and
 - **Breast cancer.**

Opposed by Alaska Public Entity Insurance and Alaska Municipal Insurance Agency

HB 45 Presumption of Compensability for WC related to COVID19

An individual in one of these occupations who works directly with the public within two weeks of a positive test or diagnosis of a disease would be assumed to have contracted the infection at work and would be covered by workers' compensation.

Occupational groups included:

- Public Safety employees,
 - Health Care workers,
 - Educators, and
 - Grocery Store workers.
- HB 45 also gives the Commissioner of the Department of Labor and Workforce Development the ability to identify and add protections for additional occupational groups facing similar risk of exposure.

SB 81 VPSO PROGRAM

- Restore funding levels and fund unfunded mandates
- Create more flexibility for grantee organizations
- Pay grantees full indirect costs
- Move financial grant management from Public Safety to Commerce Community and Economic Development
- Maintain operational advisory, training and experience requirements at Public Safety
- Create Tribal/Grantee consultation process for any changes to training and experience requirements

SB 97 LAND SALES, LEASES, DISPOSAL

2019 version proposed bill contained language stripping local governments of their platting and planning authority, setting up dual systems that would have resulted in lower property values, insufficient infrastructure, and conflict between property owners.

- Consistent planning between landowners, and single levels of authority for requirements within a development, emphasizing local control.
- There are some basic expectations of the State's ability to provide adequate infrastructure in its development of subdivisions, including access roads and utilities.
- Increasing the receipt authority of the lands' development, so that as subdivision or development occurs, the State is able to meet the requirements for access and utility infrastructure required of local development.
- Local governments can treat State development the same as private development, ensuring single-level expectations that don't discriminate between developers. The State can follow local ordinances knowing that there is that fair treatment in place.

SJR 6

50/50 Plan

CONSTITUTIONALIZE POMV,
PERMANENT FUND DIVIDEND, AND
POWERCOST EQUALIZATION
PROGRAM

FISCAL WORKING GROUP

- BROAD BASED TAX -- SALES, INCOME, PROPERTY
- COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE
- MUNICIPAL PROPERTY TAX
- SCHOOL BOND DEBT REIMBURSEMENT
- MANDATORY SENIOR PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION
- EDUCATION AND MEDICAID FUNDING