

City and Borough of Juneau
Mayor's Economic Stabilization Task Force
Thursday, April 09, 2020
3:00 PM

Meeting conducted telephonically only.
Members of the public may listen by calling in to (907) 713-2140, PID#748914

- I. Call to Order**
- II. Roll Call**
- III. Introductions**
- IV. CBJ Financial Status Overview by Jeff Rogers**
- V. Resolution 2889**
 - A. Overview by Scott Ciambor
 - B. Discussion of Task Force recommendation
- VI. Discussion of interaction with other state/federal recovery efforts**
 - A. Task Force Purpose #1: Examine federal and state government financial assistance programs and identify and prioritize any “gaps” that exist.
 - B. Task Force Purpose #3: Act as Liaison with the Governor’s Alaska Economic Stabilization Team.
- VII. Discussion of local business recovery strategies**
 - A. Task Force Purpose #2: Identify and promote strategies that enable businesses to continue operations safely such as curbside pick-up, take-away, delivery, and other innovative services. Additionally, explore strategies that enable businesses and Juneau’s economy to recover in the long term.
- VIII. Committee Comments and Questions**
- IX. Next Meeting Date**
To be determined
- X. Adjournment**

CITY MANAGER'S BUDGET MESSAGE



April 1, 2020

The Honorable Mayor and Assembly
City and Borough of Juneau
Juneau, Alaska

CITY MANAGER'S BUDGET MESSAGE

In accordance with the Municipal Charter, attached is the balanced FY21 and FY22 Operating and Capital Budgets. In it, I am recommending that you begin the budget process with the assumption of a property tax increase of 1 mil, nearly 10%.

With no exaggeration, these are unprecedented times. I recommend that the Assembly bring this recommendation through the public budget process and make a final decision that is informed by the following factors:

1. Forecast impact to our local economy resulting from the global COVID-19 pandemic.
2. Updated estimate of shortfalls in collection of sales tax in the current and future years.
3. Updated accounting of expenses incurred due to COVID-19 mitigation.
4. Assembly consideration of Manager's recommendation on the Capital Improvement Plan.
5. Whether or not the State of Alaska fully funds School Bond Debt Reimbursement.
6. Service Reductions as specifically targeted or a dollar amount as requested by the Assembly.
7. The amount of State or Federal financial relief that becomes available, if any.

Given the unprecedented level of uncertainty, you may wish to think of this budget as an "interim," "draft," or "placeholder" budget with the intention to return to a formal budget process once the dust has settled from the public health crisis we are now experiencing. That work will certainly need to happen in the fall of 2020 or the winter of 2021. However, be advised that the Charter 9.7 (a) requires you to pass a budget by June 15, or the Manager's budget shall be deemed adopted. We must work hard together to ensure that the Assembly is able to pass a budget.

The budget process began with the Assembly's direction to the Manager in early December. I conveyed that direction to the Departments in mid-December and they created their budgets in January. The Manager's Office and Finance Department reviewed those budgets extensively in February in consultation with Directors and key administrative staff. The budget presented here was largely complete by March 1st—significantly before we understood the scope and scale of the spread of COVID-19 and its potential impact on Juneau's community and economy.

This budget reflects revised projections of consumer tax revenues and passenger fees in light of COVID-19. However, it does *not* reflect the impact of COVID-19 on any of the following:

- Departmental Expenditures
- User Fees and Charges for Services
- Enterprise Budgets (expenditure or revenue)
- Capital Improvement Plan

CITY MANAGER'S BUDGET MESSAGE

This budget assumes no cruise ship season in the summer of 2020, and it assumes a tepid season in 2021. Note that the impact of lost cruise ship seasons will be felt across two fiscal years, between FY2020 and FY2021 for this summer's season and across FY2021 and FY2022 for next summer's season. This budget also assumes that the shelter-in-place mandates persist through at least July 1st. This budget also assumes that contraction in the national US economy will result in higher unemployment and less disposable income for several years into the future. These assumptions combined have a severe impact on Sales Tax, Hotel-Bed Tax, other consumer taxes, and all passenger fees. This budget assumes that the State of Alaska will only reimburse 50% of its portion of School Bond Debt in FY2020, FY2021, and FY2022—which is proposed to be fully paid from the Debt Service Fund. One area of stability: this budget projects that property taxes will remain stable after a 1% increase in property valuation in FY2021. At this time, it would be foolish to speculate about the future erosion of property values as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

During the budget process, we will discuss the sizable depletion of unrestricted fund balance and the restricted budget reserve over the next two fiscal years. To offset this substantial decline in available funds, I have proposed a 1.0 mill increase to the areawide rate that will generate approximately \$5.0 million in each of FY2021 and FY2022. Without that proposed increase, by the end of FY2022, this budget could fully drain both the unrestricted fund balance and the restricted budget reserve.

The Assembly has big levers to pull-on to change the trajectory of the budget and resulting fund balances. One option would be to reduce the historic level of investment in capital projects. The FY2021 and FY2022 Capital Improvement Plans will each fund approximately \$20 million of projects with general government and sales tax funds. Even a modest reduction of these substantial infrastructure investments can move the needle. Further, the Assembly can work with the Manager to review existing appropriations for capital improvement projects. Not all projects move at the same speed, and there may be projects that have stalled. There may also be already-appropriated projects that the Assembly no longer views as critical community priorities. De-appropriating these projects can effectively add those funds back to fund balance. Lastly, the Assembly can consider reduction of CBJ operations. To do so, the Assembly can return to the Program Prioritization work that it completed in 2019 where it identified programs as higher or lower priority.

SUMMARY

This City Manager's Budget Message is the shortest in a very long time. You may find that merciful, or you may find yourself wanting more of the ugly detail. We will get to the ugly detail for sure. However, I think the Assembly can do itself a favor by recognizing that the coming year's budget will be a work-in-progress well into next fall. For now, I encourage you to wrestle with the big concepts but avoid becoming lost in the uncertainty in the margins. Again, we live in unprecedented times.

I appreciate the hard work put in by the CBJ staff to prepare this year's budget for introduction. In spite of the uncertainty created by our current public health emergency, this budget reflects significant efforts by CBJ staff to retain status quo expenditures while sustaining critical municipal services. Additionally, I appreciate the work CBJ employees have undertaken over the past years to reduce expenditures and be wise consumers.

Respectfully submitted,



Duncan Rorie Watt
City and Borough Manager

MEMORANDUM



DATE: April 1, 2020
TO: Assembly Finance Committee
FROM: Jeff Rogers, Finance Director
SUBJECT: FY21/22 Revenue Overview

155 Municipal Way
Juneau, AK 99801
Phone: (907) 586-5215
Fax: (907) 586-0358

Background

As has been said by the Manager, we live in unprecedented times. There is an uncomfortable balance between rationale analysis and pure speculation. The revenues forecast in the proposed budget are generally up-to-date with current understanding of the COVID-19 pandemic and the ensuing impact on the global, national, and local economies. These revenue forecasts generally assume the following:

- o No 2020 cruise ship season
- o 2021 cruise ship season is tepid (roughly 2018 level)
- o Government-mandated shelter-in-place continues through June, but eases thereafter
- o Mid-term national recessionary environment

In no way do these assumptions suggest that these are or will be the policies of the CBJ. However, these assumptions likely represent a mean case that is neither too optimistic nor too conservative. See attached revenue tables.

Sales Tax

Reduced sales tax receipts will be the most significant budget impact from COVID-19. From the peak of \$50.4 million in FY2019, \$43.0 million and \$41.7 million are forecast respectively for FY2020 and FY2021. Note that the impact of the lost summer cruise season is split between two fiscal years. The last quarter of FY2020 (the quarter beginning April 1 2020) is forecast to be just \$7.0 million in sales tax, which is less than half the amount of tax received in that same quarter in the prior year. This quarter is also forecast to be the “eye of the needle” after which sales tax will begin to normalize, though not very quickly. The first quarter of FY2021 (the quarter beginning July 1 2020) is forecast to be \$10.9 million, a decline from \$17.1 million in the previous year. This forecast amount assumes that shelter-in-place orders are no longer in effect and that the economy has started to normalize. Forecasts for the quarters starting October 1 2020 and January 1 2021 reflect modest contraction from prior years. And the forecasts for the quarters beginning April 1 2021 and July 1 2021 reflect a full (though not robust) cruise ship and visitor season. As a small offset to these forecast reductions, Remote Sales Tax is forecast at \$0.2 million in FY2020, \$1.2 million in FY2021, and \$1.5 million in FY2022. These forecasts are unadjusted from previous forecasts for remote sales tax.

Using actual FY2019 sales taxes as the base line, these sales tax forecasts represent almost \$18 million in lost sales taxes over roughly two years as a result of impacts from the COVID-19 epidemic—\$7.4 million in FY2020, \$8.7 million in FY2021, and \$1.8 million in FY2022. If compared to previous forecasts that anticipated sales tax growth, the lost revenue would be even greater.

Minor Consumer Taxes

Forecasting hotel-bed tax is challenging in this environment. As of this memo, the Four Points Sheraton has closed to business. The Baranof appears to be open, though it has many long-term rentals to the legislature that are not subject to hotel-bed tax. The decline in cruise ship tourism has an impact on hotel bed tax but it is not linear because only a small fraction of cruise visitors stay overnight in Juneau. Anecdotally, we know that some individuals are using hotels for the purpose of self-isolation, either from their local families or as part of state-mandated travel quarantines. From a high of \$1.64 million in FY2019, hotel-bed taxes are forecast to be \$1.35 million in FY2020, \$0.81 million in FY2021, and then rebounding to \$1.44 million in FY2022. The Assembly

will face decisions about the level of funding to be offered to Travel Juneau and Centennial Hall.

Liquor taxes will be significantly impacted by the closure of bars and restaurants, though it would be reasonable to assume that package sales have risen commensurately. The lack of a summer tourism season likely reduces total consumption considerably. From a high of \$1.02 million FY2019, liquor taxes are forecast to be \$0.86 million in FY2020, \$0.73 million in FY2021, and then rebounding to \$0.89 million in FY2022. The forecast takes a similarly conservative view of marijuana taxes, but since marijuana dispensaries have remained open as critical business, these forecast estimates may unnecessarily conservative. From a high of \$0.28 million in FY2019, marijuana taxes are forecast to be \$0.25 million in FY2020, \$0.20 million in FY2021, and then rebounding to \$0.25 million in FY2022. Anecdotally, retail marijuana sales have remained strong during the shelter-in-place mandate.

Tobacco taxes are likely the least responsive to local shelter-in-place orders, but the absence of summer tourism will reduce the overall consumption volume. From a high of \$2.9 million in FY2019, tobacco taxes are forecast to be \$2.7 million in FY2020, \$2.4 million in FY2021, and then rebounding to \$2.7 million in FY2022.

Passenger Fees

Considering all three of the applicable passenger fees together, from a high of \$14.7 million in FY2019, passenger fees are forecast to be \$14.5 million in FY2020, \$6.7 million in FY2021, and then rebounding to \$10.4 million in FY2022. That trend is unusual, for a number of reasons. Most significantly, state Commercial Passenger Vessel fees are remitted to CBJ once per year in the fall *after* the prior fiscal year has concluded, and CBJ records those remitted fees in that fiscal year. So, for the current year, FY2020, CBJ has already received all of its budgeted state CPV fee revenue from the state. On top of that, supplemental state legislation includes \$2.4 million of additional CPV revenue to be paid in the current year. Hence, even though CBJ will not receive passenger fees for the remainder of the current year, FY2020 total passenger fees are largely unaffected by COVID.

However, this lagging factor of CPV will dampen the longer-term trend of passenger fees. In this regard, FY2021 is the “eye of the needle” with just \$6.7 million in passenger fees to be received, which reflects small amounts to be received in last quarter during the summer 2021 cruise season as well as the delayed payment of CPV from the State from the prior year. FY2022 would otherwise be a more normalized year, but the delay of CPV catches up and reduces total passenger fees in that year also.

CBJ’s advantage with passenger fees is that they primarily fund capital improvements that can simply delayed until fees are available. Each year, CBJ must pay debt services of approximately \$2.1 million on the 16B docks. Additionally, CBJ experienced approximately \$2.5 million of costs for city services related to the summer cruise season. Note: while the 2020 cruise season is not forecast to happen, CBJ cannot ramp down its capacity for general city services for that limited period—these are ongoing sunk costs in overall CBJ capacity.

Property Tax

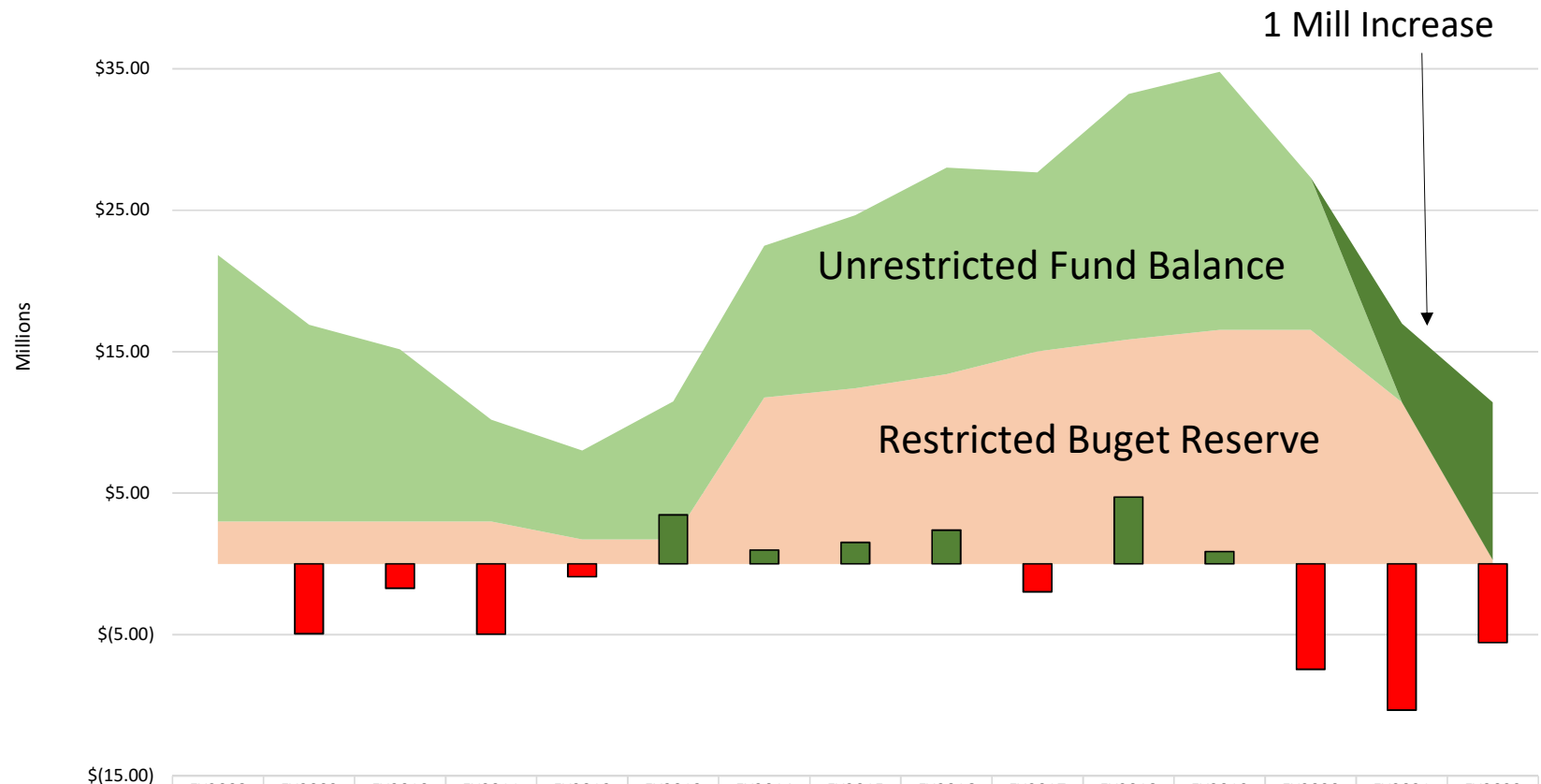
Property tax is not forecast in the same way as other consumer taxes. Importantly, property tax revenue is a factor of only two things: assessed valuation and the mill rate. Assessed valuations are always determined on January 1 for the tax revenue generated in the next fiscal year. So, FY2021 property tax revenues are dependent on valuations from January 1 2020—before the COVID pandemic had spread. Assessment cards were mailed on March 27 2020, and the process of appeals has begun. Based on the assessments and anticipated appeals, we expect valuations will have risen by approximately 1.4% to \$5.07 billion. Naturally, property tax receipts would increase by that same factor. However, the Proposed budget includes a 1.0 mill increase to the rate, which would generate an additional \$5.1 million in each of FY2021 and FY2022.

Conclusion

Consideration of the Proposed FY2021/FY2022 Budget is likely to center significantly on revenue estimates and the impact on fund and reserve balances. The Finance Department is prepared to update these revenue forecasts mid-cycle if new circumstance indicate that updates are warranted.

15-Year Operating Fund Balance History and Projections With Proposed 1.0 Mill Property Tax Increase

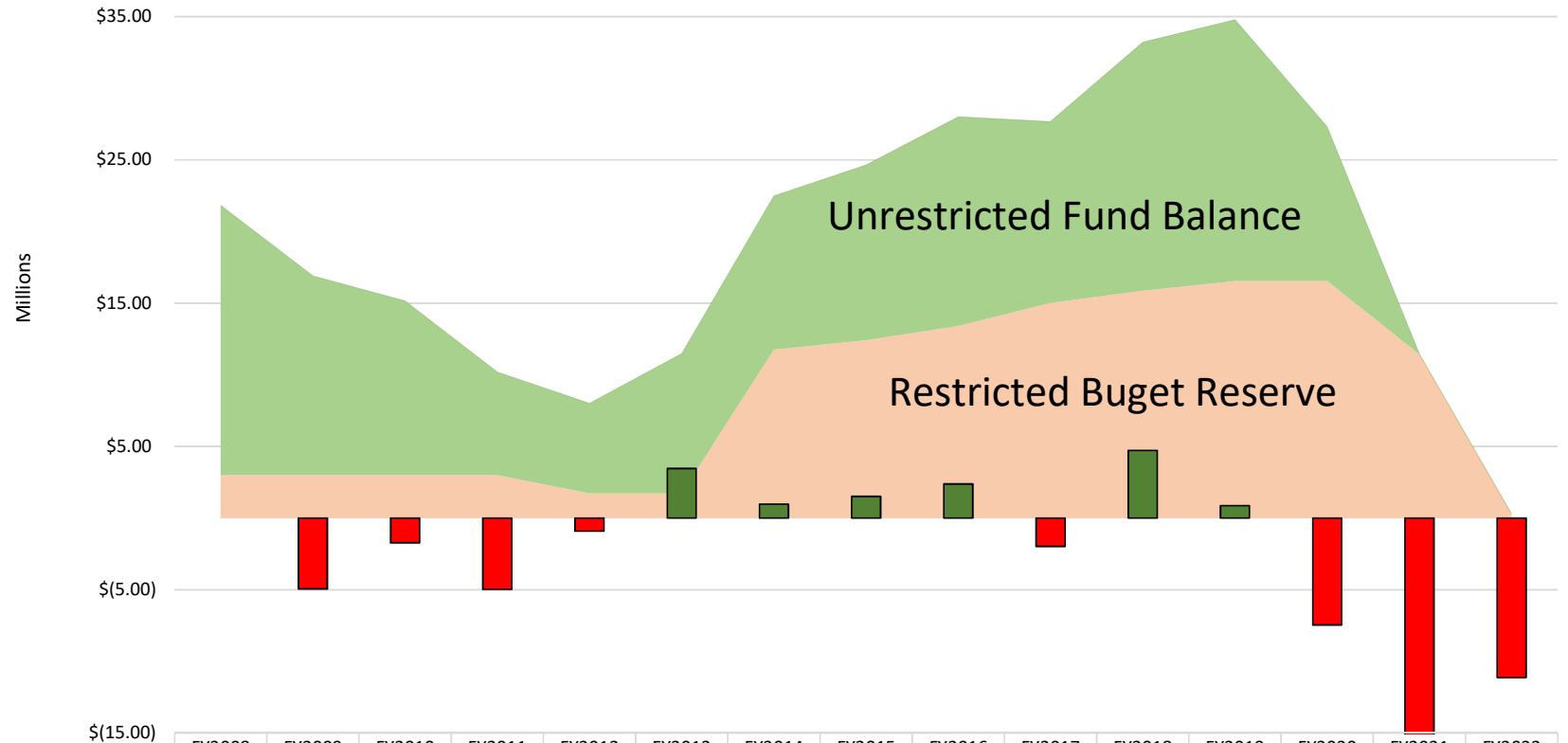
Updated 3/30/2020



	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	FY2020	FY2021	FY2022
■ One Mill PT Increase (cumulative)														\$5.56	\$11.12
■ Unrestricted Fund Balance	\$18.84	\$13.90	\$12.17	\$7.20	\$6.29	\$9.75	\$10.72	\$12.23	\$14.62	\$12.64	\$17.37	\$18.23	\$10.77	\$-	\$-
■ Reserves	\$3.00	\$3.00	\$3.00	\$3.00	\$1.73	\$1.73	\$11.76	\$12.41	\$13.41	\$15.02	\$15.86	\$16.55	\$16.55	\$11.42	\$0.29
■ Surplus/(Deficit)		\$(4.94)	\$(1.72)	\$(4.97)	\$(0.91)	\$3.46	\$0.97	\$1.51	\$2.39	\$(1.98)	\$4.72	\$0.86	\$(7.46)	\$(10.34)	\$(5.57)

15-Year Operating Fund Balance History and Projections Without Proposed 1.0 Mill Property Tax Increase

Updated 3/30/2020



	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	FY2020	FY2021	FY2022
■ One Mill PT Increase (cumulative)															
■ Unrestricted Fund Balance	\$18.84	\$13.90	\$12.17	\$7.20	\$6.29	\$9.75	\$10.72	\$12.23	\$14.62	\$12.64	\$17.37	\$18.23	\$10.77	\$-	\$-
■ Reserves	\$3.00	\$3.00	\$3.00	\$3.00	\$1.73	\$1.73	\$11.76	\$12.41	\$13.41	\$15.02	\$15.86	\$16.55	\$16.55	\$11.42	\$0.29
■ Surplus/(Deficit)		\$(4.94)	\$(1.72)	\$(4.97)	\$(0.91)	\$3.46	\$0.97	\$1.51	\$2.39	\$(1.98)	\$4.72	\$0.86	\$(7.46)	\$(15.90)	\$(11.13)

CBJ COVID-19 Short-Term Rental Assistance Program

In response to the COVID-19 crisis and the economic impacts on Juneau households due to the loss of employment and the ability to cover rent, CBJ has created the COVID-19 Short-Term Rental Assistance Program.

\$_____ from the Juneau Affordable Housing Fund will be made available to assist low-income and workforce housing renters (up to 120% AMI) for up to 3 months' worth of rental assistance.

Alaska Housing Development Corporation (Greuning Park Apartments) will operate the program similar to the rental assistance program that they already have in place. Funds to be passed through the Juneau Community Foundation.

Key components of the program include:

- A focus on households where a member has lost their job and are unable to meet rent;
- Income limits up to 120% AMI to include workforce housing;
- Program to cover rent only (no damages, down payment, utilities, etc.) AHDC other programs could cover these.

The program will modify and use the AHDC application process in place and require the following documentation:

- Proof of lay-off status or eviction notice;
- 30-day bank statement;
- Copy of lease;
- Release of information; and
- A signed Landlord/Tenant venter agreement.

Eligible participants will qualify for 2 months rental assistance, with potential for a 3rd month after a check-in. The process typically takes between 3-5 days.

Using 2-bedroom Fair Market Rents of roughly \$1200 a month in Juneau, approximately 83 rent payments will be paid for each \$100,000 in the program. If households utilize all 3 months of assistance, approximately 28 households to be assisted per \$100,000.

Short-term rental assistance is an eligible use of the Juneau Affordable Housing Fund underneath the "funding for supportive services for occupants" goal and because it is in the target income range for affordable/workforce housing families.

**ALASKA
HOUSING DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

1800 NORTHWOOD DRIVE

**JUNEAU, AK. 99801
907-780-6666
907-780-4533 FAX**

April 06, 2020

**To : Beth Weldon, Mayor
And Juneau Assembly Members**

From: Tamara Rowcroft, Executive Director

I wanted to provide a bit of information on the concept of providing some rental assistance relief for Juneau families during this pandemic. If the Assembly chooses to fund a program, this is a model of how that program might be quickly implemented.

COVID-19 Rental Assistance Program

All funding for this expanded program would be used to provide immediate relief to assist Juneau families from falling behind on their rent and running the risk of being evicted from their rental housing. Funding would be used only for households that have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, these would include loss of job income due to lay off from closure of workplace, significant loss of employment/work hours, and loss of employment income due to loss of childcare or school closures.

Funding assistance of \$200,000 would provide rental assistance for approximately a two-month period for 65-75 households.

Households facing eviction from their housing for reasons other than the COVID-19 restrictions, will continue to be assisted with the existing Housing Assistance Program funding. These existing programs currently provide eviction prevention relief to over 100 low income Juneau families each year.

All households applying for COVID-19 Rental Assistance Program funding will be required to provide:

- **Proof of loss of employment or reduction in hours due to COVID-19 related restrictions;**
- **Current bank statement;**
- **Copy of current rental lease;**
- **Completed program application for all household members;**
- **Documentation from Landlord on unpaid rent due balance;**

Program staff will contact each Landlord to verify, tenancy and amount of assistance needed to keep family in their housing.

Please contact me at any time for more information.

From: Beth Weldon <Beth.Weldon@juneau.org>

Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 8:18 AM

To: Max Mertz <max@mertzcpa.com>; Jeff Rogers <Jeff.Rogers@juneau.org>

Cc: lthomas@alaskanbeer.com; Rorie Watt <Rorie.Watt@juneau.org>; Beth McEwen <Beth.McEwen@juneau.org>

Subject: Re: Economic Task Force and Rental Assistance

For the rental assistance, some of the questions asked were:

Can people be evicted? (Although that doesn't solve the problem that they will still owe the rent)

What programs already cover rent or ensure a paycheck ?

What time frame is enough ? One month to keep them until other programs. Or two or three.

Many of the stipulations in the program are either due to how we can use the fund, Make sure we are helping those that need help, or making sure the COVID-19 is the cause of their inability to pay.

Another concern was renters are about 30-40% of our folks (if I remember correctly certainly fact check me on that) what about people with mortgages?

You are welcome to break into small groups to research before Thursday.

I'm including Beth McEwen so you can send you the memo from AHDC we received last night.

Call me if you have questions or if I can assist in any way

Thank you
Beth

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

Presented by: Assembly
Presented: 04/06/2020
Drafted by: R. Palmer III

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA

Emergency Serial No. 2889

An Emergency Appropriation Resolution Appropriating \$200,000 to the Manager for an Emergency Rental Assistance Program; Funding Provided by the Affordable Housing Fund.

- A. WHEREAS, consistent with Charter 9.10(b), upon declaration by the Assembly that a public emergency exists and describing the emergency in clear and specific terms, the Assembly by resolution may make emergency appropriation upon approval by all Assemblymembers present or by seven of its membership, whichever is the lesser number; and
- B. WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death and is easily transmittable person to person; and
- C. WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization (“WHO”) declared the virus a pandemic; and
- D. WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the State of Alaska declared a public health emergency in response to the anticipated outbreak of the virus in Alaska; and
- E. WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, President Donald J. Trump declared a national emergency in response to the virus pandemic; and
- F. WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, the Assembly declared a local emergency in response to COVID-19; and
- G. WHEREAS, on March 22, 2020, the City and Borough of Juneau (“CBJ”) received its first positive case of COVID-19; and
- H. WHEREAS, there are approximately 5,000 rental units in the CBJ; and
- I. WHEREAS, workforce housing in the CBJ typically equates to less than 120 percent of the area median income (AMI); and
- J. WHEREAS, nearly half of the renters make less than 80 percent of the AMI and approximately 70 percent of those renters have unaffordable rental costs; and
- K. WHEREAS, renters need immediate support as many worked in businesses that have closed or reduced hours because of COVID-19 and social distancing requirements; and

- L. WHEREAS, federal and state resources may be available too late or insufficient to be of assistance to renters or landlords who need immediate assistance; and
- M. WHEREAS, providing rental assistance now prevents the need for additional costs and services in the future, which is in the public's interest; and
- N. WHEREAS, failing to provide rental assistance would result in further adverse impacts to Juneau's economy and social service network; and
- O. WHEREAS, the Alaska Housing Development Corporation, a nonprofit corporation and also known as Gruening Park in partnership with Gastineau Human Services, has an existing rental assistance program that has experienced increased demand due to the COVID-19 public emergency.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA:

Section 1. Emergency Appropriation. There is appropriated to the Manager the sum of two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000.00) for an Emergency Rental Assistance Program, to be granted to the Juneau Community Foundation only for disbursement to the Alaska Housing Development Corporation.

Section 2. Source of Funds:

Affordable Housing Fund	\$ 200,000.00
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Section 3. Emergency Rental Assistance Program Purpose and Terms. The program is subject to the following terms and conditions:

- (a) Rental assistance is for people who have lost employment as a result of COVID-19 or people who cannot earn wages as the result of a loss of childcare due to COVID-19.
- (b) Rental assistance is prioritized for people who earn less than 120 percent of the area median income as calculated by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.
- (c) Applicants must provide sufficient proof of lay-off and/or eviction notices, lack of day care, 30-day bank statements, and leasing information.
- (d) The Manager is directed to report back to the Assembly on the number of applicants and disbursement of funds.

Section 4. Effective Date. This resolution shall be effective immediately after its adoption.

Adopted this ____ day of _____, 2020.

Beth A. Weldon, Mayor

Attest:

Elizabeth J. McEwen, Municipal Clerk

From: Scott Ciambor <Scott.Ciambor@juneau.org>
Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 4:23 PM
To: Jeff Rogers <Jeff.Rogers@juneau.org>
Cc: Max Mertz <max@mertzcpa.com>; lthomas@alaskanbeer.com
Subject: RE: Present to Economic Task Force on Thursday Afternoon?

Hi Jeff & Taskforce:

Here are the rental assistance details for the meeting:

1. Attached: short-program description that would piggyback on the current AHDC rental assistance program. Their current program receives annual funding from AHFC and Juneau Community Fund.
2. Assembly had asked a question on unemployment data; information below this email.
3. AHDC letter of interest to Assembly. (attached)
4. Juneau Affordable Housing Fund Balance
 - a. FY20 current balance: \$1,020,300 (with the senior housing funding already taken out of the Fund);
 - b. CBJ COW noted to use \$525,400 in a competitive round July 1 (= \$494,900 left); and
 - c. July 1, 2020: an additional \$300,000 into the Fund from 1% sales tax (=\$794,900 in FY21 available)
5. Ordinance sent to the [Assembly for consideration on April 6, 2020](#).
6. State and Federal funding: The CARES Act funding for housing and homelessness programs has not been decided yet; discretion to the Governor. It will likely include funding to support current public housing, housing choice voucher programs and support to existing programs and potential new shelter, quarantine, and isolation efforts. No timetable for decision.

Q: What about unemployment data? Reached out to Karinne Weibold with DOL.

Here is the DOL update on site for Juneau: <http://live.laborstats.alaska.gov/labforce/labdata.cfm?s=13&a=0>

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual
2020	4.7	4.0											
2019	5.6	5.7	5.4	4.6	4.4	4.3	3.9	3.8	4.0	4.2	4.4	4.4	
2018	5.1	5.0	4.8	4.5	4.0	4.3	3.8	3.6	4.0	4.5	4.7	5.0	4.4

March numbers will be available around April 17(a month lag in data).

Karinne doesn't think this will show the big jump because the period of labor loss in Alaska started around March 15. The May numbers will be the first sign of significant impact.

However, DOL does not publish unemployment claims data but provided information for recent ADN articles.

- April 1: <https://www.adn.com/business-economy/2020/04/01/jobless-claims-in-alaska-surge-even-higher-far-exceeding-numbers-seen-during-great-recession/>
- March 26: <https://www.adn.com/business-economy/2020/03/26/alaska-jobless-claims-make-unprecedented-jump-amid-coronavirus-downturn/>

AHDC in their application screening; ask for monthly budget; verification of income, and an area to check off if receiving unemployment or other assistance. They verify with landlord. Karinne mentioned DOL/ETA division doesn't release that information on the individual level.

Scott Ciambor | /SKAHT CHAM-bor/
 Chief Housing Officer | ph 907.586.0220
 155 S. Seward Street | Juneau, Alaska 99801
Scott.Ciambor@Juneau.org



Alaska Economic Stabilization Team

Information Sheet-1

March 20, 2020

Introduction

The purpose of this document, prepared by leadership of the Alaska Economic Stabilization Team (AEST), is to provide initial feedback, information, and strategies for the administration and state leaders to consider related to stabilizing Alaska's economy amidst COVID-19. The information presented has come from a diverse range of individuals and interests across Alaska. We are reaching out by phone and videoconference to gather ideas from Alaskans. We view all Alaskans as force multipliers in this great fight for our state's future.

This information sheet is not meant to communicate a recommendation unless expressly stated, and will be considered just one of several documents that will be delivered. We will continue to compile strategies and ideas from Alaskans and beyond and will develop additional documents as we go including information directly relevant to Alaska businesses. Lastly, AEST recognizes that this situation is fluid, and that is why this list is not considered complete or comprehensive. There are many sectors to Alaska's economy and we will continue to reach out and listen to all who are impacted.

Developing Economic Themes We are Hearing:

- Alaskans understand that life, health, and safety of every Alaskan is top priority;
- COVID-19 concerns and related restrictions are beginning to have a negative impact: Job and business income losses beginning (employees and business owners have bills and debt to pay);
- Concern around oil prices

Strategic Approaches We are Hearing:

- Protect essential infrastructure (for example: hospitals; natural gas and electricity production/generation & transmission; telecommunications; oilfield facilities, etc.)
- Consistent with medical science, allow earlier COVID19 testing for employees in critical jobs/facilities (hospitals; natural gas and electricity production & transmission; telecommunications; oilfield facilities, etc.) **[in process]**
- Streamlining of telemedicine certification so providers can address patients' needs sooner. **[in process or complete]**
- Make cash available to individual Alaskans quickly
- Make capital available, including State resources and private sector capital, for targeted effort.
- Assure State corporations (like AIDEA) have governance ability to move quickly (e.g. boards to meet telephonically and make decisions). Also allow waiver of notice periods, if needed, to make immediate decisions to approve and conduct their business.

- Simplify access for Alaskans to all State benefits and services online [**in process re: unemployment compensation**]
- Launch a web portal for Alaskans to access resources and submit recommendations regarding economic stabilization. This could also include centralized information for pending/passed state and federal legislation aimed at businesses in response to COVID-19. [**In process**]
- Harness Alaskan brainpower and ingenuity to innovate and come out the other side together.

Emerging Strategic Theme We are Hearing: “A Big Economic Threat Requires a Big Response”

Over-Arching Stimulus Ideas:

1. Early Dividend: The idea of an early, partial Permanent Fund Dividend has been suggested from many sources and could take more than one form. The idea is early partial payment(s) would supplement (but be thoughtfully coordinated as to timing) with any stimulus measures taken by the Federal Government. An early partial dividend would help provide needed support and stabilization for Alaskans in these first weeks/months. See some options below.
 - a. The State of Alaska could consider an early partial dividend paid out in installments over 5 months (May/June – September/October).
 - b. The State of Alaska could consider a one-time early payment as soon as possible (April-May) while any remaining dividend would be paid in October on the traditional PFD payment schedule.

In scenario (a), the stabilizing effect of the smaller amount across each of several months was seen as positive. In any case, an early PFD amount (of the anticipated total dividend in October) would be a positive step.

2. Unemployment benefits: Given the inevitable influx of Alaskans applying for unemployment, the State needs to ensure resources are in place to quickly and adequately assist Alaskans. This includes allocating the necessary resources to the Department so an update can be performed on the website to simplify the experience and better serve Alaskans. Additionally, resources must be allocated so the Department can provide timely responses to Alaskans. An internal assessment of strengths/weaknesses within the department should be done as soon as possible. Any available federal dollars should be used to assist in this effort and to maximize capacity to serve Alaskans. Lastly, it is critical the State of Alaska request “Federal Additional Compensation” from our Congressional delegation – this is what was received in 2008 for unemployment benefits.
3. Address Waivers for SNAP Program: According to the Division of Public Assistance, an estimated 80,000 Alaskans receive food assistance under this program and 5,000 people could lose their benefits under a new federal rule that could take effect April 1, 2020. The State of Alaska in the past has been able to receive a statewide waiver, but that waiver expired in October 2019. New

standards for waivers include labor data showing an unemployment rate of more than 10% over a year or unemployment of no less than 6% over two years.

Alaska was able to receive a waiver for 21 of the 29 boroughs and census areas under the new rules, but areas like Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, Matanuska-Susitna Borough did not qualify.

The State should reconsider its request for waiver application, as these areas that were not included will be hit hard as part of the projected job reductions. Special consideration should be taken into account from the federal government.

4. Housing or Rental Voucher: The State of Alaska could consider a temporary housing or rental voucher from Alaska Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC) and potentially tie eligibility to those already qualified for or qualifying for unemployment compensation between March 15, 2020 and July 15, 2020.

Potential Options for Short-Term Financing:

1. Leverage Private Money for New Infrastructure: The State could consider leveraging more private sector money for new infrastructure through an entity such as AIDEA.
2. Utilize AIDEA Funds: The State could consider utilizing AIDEA funds for a working capital program and for business interruption loans. In order for this to be an effective option, the State would need to work with AIDEA to amend their processes and loan collateral requirements. It would need to be mutually recognized that this money would be utilized to help small to medium size businesses bridge the gap of this initial time period.
3. Explore AIDEA Loan Guarantee Program: We have been told that AIDEA currently has a loan guarantee program that is underutilized. We recommend a review to determine if it can be retooled to allow financial institutions to utilize for small to medium size businesses.
4. Reevaluate Investment Guidelines: The State could explore options for moving money into the Alaska market faster from the two new Alaska funds within the Permanent Fund Corporation.
5. Consider Private Investment: The state and local governments, where applicable, could consider seeking private sector investment in and operation of public sector assets. (e.g. ports at Anchorage & MatSu, AMHS, etc.).

SB 241- Coronavirus Emergency Response Bill
Sections 15, 22-32 are retroactive to March 11, 2020

Directly Applicable Provisions for the CBJ:

Section 13: Municipal Government Deadlines

Any deadline established under AS 29 that occurs after the effective date of SB 241 is extended until November 15, 2020 or until the public health disaster emergency no longer exists (whichever is first).

AS 29.45.060(b): Farm or agricultural land reduced assessment must be filed by May 15th.

AS 29.45.062(b): Landowners with conservation easements must apply by May 15th for the reduced assessment.

AS 29.45.065(b): Private airport reduced assessments due May 15th.

AS 29.45.110(d): LIHTC assessment application is due by May 15th

AS 29.45.190(b): taxpayer has 30 days from the notice of assessment to submit a written appeal to the assessor.

(AS 29.45.240- the municipality shall establish the date when taxes become delinquent, with the rate to be set before June 15)

Section 19: Moratorium on Disconnections of Residential Utility Services

- Public utilities (very broad definition to mean utility furnishing electric, telecommunications, water, steam, sewer, natural or manufactured gas, petroleum distribution, garbage, refuse, trash, or waste material) may not disconnect for nonpayment if the person is experiencing financial hardship due to the COVID-19 public health disaster. If they already disconnected and the person faced the hardship on or after March 11, the public utility must make reasonable efforts to reconnect them.
- A person must provide a signed sworn statement to the utility regarding the hardship and must negotiate and agree to a deferred payment agreement. The public utility may recover all amounts due. Repayment plans may not be shorter than the period of declared emergency. The utility cannot impose interest or late fees on anyone who fulfills the terms of the deferred payment agreement.

Section 20: Regulatory Assets for Unpaid Utility Bills and Extraordinary Expenses

A certified utility may record regulatory assets, to be recovered through future rates, for uncollectable residential utility bills and extraordinary expenses that result from the emergency.

Section 15: Workers' Compensation Presumption

An employee who contracts COVID-19 is conclusively presumed to have contracted an occupational disease arising out of and in the course of employment IF (1) the employee is a firefighter, emergency medical technician, paramedic, peace officer, or health care provider; (2)

is exposed to COVID-19 in the course of their employment; 3) receives a COVID-19 diagnosis by a physician, test, or lab.

Section 10 & 16: Permanent Fund Dividend

- Application period for the 2020 PFD is extended to April 30, 2020.
- Residents who are absent from Alaska on or after March 11, 2020 who would otherwise be eligible for the PFD may notify the Commissioner of DOR and remain eligible if the absence is the result of the emergency (such as quarantine periods and travel bans)

Section 21: Moratorium on Evictions for Nonpayment of Rent (limited to residential tenants)

- Until June 30, 2020 or until the emergency no longer exists (whichever is earlier), the deadlines for FED actions for nonpayment of rent or any cause of action to evict a residential tenant for nonpayment of rent (including rent for a storage unit for personal property) is suspended if the tenant is experiencing financial hardship related to the emergency.
- To receive protection, the tenant must supply a sworn signed statement to their landlord that their financial hardship is related to the emergency.
- A tenant can still be evicted for misconduct, violations of law, or violation of contract not related to nonpayment of rent.
- Landlord may still collect back rent after the emergency.

Section 24: Moratorium on Foreclosures

- Any action used to foreclose on real property is suspended if applied to a person experiencing financial hardship related to the emergency.
- To receive protection, the person must supply the creditor a signed sworn statement that their financial hardship is related to the emergency.
- This protection does not apply to property that is vacant or abandoned.
- The creditor may still collect the amounts due after the emergency.

Section 27: Moratorium on Repossession of Motor Vehicles

- A creditor cannot repossess a motor vehicle, aircraft, or watercraft under a loan or security agreement if a person is suffering financial hardship related to the emergency.
- To receive protection, the person must supply the creditor a signed sworn statement that their financial hardship is related to the emergency.
- The creditor may still collect the amounts due after the emergency.

Section 30: Financial Assistance to Address Homelessness

During the emergency, or until November 15, 2020, Alaska Housing Finance Corporation shall provide financial assistance on a community basis as necessary to address homelessness caused by the emergency.

Other Provisions of Interest:

Section 11: Tax Filings, Payments, and Penalties

- Anyone required to file a tax return to DOR, pay taxes, fees, or charges to DOR between the date of SB 241 and July 15, 2020 will automatically have the date extended to July

15, 2020. Penalties and interest will not be assessed if the taxpayer complies with filing and payments by July 15, 2020.

- This does not apply to delinquencies prior to the enacting of SB 241.
- Excludes oil and gas production taxes, oil surcharges, oil and gas exploration, production and pipeline transportation property taxes

Section 22: Income Determinations for Public Assistance

Any program administered by a municipality where eligibility is based on financial need, the municipality cannot consider the PFD or money paid to the individual by another State or Federal Program as the result of the emergency as income unless expressed otherwise.

Section 23: Forbearance of State loans

Borrowers of State loans (State of Alaska, AIDEA, ACPE, or other public loans- but not PFD Corporation, Alaska Mental Health Trust, Alaska Municipal Bond Bank., Retirement Management Board, or Treasury Division of DOR) cannot be found in default if the borrower is experiencing financial hardship due to the emergency. The creditor under the State loan program can still recover the amounts after the emergency.

Section 4: Standing Orders

Grants immunity for civil damages to the chief medical officer resulting from act or omission in standing orders issued to health care providers. This immunity is extended to public health providers who act on that standing order (does not shield against gross negligence, recklessness, or intentional misconduct).

Section 6: Professional and Occupational Licensing

- Licensing fees may not be increased during the emergency.
- A license, permit, or certificate may be issued on an expedited basis to a professional licensed in another State to respond to the emergency in Alaska.
- Continuing education requirements may also be modified or waived in 2020.

Section 9: Elections

Elections may be done by mail.

Section 14: Alaska Regional Economic Assistance Program

Allows State to make grants for financial assistances to businesses for operating expenses during the public health disaster emergency, with grants distributed based on regional population.

Section 26: Unfair or Deceptive Trade Practices

- A person cannot charge more than 10% over the price charged for supplies (food, medicine, medical equipment, fuel, sanitation products, hygiene products, essential household supplies, and other essential goods).
- Only exception is if the charge that exceeds 10% is the result of increased cost for the seller to purchase those supplies. For fuel- normal market fluctuations may excuse the cost.



LAWS OF ALASKA

2020

Source
FCCS SB 241

Chapter No.

AN ACT

Extending the March 11, 2020, governor's declaration of a public health disaster emergency in response to the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic; providing for a financing plan; making temporary changes to state law in response to the COVID-19 outbreak in the following areas: standing orders of the chief medical officer; occupational and professional licensing, practice, and billing; telehealth; fingerprinting requirements for health care providers; elections in calendar year 2020; permanent fund dividend applications and eligibility; state tax filings, payments, and penalties; corporations; state and municipal government deadlines; the Alaska regional economic assistance program; Medicaid and public assistance; workers' compensation; sanitation standards for retail sellers; actions by the Regulatory Commission of Alaska; utilities and residential utility service; power cost equalization; forbearance of specified state loans; foreclosures; evictions; wills; repossessions; access to federal stabilization funds; seafood purchase and distribution; homelessness; administrative hearings; and liability for issuing, providing, or manufacturing personal protective equipment; and providing for an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

THE ACT FOLLOWS ON PAGE 1

AN ACT

1 Extending the March 11, 2020, governor's declaration of a public health disaster emergency in
2 response to the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic; providing for a financing
3 plan; making temporary changes to state law in response to the COVID-19 outbreak in the
4 following areas: standing orders of the chief medical officer; occupational and professional
5 licensing, practice, and billing; telehealth; fingerprinting requirements for health care
6 providers; elections in calendar year 2020; permanent fund dividend applications and
7 eligibility; state tax filings, payments, and penalties; corporations; state and municipal
8 government deadlines; the Alaska regional economic assistance program; Medicaid and
9 public assistance; workers' compensation; sanitation standards for retail sellers; actions by the
10 Regulatory Commission of Alaska; utilities and residential utility service; power cost
11 equalization; forbearance of specified state loans; foreclosures; evictions; wills; repossessions;

1 access to federal stabilization funds; seafood purchase and distribution; homelessness;
2 administrative hearings; and liability for issuing, providing, or manufacturing personal
3 protective equipment; and providing for an effective date.

4
5 * **Section 1.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section
6 to read:

7 FINDINGS. (a) The legislature finds that

8 (1) in December 2019, a novel coronavirus known as severe acute respiratory
9 syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) was first detected in Wuhan, Hubei province,
10 People's Republic of China, leading to outbreaks of novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19)
11 that have now spread globally;

12 (2) on January 31, 2020, the United States Secretary of Health and Human
13 Services declared a public health emergency under 42 U.S.C. 247d (Public Health Service
14 Act);

15 (3) to date, 50 states have confirmed cases of COVID-19, including
16 confirmation of community transmission of COVID-19;

17 (4) on March 11, 2020, the commissioner of health and social services
18 certified to the governor that there is a high probability that COVID-19 presents a credible
19 threat of an imminent outbreak of the disease in the state, meeting the definition of disaster
20 under AS 26.23.900(2)(E);

21 (5) on March 11, 2020, the governor issued a declaration of a public health
22 disaster emergency under AS 26.23.020 in anticipation of the spread of COVID-19 to the
23 state;

24 (6) in the disaster declaration issued March 11, 2020, the governor found that
25 a statewide response under AS 18.15.390 is required to address the public health disaster
26 emergency and authorized the commissioner of health and social services and the adjutant
27 general of military and veterans' affairs to take all actions necessary to address the public
28 health disaster emergency;

29 (7) on March 12, 2020, the Department of Health and Social Services and the
30 governor announced that the first case of COVID-19 was diagnosed in an individual in

1 Anchorage;

2 (8) additional cases of COVID-19 are being diagnosed across the state;

3 (9) the chief medical officer in the Department of Health and Social Services
4 and the commissioner of health and social services have determined that it will take months of
5 monitoring and active public health management, including closing public facilities, limiting
6 public events, and establishing quarantine and isolation protocols and enforcement under
7 AS 18.15.390, to contain the spread of COVID-19;

8 (10) the adjutant general of the Alaska organized militia has determined that it
9 may be necessary for the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs, under the guidance of
10 the commissioner of health and social services, to use personnel and other resources of the
11 Department of Health and Social Services to institute actions under AS 26.23.020, including
12 provisions to perform or facilitate performance of disaster emergency services.

13 (b) Based on the findings in (a) of this section, the legislature finds that it is in the
14 best interest of the state to extend the public health disaster emergency declaration issued by
15 the governor on March 11, 2020, and all the powers granted under AS 18.15.390 and
16 AS 26.23.020, to November 15, 2020.

17 * **Sec. 2.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
18 read:

19 PUBLIC HEALTH DISASTER EMERGENCY; EXTENSION OF DISASTER
20 EMERGENCY. (a) Under AS 26.23.020(c), the Alaska State Legislature extends to
21 November 15, 2020, the declaration of a public health disaster emergency issued by the
22 governor on March 11, 2020. The extension under this subsection includes an order,
23 proclamation, or regulation issued under AS 26.23.020 and an action taken by the Department
24 of Health and Social Services under the authority granted to the Department of Health and
25 Social Services under AS 18.15.390.

26 (b) Notwithstanding (a) of this section, if the commissioner of health and social
27 services certifies to the governor that there is no longer a present outbreak of novel
28 coronavirus disease (COVID-19) or a credible threat of an imminent outbreak of COVID-19,
29 the governor shall issue a proclamation that the public health disaster emergency identified in
30 the declaration issued by the governor on March 11, 2020, no longer exists as of a date
31 determined by the governor. The certification must be based on specific information received

1 from a state or federal agency or another source that the commissioner determines to be
2 reliable.

3 (c) The governor shall submit a proclamation issued under (b) of this section to the
4 revisor of statutes, the president of the senate, the speaker of the house of representatives, and
5 the lieutenant governor.

6 * **Sec. 3.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
7 read:

8 PUBLIC HEALTH DISASTER EMERGENCY; FINANCING PLAN. (a) Under
9 AS 26.23.020(k), the Alaska State Legislature approves this financing plan for the declaration
10 of a public health disaster emergency issued by the governor on March 11, 2020, as extended
11 by sec. 2 of this Act, and provides that the following appropriations and authorizations may be
12 used to cope with the public health disaster emergency:

13 (1) the appropriations made in sec. 8, ch. 2, SLA 2020;

14 (2) the appropriations made in sec. 10, SCS CSHB 234(FIN), Department of
15 Health and Social Services, Thirty-First Alaska State Legislature;

16 (3) the authorization made in sec. 1, CCS HB 205, Department of Health and
17 Social Services, Thirty-First Alaska State Legislature, allowing for up to \$20,000,000 in
18 transfers between all appropriations made in the Department of Health and Social Services,
19 except for transfers from the Medicaid services appropriation;

20 (4) the appropriations made in CCS HB 205, Department of Health and Social
21 Services, Thirty-First Alaska State Legislature,

22 (A) of federal receipts received during the fiscal year ending June 30,
23 2021, for Medicaid services; and

24 (B) to the Department of Health and Social Services public health
25 emergency response for the purpose of responding to the novel coronavirus disease
26 (COVID-19) public health disaster emergency; and

27 (5) the appropriation made in CCS HB 205, Thirty-First Alaska State
28 Legislature, to the disaster relief fund under AS 26.23.300(a).

29 (b) The governor may not expend more than a cumulative total of \$10,000,000 of the
30 assets of the disaster relief fund under AS 26.23.020(h) - (k) or 26.23.300(b) in response to
31 the declaration of a public health disaster emergency issued by the governor on March 11,

1 2020, as extended by sec. 2 of this Act.

2 (c) Notwithstanding AS 26.23.050(b), the expenditure of state funds to cope with the
3 effects of the declaration of a public health disaster emergency issued by the governor on
4 March 11, 2020, as extended by sec. 2 of this Act, is limited to the appropriations and
5 expenditure authority identified in (a) and (b) of this section.

6 * **Sec. 4.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
7 read:

8 STANDING ORDERS. (a) The chief medical officer in the Department of Health and
9 Social Services, or, if the chief medical officer is incapacitated, the chief medical officer's
10 designee, shall issue standing orders for public health agents and health care providers related
11 to essential public health services and functions and in response to conditions of public health
12 importance that are related to novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19). Standing orders shall
13 be effective until retracted or for the duration of the public health disaster emergency
14 declaration issued by the governor on March 11, 2020, as extended by sec. 2 of this Act.

15 (b) The chief medical officer in the Department of Health and Social Services is not
16 liable for civil damages resulting from an act or omission in issuing a standing order
17 authorized under this section if

18 (1) the standing order

19 (A) is issued to health care providers;

20 (B) is required to mitigate the COVID-19 public health disaster
21 emergency; and

22 (C) contains sufficient information in support of the need for a
23 standing order; and

24 (2) the chief medical officer provides sufficient education or training required
25 to properly implement the standing order, including training manuals, video recordings, and
26 other reasonable means of implementing the standing order.

27 (c) Except as provided in (d) of this section, a public health agent or health care
28 provider who takes action based on a standing order issued by the chief medical officer is not
29 liable for civil damages resulting from an act or omission in implementing the standing order.

30 (d) Nothing in this section precludes liability for civil damages as a result of gross
31 negligence, recklessness, or intentional misconduct.

1 (e) In this section, "essential public health services and functions," "health care
2 provider," and "public health agent" have the meanings given in AS 18.15.395.

3 * **Sec. 5.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
4 read:

5 **REPORTS.** Beginning May 1, 2020, the governor shall electronically submit, on the
6 first day of each month, a report to the president of the senate and the speaker of the house of
7 representatives that lists the expenditures used to cope with the public health disaster
8 emergency declared by the governor on March 11, 2020, as extended by sec. 2 of this Act,
9 and identifies all actions taken by the governor, the Department of Health and Social Services,
10 the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs, and other state agencies directly related to
11 the prevention, control, and status of novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) cases in the
12 state. The report must include an explanation, made without disclosing information that would
13 identify individuals, of any activities related to the isolation or quarantine of individuals to
14 contain the spread of COVID-19. The governor shall submit a final report not later than
15 January 15, 2021, or 60 days after the date the governor determines, under sec. 2 of this Act,
16 that the public health disaster emergency no longer exists, whichever is earlier. Each report
17 submitted under this section must include cumulative information.

18 * **Sec. 6.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
19 read:

20 **PROFESSIONAL AND OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING.** (a) Notwithstanding any
21 other provision of law, during the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) public health
22 disaster emergency declared by the governor on March 11, 2020, as extended by sec. 2 of this
23 Act, a professional or occupational licensing board listed in AS 08.01.010, or the director,
24 with respect to a profession regulated by the Department of Commerce, Community, and
25 Economic Development,

26 (1) may not increase licensing fees; and

27 (2) may grant a license, permit, or certificate on an expedited basis to an
28 individual who holds a corresponding license, permit, or certificate in good standing in
29 another jurisdiction to the extent necessary to respond to the public health disaster emergency;
30 a license expedited under this section expires on the earlier of

31 (A) November 15, 2020; or

1 (B) the date the governor determines, under sec. 2 of this Act, that the
2 public health disaster emergency no longer exists.

3 (b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law and to the extent necessary to respond
4 to the public health disaster emergency, a board listed in AS 08.01.010, the commissioner of
5 commerce, community, and economic development, or the director, as applicable, may take
6 additional action necessary to protect public health, safety, and welfare, including

7 (1) temporarily waiving or modifying the continuing education requirements
8 required for licensees to renew a professional license, permit, or certificate in calendar year
9 2020;

10 (2) regulating the scope and duration of any license, permit, or certificate
11 issued under this section;

12 (3) requiring any individual granted a license, permit, or certificate under this
13 section to arrange and agree to supervision, in person or by other means, by an individual who
14 holds a license, permit, or certificate in good standing for the applicable profession or by an
15 administrator of a facility licensed under AS 47.32.

16 (c) An individual seeking or holding an expedited license, permit, or certificate under
17 this section who travels to the state from outside the state must comply with travel restrictions
18 ordered or guidelines recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention,
19 United States Department of Health and Human Services, that are in effect at the time the
20 individual arrives in the state.

21 (d) In this section, "director" means the director of the division in the Department of
22 Commerce, Community, and Economic Development responsible for business and
23 professional licensing.

24 * **Sec. 7.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
25 read:

26 TELEMEDICINE AND TELEHEALTH. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of
27 law, during the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) public health disaster emergency
28 declared by the governor under AS 26.23.020 on March 11, 2020, as extended by sec. 2 of
29 this Act, the provisions of AS 08.64.170 and AS 08.68.160 do not apply to a health care
30 provider who is providing treatment, rendering a diagnosis, or prescribing, dispensing, or
31 administering a prescription, excluding a controlled substance listed under AS 11.71.140 -

1 11.71.190, through telehealth as defined in AS 47.05.270(e), without first conducting an in-
2 person physical examination, if

3 (1) the health care provider is licensed, permitted, or certified to provide
4 health care services in another jurisdiction and is in good standing in the jurisdiction that
5 issued the license, permit, or certification;

6 (2) the health care services provided without an in-person physical
7 examination are within the provider's authorized scope of practice in the jurisdiction that
8 issued the provider's license, permit, or certification;

9 (3) in the event that the health care provider determines that the encounter will
10 extend beyond the scope of practice or scope of services described in this section, the health
11 care provider advises the patient that the health care provider is not authorized to provide the
12 services to the patient, recommends that the patient contact a health care provider licensed in
13 the state, and terminates the encounter.

14 (b) The amount charged by a health care provider for services provided under this
15 section must be reasonable and consistent with the ordinary fees typically charged for that
16 service and may not be more than five percent above the ordinary fees typically charged for
17 that service. A health care provider who is required to terminate an encounter under (a)(3) of
18 this section may not charge for any services provided during the encounter.

19 (c) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, during the COVID-19 public health
20 disaster emergency, the commissioner of health and social services may waive any state law
21 or regulation if compliance would substantially prevent or impede the provision of health care
22 services under this section. Nothing in this subsection may be construed to abrogate authority
23 granted to the commissioner of health and social services under AS 18.15.390.

24 (d) In this section, "health care provider" has the meaning given in AS 18.15.395.

25 * **Sec. 8.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
26 read:

27 FINGERPRINTING. For the duration of the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19)
28 public health disaster emergency declaration issued by the governor on March 11, 2020, as
29 extended by sec. 2 of this Act, the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic
30 Development shall coordinate with the Department of Health and Social Services and the
31 Department of Public Safety to expedite the process for applicants under AS 08.29, AS 08.36,

1 AS 08.64, AS 08.68, AS 08.71, AS 08.72, AS 08.80, AS 08.84, and AS 08.86 to submit
2 fingerprints.

3 * **Sec. 9.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
4 read:

5 ELECTIONS: LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR. (a) Notwithstanding any provision in
6 AS 15.15 or AS 15.20 to the contrary, for the duration of the novel coronavirus disease
7 (COVID-19) public health disaster emergency declaration issued by the governor on
8 March 11, 2020, as extended by sec. 2 of this Act, the director of the division of elections may
9 conduct all elections in the same manner as an election by mail under AS 15.20.800.

10 (b) The director of the division of elections may adopt regulations necessary to
11 implement this section, including emergency regulations. The director shall inform the public
12 if the elections held in calendar year 2020 will be held in the same manner as an election by
13 mail under AS 15.20.800. The director shall inform the public by means including mail,
14 electronic mail, telephone, social media, public service announcements, radio advertisements,
15 television advertisements, web announcements, or print media.

16 * **Sec. 10.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
17 read:

18 PERMANENT FUND DIVIDENDS: APPLICATIONS. Notwithstanding
19 AS 43.23.011(a), the application period for a 2020 permanent fund dividend ends April 30,
20 2020.

21 * **Sec. 11.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
22 read:

23 TAX FILINGS, PAYMENTS, AND PENALTIES. Except for any tax return, report,
24 or payment required under AS 43.55 or AS 43.56, a taxpayer required to file a tax return,
25 including an amended return or an information return or report, to the Department of Revenue
26 or to make a payment to the Department of Revenue for a tax, fee, or other charge under
27 AS 05.15, AS 16.10.455, AS 16.51, or AS 43, on or after the effective date of this Act and
28 before July 15, 2020, shall automatically receive an extension of time until July 15, 2020, to
29 file the return or report, or to make the payment. Because of the application of the extensions
30 in this section, a penalty or interest will not be assessed if the taxpayer complies with the
31 filing and payment requirements on or before July 15, 2020. An extension under this section

1 does not apply to a taxpayer for any return or report required to be filed before the effective
2 date of this Act and any payment of tax, interest, penalty, or other charge due before the
3 effective date of this Act.

4 * **Sec. 12.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
5 read:

6 MEETINGS OF SHAREHOLDERS; NOTICE OF SHAREHOLDER MEETINGS;
7 CORPORATIONS. (a) Notwithstanding AS 10.06.405, a meeting of shareholders may be
8 held by electronic communication to the extent the corporation's board authorizes and adopts
9 guidelines to govern an electronic meeting.

10 (b) Notwithstanding AS 10.06.410, a corporation that has distributed or is planning to
11 distribute, on the effective date of this Act, a proxy statement and notice of annual meeting to
12 its shareholders may renotece or notice the annual meeting so that the annual meeting may be
13 held by electronic communication authorized under (a) of this section.

14 (c) Notwithstanding AS 10.20.061 - 10.20.076, a meeting of the members of a
15 nonprofit corporation organized under AS 10.20, including meeting notice and determination
16 of a quorum, may be held by telecommunication to the extent the corporation's board adopts
17 or amends bylaws to allow for an electronic meeting.

18 (d) Notwithstanding (a) - (c) of this section and a provision of AS 10.06 or AS 10.20
19 to the contrary, a meeting, including the notice of the meeting and determination of a quorum,
20 of the shareholders of a Native corporation organized under AS 10.06 or the members of a
21 Native corporation organized under AS 10.20 may be held by electronic communication or
22 telecommunication to the extent the corporation's board of directors authorizes holding
23 meetings by electronic communication or telecommunication and adopts guidelines to govern
24 a meeting held by electronic communication or telecommunication. In this subsection,
25 "Native corporation" means a corporation organized under 43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq. (Alaska
26 Native Claims Settlement Act).

27 * **Sec. 13.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
28 read:

29 MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT DEADLINES. Notwithstanding any provision in
30 AS 29 to the contrary, a deadline established under AS 29 that occurs on or after the effective
31 date of this Act is extended until the earlier of

1 (1) November 15, 2020; or

2 (2) the date the governor determines, under sec. 2 of this Act, that the public
3 health disaster emergency no longer exists.

4 * **Sec. 14.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
5 read:

6 ALASKA REGIONAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. (a)
7 Notwithstanding AS 44.33.896, the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic
8 Development may make grants to organizations for distribution as financial assistance to
9 businesses for operating expenses during the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) public
10 health disaster emergency declared by the governor on March 11, 2020, as extended by sec. 2
11 of this Act. The Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development shall
12 distribute grants under this subsection among qualified organizations based on regional
13 population.

14 (b) An organization that receives a grant under (a) of this section shall

15 (1) develop an application procedure for a business to apply for financial
16 assistance;

17 (2) determine the amount of financial assistance for distribution to a business
18 based on the size, assets, resources, financial history, and needs of the business; and

19 (3) provide information requested by the Department of Commerce,
20 Community, and Economic Development for purposes of the report compiled under
21 AS 44.33.896(e).

22 (c) In this section, "organization" has the meaning given in AS 44.33.896.

23 * **Sec. 15.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
24 read:

25 WORKERS' COMPENSATION PRESUMPTION OF COMPENSABILITY. (a)
26 Notwithstanding AS 23.30.121, 23.30.395(2), and 23.30.395(24), an employee who contracts
27 the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is conclusively presumed to have contracted an
28 occupational disease arising out of and in the course of employment if, during the public
29 health disaster emergency declared by the governor on March 11, 2020, as extended by sec. 2
30 of this Act, the employee

31 (1) is employed as a firefighter, emergency medical technician, paramedic,

1 peace officer, or health care provider;

2 (2) is exposed to COVID-19 in the course of employment as a firefighter,
3 emergency medical technician, paramedic, peace officer, or health care provider; and

4 (3) receives a

5 (A) COVID-19 diagnosis by a physician;

6 (B) presumptive positive COVID-19 test result; or

7 (C) laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 diagnosis.

8 (b) In this section,

9 (1) "emergency medical technician" has the meaning given in AS 18.08.200;

10 (2) "firefighter" means

11 (A) a person employed by a state or municipal fire department or who
12 is a member of a volunteer fire department registered with the state fire marshal; or

13 (B) a person registered for purposes of workers' compensation with the
14 state fire marshal as a member of a volunteer fire department;

15 (3) "health care provider" has the meaning given in AS 13.52.390;

16 (4) "paramedic" has the meaning given in AS 12.55.185;

17 (5) "peace officer" has the meaning given in AS 11.81.900.

18 * **Sec. 16.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
19 read:

20 ALLOWABLE ABSENCE FOR THE PERMANENT FUND DIVIDEND.
21 Notwithstanding AS 43.23.005(a)(4) and 43.23.008(d), during the novel coronavirus disease
22 (COVID-19) public health disaster emergency declared by the governor on March 11, 2020,
23 as extended by sec. 2 of this Act, an individual otherwise eligible for a permanent fund
24 dividend who has notified the commissioner of revenue or the commissioner's designee that
25 the individual expects to be absent from the state for a continuous period on or after
26 March 11, 2020, remains eligible to receive a permanent fund dividend if the only reason the
27 individual would be ineligible to receive a permanent fund dividend is that the individual was
28 absent from the state because of conduct, including maintaining a voluntary or compulsory
29 quarantine, related to avoiding or preventing the spread of COVID-19.

30 * **Sec. 17.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
31 read:

1 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES; RETAIL SELLERS.
2 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, for the duration of the novel coronavirus disease
3 (COVID-19) public health disaster emergency declared by the governor under AS 26.23.020
4 on March 11, 2020, as extended by sec. 2 of this Act, the Department of Health and Social
5 Services may, in coordination with the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs, establish
6 sanitation procedures for retail sellers. In this section, "retail seller" includes a market,
7 grocery store, convenience store, drug store, or similar establishment that

8 (1) is located in a permanent building; and

9 (2) sells to consumers household supplies, perishable items, or food
10 merchandise, including meat, produce, dairy products, or snack foods.

11 * **Sec. 18.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
12 read:

13 TOLLING DEADLINES FOR ACTION BY THE REGULATORY COMMISSION
14 OF ALASKA. Notwithstanding a contrary provision of AS 42, including a provision of
15 AS 42.05 or AS 42.08, during the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) public health
16 disaster emergency declared by the governor on March 11, 2020, as extended by sec. 2 of this
17 Act, all statutory and regulatory deadlines for action by the Regulatory Commission of Alaska
18 are tolled and failure by the Regulatory Commission of Alaska to act on a filing does not
19 constitute approval or dismissal by the commission. This section does not apply to a statutory
20 or regulatory deadline extended by the commission before March 11, 2020, for good cause
21 under AS 42.05.175(f).

22 * **Sec. 19.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
23 read:

24 MORATORIUM ON DISCONNECTION OF RESIDENTIAL UTILITY SERVICE.

25 (a) During the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) public health disaster emergency
26 declared by the governor on March 11, 2020, as extended by sec. 2 of this Act, a public utility
27 as defined in AS 42.05.990 may not disconnect for nonpayment the residential utility service
28 of a person experiencing financial hardship related to the COVID-19 public health disaster
29 emergency. A public utility shall make reasonable efforts to reconnect utility service to a
30 dwelling that is occupied by a person experiencing financial hardship related to the COVID-
31 19 public health disaster emergency and that is disconnected for nonpayment on or after

1 March 11, 2020.

2 (b) A person seeking protection under (a) of this section shall, before the date the
3 governor determines, under sec. 2 of this Act, that the COVID-19 public health disaster
4 emergency no longer exists, or before November 15, 2020, whichever is earlier,

5 (1) provide to the public utility a signed statement, sworn under penalty of
6 perjury, that the person is experiencing financial hardship related to the COVID-19 public
7 health disaster emergency; and

8 (2) negotiate and agree to a deferred payment agreement with the utility.

9 (c) This section does not relieve a public utility customer of the obligation to pay for
10 utility service or restrict a public utility's ability to recover an amount due.

11 (d) A utility shall offer a person receiving protection under (a) of this section a
12 deferred payment agreement allowing repayment over a period of time not shorter than the
13 period of time of the public health disaster emergency declared by the governor on March 11,
14 2020, as extended by sec. 2 of this Act. The utility may not impose interest or late fees on a
15 person receiving protection under (a) of this section who fulfills the terms of a deferred
16 payment agreement.

17 (e) Notwithstanding any contrary provision of law, the Regulatory Commission of
18 Alaska and the Alaska Energy Authority may not deny a utility otherwise eligible to receive
19 power cost equalization payments on behalf of a utility customer power cost equalization
20 payments for customers receiving protection under (a) of this section.

21 (f) In this section,

22 (1) "financial hardship" means that a person's liquid assets from any source,
23 including payments from the state or federal government because of the COVID-19 public
24 health disaster emergency or a state or national disaster declaration related to COVID-19,
25 when combined, would be insufficient to pay the reasonable cost of food, housing, health
26 care, and other goods and services vital to the health and wellness of the person and the
27 person's spouse and dependents; in this paragraph, "dependent" has the meaning given in
28 AS 23.20.350(g);

29 (2) "person" means a natural person.

30 * **Sec. 20.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
31 read:

1 REGULATORY ASSETS FOR UNPAID UTILITY BILLS AND
2 EXTRAORDINARY EXPENSES. A utility certificated under AS 42.05 may record
3 regulatory assets, to be recovered through future rates, for uncollectable residential utility bills
4 and extraordinary expenses that result from the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) public
5 health disaster emergency declared by the governor on March 11, 2020, as extended by sec. 2
6 of this Act. The determination as to whether an extraordinary expense resulted from the
7 COVID-19 public health disaster emergency and the amortization periods for the regulatory
8 assets are subject to approval by the Regulatory Commission of Alaska before recovery
9 occurs through future rates. In this section, an "uncollectable residential utility bill" does not
10 include a debt paid under a deferred payment agreement under sec. 19 of this Act.

11 * **Sec. 21.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
12 read:

13 MORATORIUM ON EVICTIONS FOR NONPAYMENT OF RENT. (a) Until the
14 date the governor determines, under sec. 2 of this Act, that the novel coronavirus disease
15 (COVID-19) public health disaster emergency no longer exists, or until June 30, 2020,
16 whichever is earlier, the statutory cause of action for forcible entry and detainer for
17 nonpayment of rent under AS 09.45 and any other statutory cause of action that could be used
18 to evict or otherwise eject a person who is a residential tenant for nonpayment of rent,
19 including for nonpayment of rent for a storage unit for personal property, is suspended as
20 applied to a person experiencing financial hardship related to the COVID-19 public health
21 disaster emergency.

22 (b) A person seeking protection under (a) of this section shall, before June 30, 2020,
23 provide to the landlord a signed statement, sworn under penalty of perjury, that the person is
24 experiencing financial hardship related to the COVID-19 public health disaster emergency.

25 (c) Nothing in this section

26 (1) prevents evictions for misconduct, violations of law, or violations of
27 contracts outside of inability to pay rent;

28 (2) may be construed to increase civil liability of a landlord.

29 (d) This section does not relieve a person of the obligation to pay rent or restrict a
30 landlord's ability to recover rent due.

31 (e) In this section,

1 (1) "financial hardship" means that a person's liquid assets from any source,
2 including payments from the state or federal government because of the COVID-19 public
3 health disaster emergency or a state or national disaster declaration related to COVID-19,
4 when combined, would be insufficient to pay the reasonable cost of food, housing, health
5 care, and other goods and services vital to the health and wellness of the person and the
6 person's spouse and dependents; in this paragraph, "dependent" has the meaning given in
7 AS 23.20.350(g);

8 (2) "person" means a natural person.

9 * **Sec. 22.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
10 read:

11 INCOME DETERMINATIONS FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE. (a) Notwithstanding
12 AS 43.23.240(a), until the date the governor determines, under sec. 2 of this Act, that the
13 novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) public health disaster emergency no longer exists, or
14 until November 15, 2020, whichever is earlier, in determining the eligibility of an individual
15 under a public assistance program administered by the Department of Health and Social
16 Services in which eligibility for assistance is based on financial need, the Department of
17 Health and Social Services may not consider a permanent fund dividend or money paid to the
18 individual by another state or federal program because of the COVID-19 outbreak as income
19 or resources received by the recipient of public assistance or by a member of the recipient's
20 household unless required to do so by federal law or regulation.

21 (b) Notwithstanding AS 43.23.240(b), and to the extent consistent with federal law,
22 until the date the governor determines, under sec. 2 of this Act, that the COVID-19 public
23 health disaster emergency no longer exists, or until November 15, 2020, whichever is earlier,
24 when determining the eligibility of an individual for medical assistance under 42 U.S.C. 1396
25 - 1396p (Social Security Act, Title XIX), the individual is entitled to receive the same level of
26 medical assistance as the individual would have received under 42 U.S.C. 1396 - 1396p
27 (Social Security Act, Title XIX) had there been no Alaska permanent fund dividend program
28 and no money paid to the individual by another state or federal program because of the
29 COVID-19 outbreak.

30 (c) Notwithstanding AS 43.23.240(c) and the limit in AS 47.25.130, and to the extent
31 consistent with federal law, until the date the governor determines, under sec. 2 of this Act,

1 that the COVID-19 public health disaster emergency no longer exists, or until November 15,
2 2020, whichever is earlier, when determining the eligibility of an individual for financial
3 assistance under AS 47.25.120 - 47.25.300 (general relief assistance program), the individual
4 is entitled to receive the same amount as the individual would have received under other
5 public assistance programs had there been no Alaska permanent fund dividend program and
6 no money paid to the individual by another state or federal program because of the COVID-19
7 outbreak.

8 (d) Notwithstanding AS 43.23.250, until the date the governor determines, under sec.
9 2 of this Act, that the COVID-19 public health disaster emergency no longer exists, or until
10 November 15, 2020, whichever is earlier, a program administered by the state or any of its
11 instrumentalities or municipalities, the eligibility for which is based on financial need, may
12 not consider a permanent fund dividend or money paid to the individual by another state or
13 federal program because of the COVID-19 outbreak as income or resources unless required to
14 do so by federal law or regulation.

15 * **Sec. 23.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
16 read:

17 **FORBEARANCE OF STATE LOANS.** (a) Notwithstanding any provision of state
18 law and to the extent consistent with federal law, until the date the governor determines, under
19 sec. 2 of this Act, that the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) public health disaster
20 emergency no longer exists, or until November 15, 2020, whichever is earlier, if a borrower
21 experiences financial hardship related to the COVID-19 public health disaster emergency, the
22 state, as a lender or the administrator of a loan, may not find the borrower in default, ask a
23 court or an arbitrator to find the borrower in default, or seize or otherwise obtain collateral
24 that is in the possession or control of the borrower.

25 (b) A borrower seeking protection under (a) of this section shall, before the date the
26 governor determines, under sec. 2 of this Act, that the COVID-19 public health disaster
27 emergency no longer exists, or November 15, 2020, whichever is earlier, provide to the lender
28 or administrator of the loan a signed statement, sworn under penalty of perjury, that the
29 borrower is experiencing financial hardship related to the COVID-19 public health disaster
30 emergency.

31 (c) This section does not relieve a person of the obligation to pay a debt or restrict a

1 creditor's ability to recover an amount due.

2 (d) In this section,

3 (1) "financial hardship" means that a person's liquid assets from any source,
4 including payments from the state or federal government because of the COVID-19 public
5 health disaster emergency or a state or national disaster declaration related to COVID-19,
6 when combined, would be insufficient to pay the reasonable cost of food, housing, health
7 care, and other goods and services vital to the health and wellness of the person and the
8 person's spouse and dependents; in this paragraph, "dependent" has the meaning given in
9 AS 23.20.350(g);

10 (2) "person" means a natural person;

11 (3) "state" means the State of Alaska, the Alaska Industrial Development and
12 Export Authority, the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education, and agencies or
13 programs that lend, or enter into agreement to lend, money for or on behalf of the State of
14 Alaska, except for the

15 (A) Alaska Housing Finance Corporation, when the corporation is
16 providing a loan that is not a single family residential mortgage loan or public housing
17 assistance;

18 (B) Alaska Permanent Fund Corporation;

19 (C) Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority;

20 (D) Alaska Municipal Bond Bank;

21 (E) Alaska Retirement Management Board; or

22 (F) Department of Revenue, treasury division.

23 * **Sec. 24.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
24 read:

25 MORATORIUM ON FORECLOSURES. (a) Until the date the governor determines,
26 under sec. 2 of this Act, that the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) public health disaster
27 emergency no longer exists, or until June 30, 2020, whichever is earlier, the statutory cause of
28 action for foreclosure under AS 09.45 and any other statutory cause of action that could be
29 used to foreclose on real property is suspended as applied to a person experiencing financial
30 hardship related to the COVID-19 public health disaster emergency.

31 (b) A person seeking protection under (a) of this section shall, before June 30, 2020,

1 provide to the creditor seeking foreclosure a signed statement, sworn under penalty of perjury,
2 that the person is experiencing financial hardship related to the COVID-19 public health
3 disaster emergency.

4 (c) This section does not relieve a person of the obligation to pay a debt or restrict a
5 creditor's ability to recover an amount due.

6 (d) This section does not apply to real property that is vacant or abandoned.

7 (e) In this section,

8 (1) "financial hardship" means that a person's liquid assets from any source,
9 including payments from the state or federal government because of the COVID-19 public
10 health disaster emergency or a state or national disaster declaration related to COVID-19,
11 when combined, would be insufficient to pay the reasonable cost of food, housing, health
12 care, and other goods and services vital to the health and wellness of the person and the
13 person's spouse and dependents; in this paragraph, "dependent" has the meaning given in
14 AS 23.20.350(g);

15 (2) "person" means a natural person.

16 * **Sec. 25.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
17 read:

18 WITNESSING OF WILL SIGNING BY VIDEOCONFERENCE. (a)
19 Notwithstanding AS 13.12.502, for the duration of the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19)
20 public health disaster emergency declared by the governor on March 11, 2020, as extended by
21 sec. 2 of this Act, and for 10 days thereafter, a will may be signed or witnessed by
22 videoconference by one or more of the witnesses required, if the will contains a statement
23 substantially similar to the following:

24 Under penalty of perjury, I assert that I am a member of a group that has been
25 declared by the World Health Organization or the United States Centers for
26 Disease Control and Prevention to be at higher risk for severe illness from
27 novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19), or I have been advised by a health care
28 provider or a state, local, or federal agency that being in the physical presence
29 of others may expose me or others to a health risk related to novel coronavirus
30 disease (COVID-19).

31 (b) Within 60 days after the execution of a will by videoconference under (a) of this

1 section, each person who witnessed the will by videoconference shall sign and attach to the
2 will, or an exact facsimile of the will, a statement substantially similar to the following:

3 Under penalty of perjury, I assert that (1) the testator has informed me that the
4 testator is a member of a group that has been declared by the World Health
5 Organization or the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
6 to be at higher risk for severe illness from novel coronavirus disease (COVID-
7 19), or I have been advised by a health care provider or a state, local, or federal
8 agency that being in the physical presence of others may expose me or others
9 to a health risk related to novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19); and (2) I am
10 satisfied that the will to which this statement is attached is either the original
11 will signed by the testator or is an exact facsimile of the original will.

12 (c) In this section, "videoconference" means a conference using technology that
13 enables the testator, notary, or the person making the acknowledgment and the person
14 executing the document and witnesses to, while in different locations, simultaneously
15 communicate orally and maintain visual contact.

16 * **Sec. 26.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
17 read:

18 UNFAIR OR DECEPTIVE TRADE PRACTICES. A person that charges more than
19 10 percent over the price charged for supplies in this state in the normal course of business
20 before the start of the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) public health disaster
21 emergency declared by the governor on March 11, 2020, as extended by sec. 2 of this Act,
22 commits an unfair or deceptive act or practice under AS 45.50.471 - 45.50.561 (Alaska Unfair
23 Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Act), unless the charge that exceeds 10 percent is
24 caused by an increased cost for the seller to purchase the supplies or, for a person in the
25 business of selling fuel, caused by normal fluctuations in the market for fuel based on supply
26 and demand. This section applies regardless of whether the person was in the business of
27 selling supplies before March 11, 2020. In this section, "supplies" means

- 28 (1) food;
29 (2) medicine;
30 (3) medical equipment;
31 (4) fuel;

- 1 (5) sanitation products;
- 2 (6) hygiene products;
- 3 (7) essential household supplies; and
- 4 (8) other essential goods.

5 * **Sec. 27.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
6 read:

7 MORATORIUM ON REPOSSESSION OF MOTOR VEHICLES. (a)

8 Notwithstanding another provision of law to the contrary, a creditor or person acting on behalf
9 of a creditor may not repossess or otherwise take possession of a motor vehicle, aircraft, or
10 watercraft until the date the governor determines, under sec. 2 of this Act, that the novel
11 coronavirus disease (COVID-19) public health disaster emergency no longer exists, or until
12 June 30, 2020, whichever is earlier, if a person is experiencing financial hardship related to
13 the COVID-19 public health disaster emergency and is unable to make a loan or other agreed-
14 on payment that is owed on a motor vehicle, aircraft, or watercraft under a loan or security
15 agreement. In this subsection,

- 16 (1) "aircraft" has the meaning given in AS 02.15.260;
- 17 (2) "motor vehicle" has the meaning given in AS 28.90.990; and
- 18 (3) "watercraft" has the meaning given in AS 11.46.360.

19 (b) A person seeking protection under (a) of this section shall, before June 30, 2020,
20 provide to the creditor a signed statement, sworn under penalty of perjury, that the person is
21 experiencing financial hardship related to the COVID-19 public health disaster emergency.

22 (c) This section does not relieve a person of the obligation to pay a debt or restrict a
23 creditor's ability to recover an amount due.

24 (d) In this section,

25 (1) "financial hardship" means that a person's liquid assets from any source,
26 including payments from the state or federal government because of the COVID-19 public
27 health disaster emergency or a state or national disaster declaration related to COVID-19,
28 when combined, would be insufficient to pay the reasonable cost of food, housing, health
29 care, and other goods and services vital to the health and wellness of the person and the
30 person's spouse and dependents; in this paragraph, "dependent" has the meaning given in
31 AS 23.20.350(g);

1 (2) "person" means a natural person.

2 * **Sec. 28.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
3 read:

4 STATE ACCESS TO FEDERAL EDUCATION STABILIZATION FUNDS. The
5 governor shall apply to the United States Department of Education for any emergency funding
6 available to the state through the Education Stabilization Fund under the requirements
7 outlined in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, also known as the
8 CARES Act, enacted into law by the Second Session of the 116th Congress. The governor
9 shall make reasonable efforts to make assurances required for the state to receive the
10 maximum federal funding allocations allowable under the education stabilization provisions
11 of the CARES Act.

12 * **Sec. 29.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
13 read:

14 PURCHASE OF SEAFOOD FOR DISTRIBUTION. The Department of Commerce,
15 Community, and Economic Development is encouraged to issue a request for proposal for the
16 purchase of Alaska seafood from the seafood industry for distribution during the COVID-19
17 public health disaster emergency to food banks and soup kitchens in the state, Alaska Native
18 regional corporations, and Alaska Native regional nonprofit organizations for distribution
19 throughout the state.

20 * **Sec. 30.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
21 read:

22 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO ADDRESS HOMELESSNESS. Until the date the
23 governor determines, under sec. 2 of this Act, that the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19)
24 public health disaster emergency no longer exists, or until November 15, 2020, whichever is
25 earlier, subject to appropriation, the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation under AS 18.56.090
26 shall provide financial assistance on a statewide, regional, or community basis as necessary to
27 address or prevent homelessness caused by the COVID-19 public health disaster emergency.

28 * **Sec. 31.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
29 read:

30 TOLLING OF OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS DEADLINES. (a)
31 Notwithstanding a contrary provision of state law and to the extent consistent with federal

1 law, during the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) public health disaster emergency
2 declared by the governor on March 11, 2020, as extended by sec. 2 of this Act, the office of
3 administrative hearings may toll a statutory or regulatory deadline occurring during the
4 COVID-19 public health disaster emergency for the duration of the emergency declaration, as
5 extended by sec. 2 of this Act, and 30 days thereafter, for

6 (1) the office of administrative hearings to take an action or make a decision
7 or proposed decision;

8 (2) a final decision maker to take an action on a proposed decision of the
9 office of administrative hearings;

10 (3) a party who is requesting the office of administrative hearings or a final
11 decision maker to take action or make a decision on a matter.

12 (b) Failure by the office of administrative hearings to take action or make a decision
13 on a matter by a statutory or regulatory deadline tolled under (a) of this section does not
14 constitute approval or denial of the matter.

15 (c) This section does not apply to

16 (1) a statutory or regulatory deadline occurring before March 11, 2020, or
17 after the public health disaster emergency ends;

18 (2) a deadline under AS 44.64.060 related to a matter referred to the office of
19 administrative hearings by the Department of Revenue or the Department of Health and
20 Social Services;

21 (3) a deadline for acting on a summary suspension of a facility or occupational
22 license.

23 (d) The office of administrative hearings shall continue to make reasonable efforts to
24 take action and issue decisions as soon as possible during the public health disaster
25 emergency and may not arbitrarily or unreasonably fail to act or make decisions.

26 * **Sec. 32.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
27 read:

28 **LIABILITY: PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT.** (a) In addition to the
29 immunity available under AS 09.65.091, during the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19)
30 public health disaster emergency declared by the governor on March 11, 2020, as extended by
31 sec. 2 of this Act, a health care provider or manufacturer of personal protective equipment is

1 not liable for civil damages resulting from an act or omission in issuing, providing, or
2 manufacturing personal protective equipment in the event of injury or death to the user of the
3 personal protective equipment if the personal protective equipment was issued, provided, or
4 manufactured in good faith to respond to the COVID-19 public health disaster emergency.

5 (b) Nothing in this section precludes liability for civil damages as a result of gross
6 negligence, recklessness, or intentional misconduct.

7 (c) A health care provider or manufacturer of personal protective equipment that
8 issues, provides, or manufactures personal protective equipment to respond to the COVID-19
9 public health disaster emergency declared by the governor on March 11, 2020, as extended by
10 sec. 2 of this Act, shall notify the user of the personal protective equipment that the equipment
11 may not meet established federal standards and requirements.

12 (d) In this section, "health care provider" has the meaning given in AS 18.15.395 and
13 a nursing home.

14 * **Sec. 33.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
15 read:

16 TRANSITION: REGULATIONS. (a) The commissioner of health and social services
17 may adopt regulations necessary to implement sec. 22 of this Act.

18 (b) The commissioner of administration or the commissioner's designee may adopt
19 regulations necessary to implement sec. 23 of this Act.

20 (c) The regulations adopted under this section are not subject to AS 44.62
21 (Administrative Procedure Act).

22 * **Sec. 34.** Sections 1 - 4, 6 - 20, 22, 23, 30, and 32 of this Act are repealed on the earlier of

23 (1) November 15, 2020; or

24 (2) the date the governor determines, under sec. 2 of this Act, that the public
25 health disaster emergency declared by the governor under AS 26.23.020 on March 11, 2020,
26 as extended by sec. 2 of this Act, no longer exists.

27 * **Sec. 35.** Section 5 of this Act is repealed January 16, 2021.

28 * **Sec. 36.** Sections 21, 24, and 27 of this Act are repealed June 30, 2020.

29 * **Sec. 37.** Sections 25, 26, 28, 29, and 31 of this Act are repealed March 11, 2021.

30 * **Sec. 38.** Regulations adopted under sec. 33 of this Act are annulled March 11, 2021.

31 * **Sec. 39.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to

1 read:

2 RETROACTIVITY. (a) If secs. 1 - 14 and 16 - 21 of this Act take effect after
3 April 10, 2020, secs. 1 - 14 and 16 - 21 of this Act are retroactive to April 10, 2020.

4 (b) Sections 15 and 22 - 32 of this Act are retroactive to March 11, 2020.

5 * **Sec. 40.** This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).

From: Michelle Hale <Michelle.Hale@juneau.org>
Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 10:48 AM
To: Beth McEwen <Beth.McEwen@juneau.org>
Subject: Re: questions for economic stabilization task force & one more question

Do we have an understanding yet of the magnitude of the need for mortgage payment assistance?

THANKS,
Michelle

From: Michelle Hale
Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 10:46 AM
To: Beth McEwen
Subject: questions for economic stabilization task force

Hi, Madame Clerk,

Following are a couple of questions that I have for the new task force relative to the rent assistance:

- These are aimed at understanding the magnitude of the problem that we may have in Juneau with rent. My concern is that it is much, much greater than the 65-75 families that would be helped by the measure under consideration.
- How many people have filed for unemployment in Juneau in March? Rorie has forwarded some info already so I realize that this may not be yet available.
- If the Assembly does approve \$200,000 does the Task Force recommend this be disbursed first-come first-served?

Thanks,
Michelle Hale