

Senator Gray-Jackson's Notes
Spenard Community Council
April 6, 2022

My Senate Bills on the Move

SB 7 State Trooper Policies: Public Access. Was heard in H-STA and moved out on 3/31/22; next committee hearing in H-JUD.

SB 80 Public Schools: Mental health Education. Senate passed bill on Monday, April 4th by a vote of 13-1 with five senators absent.

SB 157 Health and Personal Safety Education. Scheduled in S-EDU on April 8

SB 222 Heard in S-STA on 3/23/22 and held in Rules scheduled to be voted on by the Senate soon.

Department of Health and Social Services Split

[Executive Order 121](#) to split the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services into two Departments has taken effect.

- The split will occur on July 1.
- The cost to implement the split is estimated at around \$2 million.

The proposed Department of Family and Community Services would contain:

- Division of Juvenile Justice
- Office of Children's Services
- Alaska Pioneer Homes
- Alaska Psychiatric Institute

The proposed Department of Health would contain:

- Division of Public Health
- Division of Behavioral Health
- Division of Healthcare Services
- Division of Senior and Disabilities Services

Special Election to Replace Rep. Don Young

- The special primary election will be held on June 11th.
- The special primary election will be conducted with vote-by-mail ballots.
- Alaskans must be registered to vote by May 13th.

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month, and I would like to take a moment to ask all Alaskans to come together and stand against sexual assault in our homes and communities, commit to keeping our citizens safe, and to increase support to victims and survivors of sexual assault. Sexual assault awareness month was officially recognized for the first time in 2001.

Governor Dunleavy submitted legislation ([SB 241 HB 414](#)) to the Alaska Legislature on April 4th which appropriates the initial funding anticipated to be received by the State of Alaska from the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). Some of the highlights follow:

- \$560.2 million in additional federal funds for surface transportation, rural water and wastewater programs, veterans services and cybersecurity grants.
- \$37.4 million for federal weatherization programs and the Alaska Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program
- \$28 million for investments in modernizing the electric grid, developing clean hydrogen and a research demonstration facility for Alaska's substantial reserves of critical and rare earth minerals
- \$5 million to stand up the State of Alaska Infrastructure Office to coordinate and consolidate efforts with all recipients of IIJA funds
- \$4 million to construct housing for teachers and public safety personnel in rural communities not connected to the road system
- \$2.5 million to the Alaska Federation of Natives to continue the navigator program, a joint effort with the state on securing all funding available in the IIJA legislation

Always representing your interests!



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