

Fall/Summer '26 Government Relations Update



Geographic Differential Study - **PASSED**

Rep. Andy Josephson secured \$800,000 for a geographic differential study. This is the first time the study has been funded in 18 years.



HB 78: RETIREMENT SYSTEMS; DEFINED BENEFIT OPT. - PASSED BOTH CHAMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE BUT VETOED BY GOVERNOR.

The Senate successfully passed HB 78 with a vote of 12Y-8N. The the House then voted for concurrence with a vote of 21Y-19N. HB 78 was then transmitted to the Governor on April 30th, giving the Governor until 11:59 pm on May 18th to veto it.

Unfortunately, during the Alaska Liquefied Natural Gas (AKLNG) negotiations, **HB 78 was vetoed by the Governor just hours before the veto deadline.** A veto override vote was held but failed to meet the $\frac{3}{4}$ requirement with only a 33Y-27N vote. **Regardless, passage of both bodies is the furthest we've ever gotten in the pension fight.** This shows the significant progress we have made and we are ready to do this again next year.



HB 193: Unemployment Benefits; Paid Parental leave

HB 193 was introduced by Rep. Hall to **increase unemployment insurance for the first time since 2009 and to establish a paid parental leave.** While we were unable to get the paid parental leave program passed, we were able to pass an unemployment increase from \$370 to \$470 for individuals and \$24 to \$72 for dependents.



HB 300: State Employees: Meals/Travel Expenses

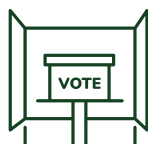
HB 300 was introduced by Rep. Hannan on our behalf to **increase per diem to \$82 for short-term and \$45.10 for long-term.** It is the first increase to per diem since 2010. HB 300 had one hearing and received support from both sides of the aisle. HB 300 did not receive another hearing but we will reintroduce it, along with a companion bill in the Senate, next session.

Election day is Tuesday, Nov. 3!

Regardless of who you vote for, make sure you get out and vote!



Mail ballot application:
[absenteeballotapplication.
alaska.gov/](https://absenteeballotapplication.alaska.gov/)
Apply by **Oct. 24th!**



**Vote Early, In-Person
Oct. 19 - Nov. 2**
Find early vote locations here:
elections.alaska.gov/avo/



**Vote in-person on election
day, Tuesday, Nov. 3**
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