

BUDGET & COVID-19 BILLS

CORDOVA LIO NEWSLETTER - MARCH 24, 2020 - ISSUE 17, VOL
31.2



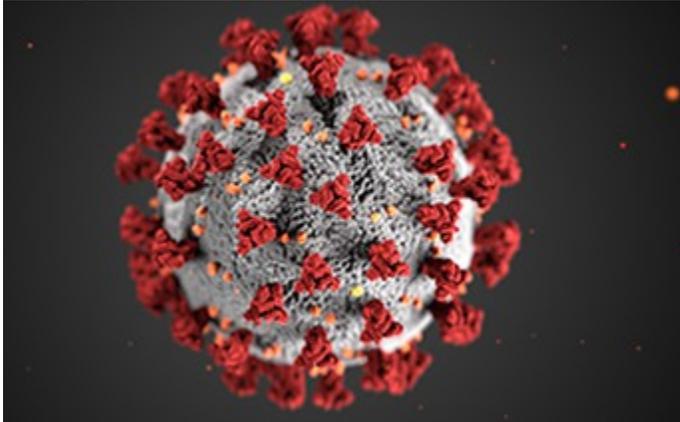
CONFERENCE COMMITTEE WORKING ON FINAL BUDGET

After working through last weekend, on Monday (March 23), the Senate approved an amended version of [House Bill 205](#), the **Fiscal Year 2021 Operating Budget**. Due to the differences between the House and Senate versions, a Conference Committee was appointed to reach agreement on each of the differing budget items. The **Conference Committee members appointed** are:

- Senator Bert Stedman
- Senator Natasha Von Imhoff
- Senator Donny Olson
- Representative Neal Foster
- Representative Jennifer Johnston
- Representative Cathy Tilton

The specific differences in the two budgets can be seen in the [Conference Committee Motion Sheets](#). The committee will call meetings - *likely on relatively short notice* - in the coming day(s) to review and vote on the items on these motion sheets. The final bill, as agreed to by the Conference Committee, will return to each of the legislative bodies for final passage.

The **24-hour rule** took effect on Tuesday when appointment of the Conference Committee for the operating budget bill was completed. This rule reduces the notification time required for meeting announcements of bill hearings to at least 24 hours (from the prior five days notice).



BILLS RESPONDING TO THE COVID-19 VIRUS

The first of these to fully pass the House and Senate addresses **unemployment benefits**; [House Bill 308](#) reduces the waiting period for applicants and increases the weekly amounts for dependents; there are additional provisions in the bill which is being transmitted to the Governor for his signature.

[HB 308](#) – "An Act **relating to unemployment benefits** during a period of state or national emergency resulting from a novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak; and providing for an effective date."

[HB 309](#) – "An Act relating to the **procedure for confirmation of the governor's appointments**; relating to the board of the Mental Health Trust Authority; and providing for an effective date."

[House Bill 309](#) temporarily extends the time for which the Legislature can meet in joint session to confirm the Governor's cabinet appointments and appointments to state boards and commissions. In the event of the need to adjourn early due to COVID-19 or if social distancing measures prevent the Legislature from meeting jointly, HB 309 would allow the Legislature the option of confirming governor appointees prior to the convening of the 32nd Alaska State Legislature. House Bill 309 maintains as much of the regular confirmation process as possible while allowing the Legislature the flexibility to safely meet at a later date to give this important process its due. This bill passed the House by a vote of 35-1, and is currently on the Senate's calendar.

According to its Sponsor Statement (from the [House Labor & Commerce Committee](#)), [House Bill 310](#) addresses **four issues of economic uncertainty** as a result of the COVID-19 emergency declaration. The bill would add a new section under the uncodified law to; 1) Suspend statutory and regulatory deadlines for the Regulatory Commission of Alaska (RCA), 2) Place a moratorium on disconnecting residential utility service, 3) Establish regulatory assets for aggregating unpaid utility bills, and, 4) Place a moratorium on evictions and foreclosures. This bill was [heard March 22](#) by the House Labor & Commerce Committee. It may be moved out of that committee anytime.

[HB 310](#) - "An Act tolling deadlines for action by the Regulatory Commission of Alaska during the public health emergency declaration; **relating to disconnection of utility service for nonpayment**; relating to regulatory assets of a utility; **relating to evictions**; **relating to foreclosures**; and providing for an effective date."

The Senate spent most of Tuesday afternoon debating [Senate Bill 241](#). There was considerable discussion of Section 9 of the bill, regarding elections. In the end, the bill passed unanimously although reconsideration was requested by one member so the bill will return to the Senate Floor Wednesday. After passage, it will be sent to the House where it is expected to be quickly advanced to the Floor for debate and passage before both bodies recess or adjourn later this week.

[SB 241](#) – "An Act **extending the March 11, 2020, governor's declaration of a public health disaster emergency** in response to the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic; *relating to the COVID-19 outbreak*; *relating to a financing plan*; *relating to standing orders of the chief medical officer*; *relating to occupational and professional licensing*; *relating to telemedicine and telehealth*; *relating to fingerprinting requirements*; *relating to elections in calendar year 2020*; *relating to permanent fund dividend applications*; *relating to automatic voter registration*; *relating to tax filings, payments, and penalties*; *relating to shareholder meetings*; and providing for an effective date."

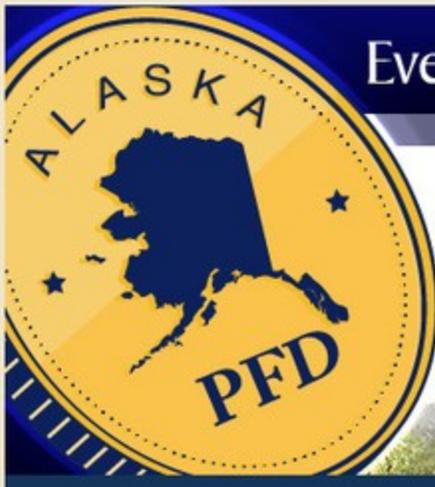
**NO EXTENSION ON PFD MARCH 31
DEADLINE!!! [CLICK HERE TO APPLY.](#)**

FILING DEADLINE MARCH 31, 2020!

The PFD filing deadline is fast approaching - March 31, 2020 by 11:59 PM. DON'T DELAY FILING! **This deadline is ONLY for submitting an application.** **Supplemental documentation is not required by March 31st. You can mail supplemental documentation in or wait to be contacted**

The easiest way to file an application is to apply online. You will only be required to answer questions that are necessary and you get an immediate confirmation number when you submit it. Eligible online applications that select direct deposit as their payment method will be paid in the FIRST October payment, October 1, 2020.

However, due to the circumstances facing this country and with offices and locations throughout the state closing down for at least the next couple weeks, the division has decided, for this year only, to make the paper 2020 PFD applications available to print from the FORMS tab on our website for those who are unable to file online. The filing deadline is still MARCH 31. Mailed in 2020 PFD applications MUST be postmarked by March 31st in order to be considered timely. REMINDER: Eligible paper applications will be paid in the SECOND October payment, October 22, 2020.



Everyone Can Apply Online!

521663

Alaskans Already Have!

CLICK HERE TO FILE YOUR ONLINE APPLICATION

LEGISLATION PASSED BY BOTH THE HOUSE AND SENATE, AS OF MARCH 24

[HB 29 Insurance Coverage for Telehealth](#), Representative Spohnholz - Chapter 3 SLA 20 - as of 03/16/2020

[HB 44 Automated Teller Machines: Fees](#), Representative Ortiz - Return to (H) Gov Next as of 02/17/2020

[HB 56 Establish Hmong-American Veterans Day](#), Representative Tarr - Return to (H) Gov Next - as of 03/21/2020

[HB 71 State Personnel Act: Veterans' Experience](#), Representative Story - Return to (H) Gov Next - as of 03/13/2020

[HB 124 Electronic Documents and Notarization](#), Representative Claman - Return to (H) Gov Next - as of 03/22/2020

[HB 142 Native Organizations TANF Program](#), Representative Kreiss-Tomkins - Return to (H) Gov Next - as of 03/20/2020

[HB 206 Approp: Mental Health Budget](#), House Rules by Request of the Governor - Chapter 2 SLA 20 - as of 03/16/2020

[HB 308](#) **Unemployment Benefits for Covid-19**, *House Labor & Commerce* - (H)

Concurred (S) Am - as of 03/23/2020

[SB 55](#) **Appointments to Court of Appeals**, *Senator Wilson* - Return to (S) Gov Next - as of 03/23/2020

[SB 74](#) **Internet for Schools**, *Senator Hoffman* - (S) Concurred (H) Am - as of 03/21/2020

[SB 101](#) **March 12: Ashley Johnson-Barr Day**, *Senator Olson* - Chapter 1 SLA 20 - as of 03/12/2020

[SB 120](#) **Administration of Psychotropic Medication**, *Senator Giessel by Request* - (S) Concurred (H) Am - as of 03/24/2020

[SB 123](#) **Electric Reliability Orgs; Telecom Co-Ops**, *Senate Railbelt Electric System* - (S) Concurred (H) Am - as of 03/20/2020

[SB 137](#) **Extend Board of Parole**, *Senator Micciche* - Return to (S) Gov Next - as of 03/21/2020

[SB 144](#) **Establish June 7 as Walter Harper Day**, *Senator Bishop* - Return to (S) Gov Next - as of 03/04/2020

[SB 172](#) **Extending the State Medical Board; Audit**, *Senator Olson* - Return to (S) Gov Next - as of 03/23/2020

[CLICK HERE FOR LIST OF BILLS AWAITING ACTION LINK TO WATCH/LISTEN TO ALL COMMITTEE MEETINGS](#)