

From: Senator George Rauscher sen.george.rauscher-akleg.gov@shared1.ccsend.com
Subject: The latest news for you
Date: April 10, 2026 at 5:28 PM
To: d29@mtaonline.net



Senator

Rauscher's Report

Senate District O – Alaska at its Best!



The 34th Alaska State Legislative Session April 2026 Update

**Sutton/ Valdez / Chickaloon / Eureka / Greater Farm Loop / Fishhook/
Sheep Mountain / Glacier View / Kings Lake / Anderson-Clear / Big Lake/
Cantwell/ Denali Park / East Schrock / Healy / Houston / Knik Goose Bay
No. 4 / Trapper Creek / Susitna / Talkeetna / Willow**

Today marks the 81st Day of the legislative session. This week, the House has been engaged in floor debate on the operating budget with many amendments remaining to be considered. Once they have completed the operating budget, it will be sent to the Senate for review.

In my previous last newsletter, I discussed HB 194, SB 64, and the supplemental. As of today, HB 194 the Marathon royalty oil in-kind bill that includes the S-corp tax provision has yet to be taken up on the House Floor. SB 64, the Elections bill, is still awaiting transmittal to the Governor. The supplemental appropriations bill was signed into law today.

Senate Resources

Senate Resources has been hearing multiple bills. Below are a few of the bills we've heard:

SJR 20 Clean Up Marine Debris which relates to marine debris harming of Alaska's coasts, wildlife, and fisheries and the cost and difficulty of marine debris due to Alaska's remote geography. It urges increased federal funding, statewide coordination, and calls for better access to funding for rural and tribal communities.

Read the bill here:

[Microsoft Word - SJR020A.DOC](#)

SB 208 Agricultural Land Leases creates a new system to lease state land for agriculture based on merit and not the highest bid which opens more land for agriculture use, allows below-market lease rates, and provides a path to ownership after 7 years.

Read the bill here:

[SB0208A](#)

SB 226 Homemade Food; Reduced Oxygen Packaging seeks to prohibit certain hazardous foods in vacuum-sealed low oxygen packaging that have a potential to cause botulism such as soups preserved by canning or meat jerky stored in vacuum-sealed bags. It allows cottage food sales to remain with most homemade products unaffected.

Read the bill here:

[SB0226A](#)

SB 192 Evacuation Designation Levels would establish a statewide Ready/ Set/ Go evacuation system to standardize emergency messaging across all communities and would apply to alerts, maps, and planning.

Read the bill here:

[SB0192B](#)

HJR 18 Urging Support for AKLNG urges federal action on approvals, coordination, and funding and support the development of a state natural gas pipeline. It is a resolution that I co-wrote and Representative Mia Costello carried. During the bill hearing, the original resolution was submitted for the committee version.

Read the bill here:

[HJR018D](#)

My Bills

SB 230 Jonesville PUA was before the Senate in second reading today. On Monday, it will advance to third reading for a vote. If the bill passes the Senate, it will be transmitted to the House where it has referrals to the House Community & Regional Affairs Committee and the House Resources Committee.

Read the bill here:

[SB0230A](#)

HB 17 Disabled Veterans: Retirement Benefits is scheduled for a hearing in the Senate Finance Committee next week at 9 am for both invited and public testimony. The bill would permit veterans who are found to be totally and permanently disabled by the VA to access their accrued PERS retirement benefits without penalty, regardless of age, with up to five years of credited service. The bill would also allow military service that has been purchased in accordance with PERS standards to count toward the credited service requirements for normal retirement. It does not establish any new benefits.

If you are interested in public testimony, you can call the following numbers:

From Juneau 586-9085
From Anchorage 563-9085
All Other Callers 844-586-9085

Read the bill here:

[HB0017A](#)

Governor's Prayer Breakfast



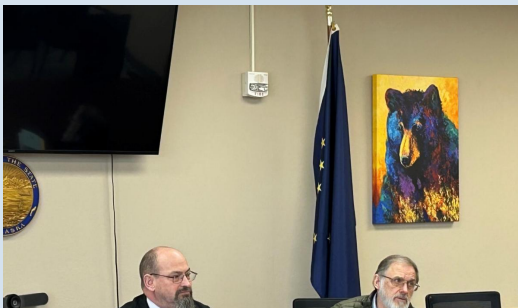
I had a wonderful time last week at the Governor's Prayer Breakfast with Governor Mike Dunleavy and First Lady Rose Dunleavy. The keynote speaker Tyler Thompson, the Executive Producer of The Chosen, gave us a sneak preview of the next release!

Talkeetna Community Council



I had the opportunity to visit Talkeetna and attend their community council meeting. I enjoyed connecting directly with constituents and hearing their perspectives.

Mat-Su Townhall





I'd like to thank everyone that attended the townhall last week. We covered everything from election bills to the supplemental, abortion bills, and strategies in both the House and the Senate. Also, thank you to Representative Steve St. Clair for hosting the event and Representative Kevin McCabe for joining as well.

Academy Charter School



Last week, I was able to visit with students from the Academy Charter School who came to

Last week, I was able to visit with students from the Academy Charter School who came to Juneau to learn how government works. I had a wonderful time and learned a lot from them!

As always, my door is always open. If you have a concern about a bill, please don't hesitate to call my office or send me an email. If you want to set up a meeting, please contact my office at 907-465-4859 or to sen.george.rauscher@akleg.gov .

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