

**Senator Gray-Jackson's Notes**  
**Spenard Community Council**  
**September 7<sup>th</sup> , 2022**

**Finalized Budget**

On June 28th, Governor Dunleavy signed House Bills 281 and 282, the two appropriation bills containing the operating, capital, supplemental, and Mental Health budget. Some of the vetoes include:

- \$4 million (of \$5 million total) for childcare assistance
- \$4 million (of \$5 million total) for Housing Trust to address homelessness
- \$62.5 million for school major maintenance
- \$4.3 million to Food Bank of Alaska for the pilot produce box program
- \$1.4 million for senior and disability services
- \$1.8 million to hire more Criminal Division attorneys and staff
- \$673,700 to assist in finding Missing Persons
- \$22.5 million for statewide deferred maintenance
- \$2.6 million for Technical Vocational Education Program
- \$52 million to refill the college scholarship fund
- \$27 million for University of Alaska deferred maintenance
- Salary increments for Court System employees
- \$89.3 million to fully fund public employee pension and retirement liabilities

Some of the items in the adopted budget:

- \$200 million for the Port of Alaska in Anchorage
- \$57 million in one-time grants for K-12 schools.
- \$300 million deposited into the constitutionally protected section of the Alaska Permanent Fund.
- \$2.5 million for pre-kindergarten programs
- \$30 million for University of Alaska programs
- \$13.5 million to University of Alaska operations
- \$2.2 million retention bonuses for Public Defender Agency and Office of Public Defenders.
- \$4.3 million grant to Food Bank of Alaska
- \$5 million for new prison system positions
- almost \$3.5 million for bonuses for front line social workers
- \$33 million to boost wages by 10% for personal care assistants paid through Medicaid
- \$3.4 million for retention bonuses in Dept of Law criminal and civil divisions

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- \$1 million for study of Clean Water Act 404 permitting
- \$700 million to forward-fund education for FY 24
- \$420 million paid for "Energy Relief" check, paid for out of savings and general fund.

**The Inflation Reduction Act**

On August 16th, President Biden signed the Inflation Act of 2022 into law. The comprehensive law seeks to address the ever-increasing tax gap. For example, the law allows Medicare to negotiate lower prescription drug prices and can also lower health insurance costs. In addition to healthcare provisions, the law also includes tax, environmental, energy, and transportation provisions. Furthermore, the main goal of the act is to create clean energy jobs, make the tax code fairer, revitalize American manufacturing, and lower health care cost.

**Bill Updates**

This past session was very successful, and I was pleased to see two of my bills pass and signed into law. There were also many other bills I co-sponsored that also passed.

- Senate Bill 7: State Trooper Policies and Public Access
- Senate Bill 222: Extend PT & Occupational Therapy Board

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