



**Senator Gray-Jackson's Notes
Turnagain Community Council
September 2, 2021**

Happy September everyone!

It's been a good summer and I hope everyone was able to enjoy it with your friends and family. The school year has begun, and I wish our kids a great and safe school year.

Fiscal Plan Working Group Final Report

This summer, the Legislature established a bicameral, bipartisan, Fiscal Plan Working Group (FPWG) for the purpose of developing policy recommendations that will provide fiscal certainty to Alaskans through means of achieving a balanced budget and resolving the annual dispute over the PFD. The FPWG conducted both informational hearings and internal work sessions dedicating 71 total hours and unanimously adopted fiscal budget assumptions. The FPWG also unanimously agreed that the following were necessary parts of a comprehensive solution:

- Constitutional, single-account Permanent Fund structured withdrawals limited by POMV.
- Constitutional certainty for the PFD.
- New POMV-based PFD formula
- Healthy Capital Budget
- New Revenues
- Budget Reductions
- Spending Cap reform
- Several-year “transition period” with one-time fiscal measures
- Spending cap reform.
- New POMV-based formula.
- Constitutional Budget Reserve reform
- Process – Always keeping in mind what can realistically pass the Legislature.



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House Bill 3003

HB 3003 was moved out of the House Finance Committee on Wednesday, August 25th. After a lengthy amendment process, the Bill passed the House on August 31st with a vote of 24/16. Some of the highlights of the appropriations Bill follows:

- Fully funds Alaska's student scholarship programs
- \$3.3 million to WWAMI Medical Education
- \$1.487 billion one-time transfer from the earnings reserve account to the CBR (Constitutional Budget Reserve)
- \$11.7 million to Alaska Performance Scholarship Awards
- \$1,100 PFD

HB 3003 included a \$2,300 PFD but, on August 24th, the House Finance Committee amended the Bill to reduce the PFD to \$1,100. The Bill was also amended to pay over \$100 million in owed oil tax credits. In addition to HB 3003, there are several other bills introduced on new revenues and more. The special session ends on September 14th, 2021.

I was honored to have Governor Dunleavy sign Senate Bill 47 on Wednesday August 25th which will make it easier for people who experience a disability to acquire disability plates. Prior to this Bill passing, only Doctors, Nurses and PAs could provide the needed proof. The Bill will allow speech-language pathologists, physical therapists, and occupational therapists to provide proof of disability for Alaskans to obtain their plates. A very special thank you to Representative Story for carrying the bill in the House.

Always representing your interests!

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