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Good morning,

It's day twenty-five of this session. This week the Senate Finance Committee heard the following: presentations from the Alaska Gasline Development Corporation, the Alaska Permanent Fund Corporation, Office of Management and Budget, Department of Revenue, and our Legislative Division of Finance. These meetings bring the state's financial situation to the forefront for the committee's and the public's information.

This week, the Senate approved SB 15: Alcohol, Sale, and Warning Signs. See more on this bill below. In addition, the Senate joined with the House to hear the State of the Judiciary from Chief Justice Susan Carney. She gave a summary of how long cases take to go through the Court System, talked a little about Therapeutic Courts and two that are operated jointly with Tribes, the Kenaitze Tribe and the Sitka Tribe. And she gave a brief update on the Court's Self-Help/Access to Justice on-line system. New this year is an online dispute resolution platform for debt matters. The convenient online forum allows parties to negotiate their disputes or work with a mediator without needing to come to a courthouse or even see each other in person.

Several school boards were in town and I'm sure more will be back. Be assured, discussion continues how the Legislature will address education issues. Wishing everyone a Happy Valentine's Day!

Senate Bill 15: Alcohol, Sale and Warning Signs

SB 15 allows a person aged 18-20 to be employed and serve alcohol in establishments such as restaurants, breweries, wineries, distilleries, hotels, motels, or large resorts. The bill ensures establishments that choose to employ those under 21 years of age adequately supervise those employees to prevent underage consumption. Expanding the ability of individuals ages 16 and older to enter restaurants and other licensed premises for dining, with protections to ensure minors are not inappropriately exposed to alcohol. SB 15 has been referred to the House Labor and Commerce Committee and is scheduled for a hearing on Monday, February 17th at 3:15 pm.



Members of the Alaska Senate Majority: Rural and Urban, Republican to Democrat. Working hard on behalf of all Alaska's in this 34th Alaska State Legislature

PFD Deadline to apply is March 31, 2025

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