



**March 13, 2020**

It's been quite a week. So much has happened, from coronavirus to oil prices, and the stock market, all of which combined has led to reduced state revenue of \$500 million or more, it's a challenge not to be overwhelmed by all the information right now. As leaders of the state, we are maintaining our focus and will attend to our responsibility to address the burgeoning public health crisis, pass a budget, and adjourn the legislative session. A few quick updates on the current situation.

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me directly at  
[Rep.Bryce.Edgmon  
@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.gov)

- Both the House and **Senate voted today to authorize the Chair of the Legislative Council to decide if the Capitol should be closed** to visitors, lobbyists, and any others besides legislators, staff, and support services. **The Chair of the Legislative Council, in consultation with leadership, has done so effective immediately.** This is in response to the COVID-19 virus which is spreading rapidly. In an effort to "[flatten the curve](#)" of the spread, **we are taking measures to ensure the health and safety of our legislative family and the public at large.** You can always access the legislature by [phone, email](#), and by watching hearings on [360north.org](http://360north.org). You can also call your legislative information office, which you can find [here](#), to telephonically testify on bills and other matters. We look forward to welcoming all back to the Capitol when this virus is contained.
- Alaska's first COVID-19 case was announced yesterday. **I have full confidence in the administration and public health officials across Alaska who are responding to the outbreak.** The spread of the virus in Alaska, while currently contained to one cargo pilot in Anchorage who has had minimal contact with others, will continue. For this reason, we are asking you to [please wash your hands often, practice social distancing techniques, and stay home should you feel symptoms](#). Please find the State of Alaska's Department of Health and Social Services website dedicated to providing the public with information about COVID-19 [here](#).
- The **stock market and oil price crash of the past two weeks** is cause for grave concern regarding the Alaska budget. Alaska is funded by

both investment and oil revenue. This market crash has deeply affected both of our revenue sources. Thankfully due to **wise fiscal management at the Permanent Fund Corporation, as well as a system designed to smooth out market shocks, our investment revenue should remain stable.** Our oil revenue, however, will see an immediate effect from this drop in oil prices. As of today, Alaska North Slope crude is priced at **about \$33.47/barrel.** Our revenue forecast was designed with \$63.54/barrel and \$59/barrel for FY20 and FY21 respectively. This drop in oil prices, has already damaged our oil revenue stream, but the effects will be magnified should low prices persist. We are monitoring the situation closely and will update you as more information becomes available.

While there is cause for concern, I want to assure you that we in Juneau are taking necessary steps to ensure Alaskans will be ready to face down this outbreak. We will also deal with this fiscal crisis, made worse the past two weeks, and come together as Alaskans do in times of hardship.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch with any issues or concerns and remember, I work for you.

All the best,



Office Phone: 907-465-4451 or toll free at 800-898-445

#### **On Deck Next Week...**

##### **Monday, March 16**

##### **House & Senate Joint Education – 8:30 AM**

Presentation: "The State of Alaska K-12 Schools" by Alaska Council of School Administrators

##### **House Finance – 9:30 AM**

[HB 24](#) – Limited Teacher Certificates; Languages

[HB 185](#) – Registration of Boats: Exemption

[HJR 15](#) – Constitutional Amendment: Votes Needed for Veto Override

[HB 181](#) – Public Schools: Mental Health Education

##### **House Judiciary – 1:00 PM**

[HB 287](#) – Village Public Safety Officers

[HB 174](#) – Minimum Age to Possess Nicotine/Ecig Product

##### **House Resources – 1:00 PM**

[HB 240](#) – Regulate PFAS Use; Fire/Water Safety

[HB 280](#) – Invasive Species in State Water; Council

##### **House Finance – 1:30 PM**

[HB 235](#) – Alaska Workforce Investment Board: Allocations

##### **House Labor & Commerce – 3:15 PM**

[SB 52](#) – Alcoholic Beverage Control; Alcohol Regulations

Consideration of Governor's Appointees

##### **Tuesday, March 17**

##### **House Community & Regional Affairs – 8:00 AM**

Presentation: Climate Change Action Plan & Policy

**House Tribal Affairs – 8:00 AM**

[HJR 29](#) – Anti-Discrimination Act of 1945

**House Finance – 9:30 AM**

[HB 121](#) – Repeal State Agency Performance Audits

[HB 209](#) – Establish Dept of Management of Budget

**House Fisheries – 11:00 AM**

[HB 247](#) – Sport Fishing Enhancement Surcharge

**House Arctic Policy, Economic Development, & Tourism – 11:00 AM**

[HJR 27](#) – Federal Investment in Port of Alaska

**House Military & Veterans' Affairs – 1:00 PM**

Presentation: COVID-19 Update

**House Transportation – 1:00 PM**

[HB 273](#) – Abandoned Vehicles; Private Property

**House Finance – 1:30 PM**

[HB 79](#) – Peace Officer/Firefighter Retire Benefits

[HB 268](#) – Muni Bond Bank: UA, Loan and Bond Limits

**House State Affairs – 3:00 PM**

[HJR 31](#) – Constitutional Amendment: Permanent Fund; POMV; Earnings

[HB 253](#) – Sale, Transfer, or Disposal of Ferries

[HB 274](#) – Property Insurance Surcharge; Fire Standards

[HB 190](#) – PFD Allowable Absences

**House Health & Social Services – 3:00 PM**

[HB 183](#) – Alaska Psychiatric Institute

[HB 86](#) – Mental Health Hospital: Contracts/Bids

**Wednesday, March 18**

**House Education – 8:00 AM**

Presentation: “Educator Retention & Turnover in Alaska: Magnitudes & Related Factors”

**House Finance – 1:30 PM**

[HB 155](#) – Alaska Performance Scholarship; Eligibility

[HB 201](#) – Defense of Public Officer: Ethics Complaint

**House Labor & Commerce – 3:15 PM**

[HB 257](#) – Financial Institutions; Liability

[SB 195](#) – Board of Directors: Domestic Insurers

[HB 146](#) – Motor Vehicle Dealers: Application; Insurance

[SB 52](#) – Alcoholic Beverage Control; Alcohol Regulations

**Thursday, March 19**

**House Tribal Affairs – 8:00 AM**

Presentation: Real ID Implementation

**House Finance – 9:30 AM**

[HB 23](#) – Snowmobile Registration Fees

[HB 187](#) – Restrict Out-of-State Correctional Facilities

**House Fisheries / Community & Regional Affairs Joint – 10:00 AM**

Presentation: Ocean Acidification & Increasing Ocean & River Temperatures

**House Finance – 1:30 PM**

[HB 131](#) – Appropriation Limit

**House Health & Social Services – 3:00 PM**

[HB 242](#) – Prescription of Opioids; Database

[HB 184](#) – Controlled Substances Data: Exempt Veterinarian

Consideration of Governor’s Appointees: State Medical Board

**House State Affairs – 3:00 PM**

[HB 253](#) – Sale, Transfer, or Disposal of Ferries

[HB 274](#) – Property Insurance Surcharge; Fire Standards

**Friday, March 20**

**House Education – 8:00 AM**

Presentation & Discussion: Coronavirus – Implications for Alaska Schools

**House Finance – 9:30 AM**

[HB 102](#) – Rental Vehicle by Private Owner

[SB 115](#) – Motor Fuel Tax; Ev Registration Fees

**House Judiciary – 1:00 PM**

[HJR 31](#) – Constitutional Amendment: Permanent Fund; POMV; Earnings

**House Resources – 1:00 PM**

Presentation: Wildfires in Alaska with a Changing Climate

[HB 280](#) – Invasive Species in State Water; Council

**House Finance – 1:30 PM**

[HB 207](#) – Appropriation: Capital; Supplemental; Other Appropriation

**House Labor & Commerce – 3:15 PM**

[SB 195](#) – Board of Directors: Domestic Insurers

[HB 94](#) – Electronic Smoking Products Excise Tax

Consideration of Governor's Appointees