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32-GS1011\B.3  
Dunmire  
2/10/21

**AMENDMENT**

OFFERED IN THE SENATE  
TO: CSSB 56(HSS)

BY SENATOR COSTELLO

1 Page 2, line 1, through page 3, line 23:

2 Delete all material and insert:

3 "FINDINGS. (a) The legislature finds that

4 (1) on March 11, 2020, the governor issued a declaration of a public health  
5 disaster emergency under AS 26.23.020 in anticipation of the spread of COVID-19 to the  
6 state and has since issued multiple new disaster declarations for the COVID-19 outbreak;

7 (2) since the initial outbreak through the present day, the outbreak of COVID-  
8 19 has resulted in serious consequences for residents of the state and the state's economy;

9 (3) many communities in the state, including the state's largest city of  
10 Anchorage and the capital city of Juneau, have seen fit to impose lockdown or hunker-down  
11 orders, which have severely reduced economic activity in those communities;

12 (4) lockdown orders and other pandemic-related factors have forced numerous  
13 state businesses to close their doors and lay off employees or reduce service levels and  
14 employee hours far below what would otherwise have been provided, to the detriment of both  
15 those businesses and their hard-working employees;

16 (5) interstate and intrastate travel restrictions of varying levels of  
17 restrictiveness, while intended to contain the spread of COVID-19, have resulted in further  
18 reduction of economic activities in the state;

19 (6) the state has established and facilitated multiple programs to provide  
20 economic assistance to struggling state residents and businesses, but the programs, while  
21 providing much-needed relief, generally fall short of fully replacing regular levels of  
22 voluntary economic activity;

23 (7) as a result of voluntary and government-imposed reductions of economic

1 activity,

2 (A) the state lost 29,000 jobs between October 2019 and October 2020;

3 (B) many businesses in the state have temporarily or permanently  
4 closed;

5 (C) at least 45,000 students in the Anchorage School District have  
6 been denied in-person education for a significant period during the pandemic;

7 (8) the shift from in-person learning to distance learning has negatively  
8 affected students in the state in terms of the students' learning progression and emotional and  
9 social development;

10 (9) the shift from in-person learning to distance learning has been associated  
11 with increased instances of child abuse and food insecurity;

12 (10) multiple vaccines for COVID-19 have been developed and are currently  
13 being distributed, allowing the state to move into a new phase of its COVID-19 recovery  
14 efforts;

15 (11) due in part to the state's robust COVID-19 response efforts, the state  
16 currently has the third-lowest COVID-19 fatality rate in the United States; and

17 (12) because of the diligent efforts of the state, Alaska has the highest  
18 vaccination rate of all 50 states."

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20 Page 3, lines 25 - 27:

21 Delete "extend the public health disaster emergency declaration issued by the  
22 governor on January 15, 2021, and all the powers granted under AS 18.15.390 and  
23 AS 26.23.020 to March 15, 2021"

24 Insert "(1) take appropriate steps to continue to contain the spread of COVID-19 and  
25 to distribute COVID-19 vaccines statewide with the utmost diligence and dispatch;

26 (2) take appropriate steps to limit further harm to the state's economy, to  
27 enable displaced workers in the state to return to work, and to allow students in the state to  
28 rejoin in-person classes with their peers; and

29 (3) extend the public health disaster emergency declaration issued by the  
30 governor on January 15, 2021, and all the powers granted under AS 18.15.390 and  
31 AS 26.23.020, to March 15, 2021"