



ALASKA
MUNICIPAL
LEAGUE

Legislation Update

February 20, 2024

SB 140 – Education Omnibus

Sponsor: House Majority

Description: This bill began as an internet for schools bill but has become the vehicle for a BSA increase and other K-12 policy initiatives, including charter school provisions that would pre-empt local decision making.

Status: ??????????



HB 3 – Sales Tax Pre-emption

Sponsor: Representative McCabe

Description: Local governments would be forbidden from applying sales taxes to gold and silver currency.

Status: This bill passed the house last year 25 – 15. It was referred to the Senate State Affairs and Senate Finance committees. Public testimony was heard in Senate State Affairs on February 8. It has not passed out of Senate State Affairs.



HB 89 – Child Care Tax Credits

Sponsor: Representative Coulombe, with bipartisan support

Description: Creates a tax credit for businesses that subsidize employees' child care costs, expands eligibility for state child care benefits for low- and moderate-income families, and requires the state to create a public-private partnership program to incentivize employer-provided child care.

Status: This bill recently passed out of House Finance and should be heard on the House floor soon.



SB 161 – Mandatory Farmland Exemption

Sponsors: Senator Bjorkman, Senator Hughes

Description: This bill would add farm structures to the mandatory farmland exemption and lower the threshold for eligibility.

Status: Public testimony will be held in Senate Community & Regional Affairs on Thursday at 1:30.



SB 179 – Transfer Tax Pre-emption

Sponsors: Senator Bjorkman, Senator Gray-Jackson

Description: Boroughs and cities wouldn't be able to apply sales taxes to real estate transactions.

Status: This bill was introduced at the beginning of session and has one committee referral – to Senate Community & Regional Affairs. It is still in committee.



SB 167/HB 267 – Expanding Mandatory Non-Profit Exemption

Sponsors: Senator Myers, Representative Tomaszewski

Description: Nonprofits that use their property for things outside their core would be able to exempt that property from local taxes.

Status: A similar bill was introduced and withdrawn last year by Rep. Tomaszewski. Both bills have been referred to the Community & Regional Affairs committees and have yet to be heard.



SB 88 – Defined Benefits Program

Sponsor: Senate Majority

Description: A defined benefits pension program would be established for public employees instead of the current 401(k)-style retirement program.

Status: The bill has passed in the Senate and gone to House State Affairs where it will meet up with HB 22 – defined benefits for public safety employees in a State Affairs subcommittee to evaluate all pension bills.



SB 20 – State Spending Cap

Sponsor: Senator Kaufman

Description: The state's statutory spending cap would be set to an average of 11.5% of the state's gross domestic product over the preceding five years.

Status: This bill is currently in the Senate Judiciary committee, where it was set to be held for public testimony on Monday.



HB 282/SB 199 – State Lands

Sponsor: Governor

Description: The rules around the sale of state land would be relaxed. It would allow the bypassing of local platting and planning authorities.

Status: The House bill has moved out of the Transportation Committee and is currently in the Resources Committee, where public testimony will be heard Wednesday at 1:00. The Senate version of the bill is set to move out of Transportation to the Resources Committee for a hearing Wednesday at 3:30.



SB 197 – Statewide Building Code

Sponsor: Senator Bjorkman

Description: This bill would require new homes to conform to a residential building code adopted by AHFC. Residential contractors would need to pass a test to receive a license. Homes would need to meet this code to be eligible for AHFC financing.

Status: This bill was introduced at the beginning of session. It was referred to the Senate Labor & Commerce and Senate Finance committees. Public testimony will be heard in Senate Labor & Commerce on Wednesday at 1:30.

