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Good morning,

Today is day thirty-nine of this Legislative Session. This week, the Senate Finance Committee heard the following: a presentation from the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities on their FY26 proposed Operating budget and the federal Statewide Transportation and Improvement Plan (STIP). The committee also had its second hearing on HB65/SB72: Railroad Corporation Financing. HB 65 moved from committee and was scheduled on the Senate floor for consideration on Wednesday, February 26th. The committee also received public testimony on the FY26 Operating, Capital, Mental Health, and Supplemental budgets.

The Senate considered and approved SB 60: Establishing May 12 as ME/Chronic Syndrome Day. SB 60 has been transferred to the House. In addition, HB 65 passed the Senate and will now be transferred to the Governor for his approval. HB 65 authorizes the Alaska Railroad to issue revenue bonds to finance the replacement of the Alaska Railroad passenger dock and facilities in Seward.

This week, SB 109: Permanent Fund Dividend, POMV Split was introduced and referred to the Senate Finance Committee. SB 109 changes the POMV split with 75% going to the General Fund for government use and 25% for the PFD distribution. In addition, SB 109 repeals the 1982 PFD formula. SB 109 is scheduled for its first hearing on Thursday, March 6th at 9:00 am. All members of the Senate Finance Committee are sponsors of this bill.

Summer High School Internship

US Senator Lisa Murkowski is accepting applications for her 2025 Summer High School Internship Program. The Program will be held in two sessions: June 2-27, 2025, and July 7-August 1, 2025. Ten interns will be selected for each session. There is a \$4,000 stipend to help cover transportation and housing costs.

The deadline to apply is Monday, March 24, 2025 at 11:59 pm. Applications can be emailed to Angelina_burney@murkowski.senate.gov. For additional information, you can call Angelina at (202) 224-9302.

**PFD Deadline to apply
Is March 31, 2025**

[CLICK HERE](#)

US Travel and REAL ID

On May 7, 2025, US travelers must be REAL ID compliant. Congress passed the REAL ID Act in 2005. The act established minimum security standards for state-issued driver's licenses and identification cards. To get a REAL ID from the Alaska Dept of Motor Vehicles, you will need to bring the following items with you: 1. Identity and Lawful Status (US passport, certified copy US birth certificate, certificate of Naturalization or certificate of US citizenship), 2. Social Security number/card, 3. Two documents showing your first and last name and residential address, 4. Name Change, name on 1 and 3 must match, if not, bring adoption/marriage/divorce documents.

TSA can accept:

US passport/passport card, US Department of Defense ID, federally recognized Tribal ID card, US Merchant Marine credential. For further information, go to the TSA website. Safe travels!