



This Week in Juneau

The legislature is in full swing. The House Finance subcommittees have finished the department overviews and are working on the individual department budget requests. The full Finance committees in both bodies were focused on the Governor's budget amendments which added \$106 million in UGF and \$514 million in Federal funding to the FY24 budget. Most of the Federal funding is for FY24 capital projects, with the bulk of that (\$285 million) going to the Marine Highway system.

The Senate Labor and Commerce committee continued with their focus on workforce issue facing industries here in Alaska. This week the committee heard testimony from the oil and gas, resource development and tourism industries. **All industries touched on the difficulties of recruiting to fill open positions** and the issues surrounding retention of employees as well.

On Monday, February 27th at 1:30pm the committee will have its first hearing on SB 60: *Repeal Workers' Comp Appeals Commission*. During that hearing the committee will also take public testimony on the bill. **SB 60** repeals the Workers' Compensation Appeals Commission and gives the Superior Court jurisdiction over appeals from the Alaska Workers' Compensation Board decisions.

Senator Murkowski comes to Juneau

US Senator Lisa Murkowski gave her annual address to the legislature during on Wednesday. Senator Murkowski pointed out that the legislature must approve the matching funds for the Alaska Marine Highway system this session. The infrastructure act dedicated \$250 million in federal funding for the construction of new ferries for the marine highway, but it is now in the legislatures hands to ensure the states' match is funded.

Bills of Interest Introduced this Week

No bills introduced this week.

Committee Meetings Next Week

Senate Labor and Commerce

Feb 27 Monday 1:30 PM

SB 60 – REPEAL WORKERS' COMP APPEALS COMMISSION -- Invited & Public Testimony

Mar 01 Wednesday 1:30 PM

SB 70 – OWNER & CONTRACTOR CONTROLLED INSURANCE -- Public Testimony --
Workforce Challenges in Alaska Presenters to be announced

Upcoming Alaska CHARR Events

Regular ABC Board Meeting March

Hampton Inn Conference Room 433 Harold Bentley Ave, Fairbanks, AK 99701 & Zoom

Fairbanks Title 04 Roadshow - March 6

Hampton Inn Conference Room 433 Harold Bentley Ave, Fairbanks, AK 99701 & Zoom

Special Meeting to Consider for Public Comment RE: The Implementation of the Title 04 Reform Bill – March 7

Hampton Inn Conference Room 433 Harold Bentley Ave, Fairbanks, AK 99701 & Zoom

Legislative Summit - March 14 & 15

Juneau, Various Locations

[Learn More About Alaska CHARR's Government Affairs Team](#)

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