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**From:** Must Read Alaska Legislative News Service <Suzanne@mustreadalaska.com>  
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**Good morning.**

*Welcome to the legislative update for discerning Alaskans, brought to you by supporters of freedom ... you know who you are ...*

*Into the kitchen, where we have Taco Tuesday ... [If you like this service, be sure to tip your server ...](#) Thank you to [everyone who supports](#) this *Must Read Alaska* project.*

**May 15 2021** - We'll be putting a pause on this legislative bulletin after Wednesday's edition. It's been a great effort, and this editor looks forward to some needed down time ... as in just 60-hour weeks, rather than 70 hours ... All the legislative news will be rolled into the regular Monday-Wednesday-Friday edition of the *Must Read Alaska* newsletter.

Thanks to everyone for your kind words, and thanks to those who sponsored the Club MRAK project. Thanks to those who sent corrections. I appreciate you all every single day.

[Legislative Finance has posted its latest Capital Budget committee substitute reports here.](#)

## YESTERDAY'S BEST BITES

### The House Finance Committee notes:

**SB 27:** The hemp industry bill, which moved out of committee unchanged.

**SB 101:** Extending the federal lands advisory commission.

[Documents for the hearing can be found here.](#)

**SB 101: Sen. Josh Revak** came forward to explain his bill, which extends the commission to 2029, in accord with the recommendation of the legislative Auditor.

The Senate Finance Committee produced a committee substitute to restore one full-time staffer to the commission and to specify that 3 commission members would be from ANCSA corporations.

There are 12 commission members, six appointed by the Governor and six appointed by the Legislature.

Auditor **Chris Curtis** explained the commission. **Rep. Andy Josephson** said he would ask her a provocative question and he did: He suggested her statement as to what is in the public interest expresses a bias by asking the question. Curtis was well prepared for the question and provided comprehensive details, history and background supporting the commission and the bill. **Rep. Adam Wool** asked about commission funding history and Curtis provided details going back to inception in 1981.

Rep. Neal Foster provided excellent examples from the Nome and the Seward Peninsula areas of needed land-based access that bring support for the commission from his constituents.

Rep. Sara Rasmussen said that within the first 100 days of the Biden administration there were numerous examples of why Alaskans now need this commission more than ever.

The hearing moved to invited testimony.

**Tina Cunning**, and ANILCA specialist gave background on protections in ANILCA that need oversight by Alaskans through SB 101. She said that during the 40 years since ANILCA was enacted Alaskans have forgotten many aspects in ANILCA that were hard fought, and she suggested we cannot depend upon federal agencies to respect those aspects and not try to defeat them.

The hearing moved to public testimony.

**Rod Arno**, of the Alaska Outdoor Council, who supports SB 101 which protects the interests of individual Alaskans found within ANILCA. He said half of ANCSA corporation's 44 million acres is inholdings on ANILCA land.

**Christine Hutchison**, of the Kenai Peninsula supports SB 101 from the standpoints of vigilance, and she mentioned the new administration in Washington, DC as a particular concern. That ended public testimony.

**Rep. Bryce Edgmon** expressed concerns about how much money the state is spending to push back against the federal government. He spoke favorably about the Biden administration.

Rep. Wool seconded those remarks, and expressed concern about the \$163,000 cost in the fiscal note.

Curtis clarified the fiscal note in answer to some of Rep. Wool's misunderstanding, and she gave background about the needed background anyone working for the commission must have.

Rep. Rasmussen weighed in to remind the committee of some stated intentions of the Biden Administration that seem to damage Alaskans' lifestyles, interests and economics.

Rep. Josephson suggested that supporters of SB 101 are organized and political, and he said that there are many Alaskans that have a countervailing viewpoint but they are not organized nor are they vocal.

Rep. Foster then talked about trails people in the Nome would like to use to access hunting, hot springs use, etc. that they are currently prohibited from using.

SB 101 was moved from committee with no objection.

**Senate Finance Committee notes:**

Sen. Click Bishop, in shooting shirt and bolo tie, was in charge. Masks were noticeably absent. On the agenda were two House bills:

**HB 41:** Shellfish farming bill

**HB 117:** Extension for two more years of the direct-entry midwifery board.

[The documents, including those for SB 50, just added, can be found here.](#)

**HB 41:** There was a committee substitute for HB 41. **Erin Shine** explained that it anticipated the shellfish industry paying for itself as other fisheries do so far as marketing. The bill was set aside.

**HB 117:** This was its second hearing in this committee. The chair went through the fiscal note. **Sen. Donny Olson** was uncomfortable with the breadth and depth of the information on this bill available to the committee, and that brought an animated at-ease discussion. The bill was set aside as soon as the at-ease period ended.

**SB 50, Version N, of the capital budget:** **Chris Clark**, budget staffer for **Sen. Bishop**, came forward to go through the bill. This committee substitute has all the amendments to date from the governor but changes DGF to UGF where the committee believes those changes are required.

The bill has \$1.8 billion in total, and both a contingency fund and an acceleration fund to allow flexibility (or cushion, the term used by **Sen. Bert Stedman**) at the department level, DOT specifically in the amount of \$250 million. Sen. Stedman asked for an estimate of how long it would last, to which the department said at least 5 years or the life of the longest-lived project in the STP.