



# Benjamin Carpenter

House of Representatives District  
HD-029

Republican

Contact: 800-469-3779



View Online

This legislator voted constitutionally on **83%** of the votes shown below.

### CPH: Estimated cost per household.

★ Pro-liberty

✗ Anti-liberty

? Did not Vote

CPH

Vote

**1. HB3 Sound Money (Passed 25 to 15 on 5/11/2024).** Designates specie as legal tender in Alaska and prohibits boroughs and cities from levying sales and use taxes on the sale or exchange of specie. **Yes** ★

**2. SB58 Medicaid Expansion (Passed 35 to 3 on 5/3/2023).** Expands Medicaid eligibility to include postpartum mothers for up to 12 months, up from 60 days. **No** ★

**3. HB61 Amendment 2 Protected Rights (Rejected 3 to 36 on 5/1/2023).** Removes a segment of the bill that allows government to shut down gun stores if they equally shut down every other store at the same time. **No** ✗

**4. HB62 Renewable Energy Grant (Passed 35 to 3 on 5/3/2023).** Continues the renewable energy grant fund until 2033, costing \$1.4 million per year. **No** ★

**5. HJR10 Federalism (Passed 31 to 5 on 3/20/2023).** This resolution states the Alaska State Legislature opposes the National Park Service's proposed rule limiting non-subsistence hunting methods. **Yes** ★

**6. SB25 Closed Accounts (Passed 40 to 0 on 5/10/2023).** Mandates the legislative finance division to review and recommend the repeal of inactive state accounts and funds. **Yes** ★



## ALASKA LEGISLATIVE SCORECARD BASED ON THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

**Rep. Benjamin Carpenter**

**AK Scorecard 2023**

**Lifetime Score: 80%**

**2023-2024 Regular Session Score 91%**

The Legislative Scorecard is a nationwide educational program of The John Birch Society. Its purpose is to create an informed electorate on how state legislators are voting. The Scorecard is nonpartisan; it does not promote any candidate or political party. Bills are selected for their constitutional implications and cost to the taxpayers.

**Please share this Scorecard in your district to inform people about your legislator's record on key votes.**

U.S. Constitution, Amendment I --- 11 C.F.R. §114(4)(c)(4) --- 616 F.2d 45 (2d Cir. 1980)

The following scorecard lists several key votes in the Alaska Legislature in 2023 and ranks state representatives and senators based on their fidelity to (U.S.) constitutional and limited-government principles.

This is our second state-level Scorecard; the selected votes may not be reflective of legislators' overall records. Their cumulative scores will change as we add more votes. Please check regularly for updates.



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### The Constitution

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# Bill Descriptions for the Votes that Affect You

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## 1. Sound Money

HB3 designates specie as legal tender and prohibits boroughs and cities from levying sales and use taxes on the sale or exchange of specie. It also defines "specie" as gold or silver valued primarily by metal content, in coin or bullion form, and includes provisions for additional forms of legal tender.

The Alaska State House of Representatives passed HB3 on May 11, 2024 by a vote of 25 to 15. We have assigned pluses to the ayes because this is a step toward restoring constitutional money and returning to the gold standard.

## 2. Medicaid Expansion

SB58 expands Medicaid eligibility to include postpartum mothers for up to 12 months, up from 60 days. Additionally, the Department of Health must submit necessary amendments to the state plan to raise the income threshold for pregnant women and extend postpartum benefits.

The Alaska State House of Representatives passed SB58 on May 3, 2023 by a vote of 35 to 3. We have assigned pluses to the nays because neither health care nor social welfare is the legitimate object of government. Medicaid, as with many other 'entitlement programs,' discriminatorily and unjustly provides "eligible" low-income persons, who have little or no tax liability, with government funds at the expense of other hard-working citizens. Alaska must reject the use of taxpayer dollars for this ever-expanding and unsustainable federal-state program that is not authorized under the U.S. Constitution.

## 3. Protected Rights

HB61 Amendment 2 removes a segment of the bill that allows government to shut down gun stores if they equally shut down every other store at the same time. Its intent is to restrict the ability of state or local authorities to regulate firearms during declared disaster emergencies, and this amendment ensures that government has no authority at all to shut down businesses.

The Alaska State House of Representatives rejected HB61 Amendment 2 by a vote of 3 to 36. We have assigned pluses to the ayes because this amendment removes the draconian language that would allow the government to shut down businesses just like they did during the COVID-19 pandemic. Whether there is a state of emergency or not, our God-given rights as U.S. citizens should not be infringed upon. The protections listed in this legislation are covered under the Bill of Rights in the Constitution.

## 4. Renewable Energy Grant

HB62 continues the renewable energy grant fund until 2033, costing \$1.4 million per year.

The Alaska State House of Representatives passed HB62 on May 3, 2023 by a vote of 35 to 3. We have assigned pluses to the nays because this legislation creates more government interference in the free-market economy and advances a Marxist climate change agenda. Bills like this bloat budgets, expand government, and lead to government picking winners and losers with taxpayer funds.

## 5. Federalism

HJR10 is a resolution that states the Alaska State Legislature opposes the National Park Service's proposed rule limiting non-subsistence hunting methods, asserting it infringes on state wildlife management authority established by the U.S. Supreme Court, the Alaska Constitution, and federal laws.

The Alaska State House of Representatives passed HJR10 on March 20, 2023 by a vote of 31 to 5. We have assigned pluses to the ayes because Article VIII of the Alaska Constitution states that "The legislature shall provide for the utilization, development, and conservation of all natural resources belonging to the State, including land and waters, for the maximum benefit of its people," and "Wherever occurring in their natural state, fish, wildlife, and waters are reserved to the people for common use." Additionally, many other rights allow people to use public lands as they see fit, as these lands are paid for by the taxpayers. However, the National Park Service and "federally owned" land are not authorized under the U.S. Constitution. The National Park Service should hand these lands over to the states and not impede their state constitutions, as the 10th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution guarantees: "The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people."

## 6. Closed Accounts

SB25 mandates the legislative finance division to review and recommend the repeal of inactive state accounts and funds.

The Alaska State House of Representatives passed SB25 on May 10, 2023 by a vote of 40 to 0. We have assigned pluses to the ayes because it's not too often that elected officials explicitly take action to shrink the size of government. More states should return unused funds and close inactive state accounts.