



NEWS

AMERICANS FOR TAX REFORM

1920 L Street, NW • Suite 200 • Washington, DC 20036
202.785.0266 • Fax 202.785.0261

WWW.ATR.ORG

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CONTACT: Jonathan Collegio
David W. Kralik
202-785-0266

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Alaska Taxpayers Threatened With Tax Increases!

** Legislature Considers Numerous Bills to Raise Taxes **

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Americans for Tax Reform (ATR) strongly opposes efforts by various members of the Alaska state Legislature to increase taxes. A new income tax, a state-wide sales tax, tax increases proposed for distilled spirits, wine, and malt beverages, and a new excise tax on cruise ship passengers are just a few of the increases on the table in Juneau.

- **H.B. 119** and **H.B. 413** would create an income tax for Alaskans. These bills were both referred to the State Affairs Committee in February, 2002 (Chairman: Rep. John Coghill, District 32).
- **H.B. 303** would create a state-wide sales tax for all consumers in the state of Alaska. Existing local-option sales taxes would thereby double the tax burden for consumers in those areas. H.B. 303 was returned to the House Rules Committee 3/27/2002 (Chairman: Rep. Pete Kott, District 24).
- **S.B. 347** would increase excise taxes on malt beverages (\$1.42/gal.), cider (\$1.42/gal.), wine (\$3.41/gal.), and distilled spirits (\$18.40/gal.). S.B. 347 was referred to the Senate Rules Committee 3/15/02 (Chairman: Sen. Randy Phillips, District I).
- **S.B. 290** would levy a \$30 per passenger excise tax on commercial vessel passengers traveling in Alaskan marine waters. The bill was referred to the Senate Transportation Committee 2/13/02 (Chairman: Sen. John Cowdery, District I).

“These tax increase proposals threaten Alaskan taxpayers’ ability to make sound financial choices for themselves. Every successful tax increase imposed on taxpayers takes a little bit more liberty away from them, and grants government that much more power,” commented Grover Norquist, President of ATR.

Americans for Tax Reform is a non-partisan coalition of taxpayers and taxpayer groups who oppose all federal and state tax increases. For more information or to arrange an interview please contact Jonathan Collegio at (202) 785-0266 or by email at jcollegio@atr.org.