



Alaska State Legislature

Representative Matt Claman

June 2018 Community Council Update

Legislature Approves Key Legislation – Prior to adjournment, the legislature approved four key items:

- **Early Funding Public Education:** House Bill 287 appropriates \$1.3 billion for K-12 education and student transportation in FY19. A provision of the bill funds education in the same amount in FY20 and adds an additional \$30 million in one-time grants to school districts. The \$30 million increase for FY20 is equivalent to a \$117 increase to the Base Student Allocation (BSA). An early, separate appropriation for education allows school districts to finalize their budgets on time and will prevent the need for pink-slips.
- **Endowment Structure for the Permanent Fund:** Senate Bill 26 implements an endowment structure for the Permanent Fund by appropriating a percent of market value (POMV) of the earnings from the Permanent Fund to pay dividends and support essential services. It limits the draw for essential government services and dividends to 5.25% of the fund's value for the next three years and 5% after the first three years.
- **State Bonds to Pay Oil and Gas Tax Credits:** House Bill 331 allows the Department of Revenue to sell bonds and use these funds to purchase oil and gas credits at a discounted rate. HB 331 closes out Alaska's remaining financial obligations from the cashable tax credit program at no additional cost to the state.
- **Improving Public Safety:** House Bill 312, sponsored by my office, increases protections for medical providers and addresses the greatest public safety needs in Governor Walker's Public Safety Action Plan:
 - Ensures consideration of a defendant's out-of-state criminal history in pre-trial release decisions;
 - Strengthens the pre-trial release assessment for those charged with vehicle theft and other crimes;
 - Gives Alaska's Attorney General the authority to criminalize dangerous new controlled substances;
 - Increases surcharges imposed for felonies, misdemeanors, and violations and puts the increased revenue back into public safety training; and
 - Provides much-needed tools to help police and prosecutors reduce crimes against our doctors and nurses.

House Bill 312 was the major piece of public safety legislation for this year and had near-unanimous support: 19-0 in the Senate and 39-1 in the House. It recognizes our common public safety concerns and is good news for all Alaskans.

Ice Cream in the Park — Please join me for popsicles, ice cream sandwiches and conversation about the legislature and our community!

When: Thursday, June 14th from 5 to 6:30 PM

Where: Lynn Ary Park (Turnagain Pkwy. At Illiamna Ave.)

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http://akhouse.org/rep_claman/

Serving the Sand Lake, Spenard, and Turnagain Communities