



Representative

Rauscher's Report

House District 9 - Alaska at its Best!

The 32nd Alaskan State Legislative Session
April 2022

*Sutton / Valdez / Glennallen / Delta Junction / Ft. Greely / Whittier / Chickaloon / Paxton / Eureka / Big Delta
Farm Loop / Fishhook / Sheep Mountain / Glacier View*

Session Update

The Legislature is moving bills that do everything from keeping forestry work crews on the clock longer than seasonal needs, funding infrastructure, to appropriating forward funding for education with a flat 57-million-dollar amount cost of living increase, to giving \$1,300.00 energy relief checks, and passing a budget.

We have had a busy time on the House Floor last week - Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday - when we finally passed [House Bill 281](#) - the Operating Budget. After hearing 87 amendments, re-voting on 10 or more, and voting on some amendments to amendments, we voted roughly 110 times on the budget items in four days. In the end, this year's budget that passed out of the House was \$13,385,116,100.00. The mental health budget, [House Bill 282](#), also passed. There were over 30 amendments tabled that tried to put intent language not tied to actual dollar amounts. Since these amendments were not tied to the budget and they were just intent language, they were ruled out of order because they do not belong in the budget bill.

Once the smoke cleared and the negotiations ended, the budget included forward funding for education in the next fiscal year, allowing an added lump sum of \$57 million if [House Bill 272](#), which did the same, didn't pass.

A full PFD was not in the budget as variations of it were voted down half a dozen times. That makes the sixth year in a row the PFD was not paid according to the formula in statute. The existing PFD law was not changed either. The amount in the budget as of today is an arbitrary \$1,300.00 PFD.

[House Bill 352](#), sponsored by Representative Zack Fields, asks DOT to provide the correct process to rename 187 miles of the Glenn Highway. I have received over 165 letters from those in my district who did not want to see it renamed at all. The cost to the personal documentation could be as high as \$3,000.00 per person to get those changes made. The state would also incur charges to change all physical and digital documentation.

There is a \$1,300.00 energy reimbursement check from the House Majority in the budget; this check will be given to Alaskan residents at the same time as the PFD in October. I believe the energy rebate is being used so you don't get used to the idea that you're getting a full PFD, according to the new formula (if you add the \$1,300.00 energy rebate to the proposed \$1,300.00 PFD).

The Chickaloon Police Department in Sutton is looking to expand their present jurisdiction from only on tribal lands to working with the Alaska State Troopers to allow them to have jurisdiction from Eureka Roadhouse, on the Glenn Highway, to the Wasilla Fishhook and Hatchers Pass area. There will be a meeting on Saturday, April 16th, at 11:00am at the Sutton Elementary School for all concerned district members to attend and voice your opinion and get answers.

I look forward to seeing you in the future town hall meetings in your area. Please look for more information to follow.

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My Bills

As we are in the Minority this year, having our bills heard in committee continues to be the challenge. The House has not seen much movement in the way of bills; nine bills have passed the House on the floor since the start of this session and every one of them were from the Majority. We continue to face these challenges daily, in committees and on the House Floor.

With that being said, I can say I have had several bills heard this legislative session:

- *[House Bill 86](#), Public Viewable Online Checkbook
- *[House Bill 287](#), Oil & Gas Tax Credit Fund Appropriation
- *[House Joint Resolution 12](#), Endorsing ANWR Leasing
- *[House Bill 347](#), Confidentiality of Animal Records
- *[House Bill 349](#), Hearing Establish Drilling Units/Spacing
- *[House Joint Resolution 29](#), Support United States Postal Service

I have been blessed in that four of these bills have been assigned two committees and the other two have been assigned just one committee. House Bill 347 is now in Rules Committee, awaiting its time to be taken to the House Floor.

I am continuing to push my other bills that I have introduced. You can find the list of my bills [here](#).



Community Contacts

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How Bills Become Law

First, a legislator (or committee or the Governor) creates a bill based on the needs of the district or state. The bill's concept is passed along to and drafted by Legislative Affairs Agency, Legal Services to ensure it can be placed appropriately in Alaska Statute and it meets all legal requirements. Once the drafter of the bill receives the draft, he/she submits it to the House Chief Clerk or Senate Secretary (based on which body the legislator is in). Once session starts, the House Chief Clerk or Senate Secretary introduces the bill with its assigned bill number. It is then read across the appropriate Floor and assigned committees. The more committees assigned, the less likely it will pass into legislation. The proposed bill must go through the committees in the order they were assigned. Once all committees have held, heard, and passed the bill, it is sent to House or Senate Rules. The Rules Committee determines when it will be held on the floor. When the bill passes the House or Senate, it is then passed along to the other body to go through the same process before it goes to the Governor. You can find more detailed information on this process [here](#). You can find Frequently Asked Questions about the Alaska State Legislature [here](#).



Testifying & Live Committee Meetings

Each year, as bills move through the committees, there are opportunities to testify in public testimony. You can find the list of bills that will be having public testimony (refresh the list daily for updates); these opportunities can be found [here](#).

Your local Legislative Information Office (LIO) may be open to testify or you can do it telephonically (they will share the phone number to call). The LIOs are also a great resource to receive more information on a particular bill.

You can also watch live committee meetings, including both Senate and House floor sessions, on BASIS, found [here](#). If there was a previous committee meeting or floor session that you have missed, you can find them [here](#).

Town Halls



My office is your office

I would love to hear from you! Please contact my office anytime:

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