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LEGISLATIVE SCORECARD

BASED ON THE THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

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Bill Elam

Alaska
Representative, HD-008 (R)

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67
Lifetime Freedom Score

2025 AK Legislative Scorecard

Based on the Principles of the U.S. Constitution

★ Constitutional ✗ Unconstitutional ? Did not Vote **Vote**

1. SB43 Women's History Month (Passed 33 to 2 on 3/28/2025). Formally establishes March as Women's History Month in Alaska statute. **YES** ✗

2. HB69 Government-school Funding (Passed 21 to 16 on 4/11/2025). increases the state's base student allocation for public schools by an inflation-based amount tied to the Alaska consumer price index, plus an additional $1,000. **NO** ★
Estimated cost per household: **-$1,017.00/year.**

3. HB26 Government Transportation (Passed 22 to 17 on 5/2/2025). Requires the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) to develop and maintain a statewide public and community transit plan. **NO** ★

4. HJR11 Canada Partnership Resolution (Passed 34 to 6 on 5/7/2025). Recognizes and honors the relationship between Alaska and Canada. **NO** ★

5. HB78 Government-employee Pensions (Passed 21 to 19 on 5/12/2025). Makes major changes to the Public Employees' Retirement System and Teachers' Retirement System by reopening a defined-benefit pension option for certain public employees and teachers. **NO** ★
Estimated cost per household: **-$25,875.00/year.**

6. SB96 Childcare Tax Incentives (Passed 35 to 4 on 5/16/2025). Expands Alaska's education tax-credit system to cover certain employer payments and contributions for child care. **YES** ✗

Scorecard Votes: 67%

Why do these votes matter?

1. Women's History Month

SB43 formally establishes March as Women's History Month in Alaska statute.

The Alaska State House of Representatives passed SB43 on March 28, 2025 by a vote of 33 to 2. We have assigned pluses to the nays because government should not be in the business of creating official identity-based observances that divide people by sex. While honoring women's contributions may be well-intended, the proper role of government is to protect the rights of all citizens, not promote group classifications or symbolic declarations. Equal justice under law rests on the principle that all are created equal, recognized in the Declaration of Independence and reaffirmed in the 14th Amendment.

2. Government-school Funding

HB69 increases the state's base student allocation for public schools by an inflation-based amount tied to the Alaska consumer price index, plus an additional $1,000, with further yearly increases in 2026 and 2027 that also include extra dollar boosts, and automatic inflation adjustments each year after 2028. It was designed to raise and then permanently index Alaska's per-student education funding.

The Alaska State House of Representatives passed HB69 on April 11, 2025 by a vote of 21 to 16. We have assigned pluses to the nays because this bill expands government funding and control over education—an area that properly belongs to parents and families, not the state. By allocating additional taxpayer dollars to a government-run education system, the Legislature reinforces a monopoly that crowds out private schools and homeschooling. True educational freedom cannot be achieved through compulsory, state-funded schooling, but only when parents are free to direct their children's education without state interference or coerced public financing.

3. Government Transportation

HB26 requires the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) to develop and maintain a statewide public and community transit plan. The bill updates DOT&PF's duties to include comprehensive planning for public-transportation systems across Alaska, covering buses, community transit services, and ferry operators. It emphasizes improved access, coordination, and inclusion of needs for people with disabilities and rural communities.

The Alaska State House of Representatives passed HB26 on May 2, 2025 by a vote of 22 to 17. We have assigned pluses to the nays because this bill expands the role of government in transportation by requiring the state to develop and maintain a comprehensive statewide transit plan. Transportation should be left to the free market, not placed under broader government planning and coordination. Such policies grow government beyond its proper, limited role.

4. Canada Partnership Resolution

HJR11 recognizes and honors the relationship between Alaska and Canada, emphasizing their shared economic, transportation, tourism, cultural, and security ties, and urging continued strong cooperation between Alaska, Canada, and related partners.

The Alaska State House of Representatives passed HJR11 on May 7, 2025 by a vote of 34 to 6. We have assigned pluses to the nays because resolutions promoting closer ties with foreign governments blur the lines of state and national sovereignty, and encourage regional integration at the expense of constitutional government. Article I of the U.S. Constitution gives Congress the power to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and restricts states from entering into agreements with foreign powers without congressional consent. The United States should pursue an America First policy that protects national independence rather than advance cross-border political and economic integration.

5. Government-employee Pensions

HB78 makes major changes to the Public Employees' Retirement System and Teachers' Retirement System by reopening a defined-benefit pension option for certain public employees and teachers. It would allow some new hires to choose between the defined-benefit and defined-contribution plans, and allow current teachers and public workers in the defined-contribution plan to use their account balances to purchase past service in the defined-benefit system.

The Alaska State House of Representatives passed HB78 on May 12, 2025 by a vote of 21 to 19. We have assigned pluses to the nays because this bill could realistically add $7 billion in additional costs to future state budgets, according to the Reason Foundation, and reintroduce Alaska to significant pension risk. These government positions should not exist in the first place, as they lie outside the proper role of government. Government pensions are a gross waste of money when plenty of private-sector investment options are available. This legislation expands the size and cost of government by reviving a pension system rooted in collectivist principles.

6. Childcare Tax Incentives

SB96 expands Alaska's education tax-credit system to cover certain employer payments and contributions for childcare and childcare facilities, while also amending several existing tax-credit statutes tied to insurance, income, oil and gas, mining, fisheries, and related taxes.

The Alaska State House of Representatives passed SB96 on May 16, 2025 by a vote of 35 to 4. We have assigned pluses to the nays because this bill expands tax credits to subsidize childcare, thereby using the tax code to favor a specific industry and encourage greater government involvement in the economy. Rather than promoting personal responsibility and free-market solutions, such policies distort the market and shift costs through government-backed incentives. A truly free and constitutional system would allow the private sector to respond to childcare needs without state interference or policies that pick winners and losers.