

MacLean sponsors revenue sharing bill

by Rep. Eileen MacLean
for the Tundra Times

The House of Representatives recently passed its first piece of legislation.

House Bill 44, an act relating to motor vehicle liability insurance and vehicle registration, passed with strong support. House Bill 44 will reinstate the mandatory automobile insurance program which officially ended on Jan 1.

The state of Alaska has required

motorists to have liability insurance since the program was first adopted in 1984. Many small communities in rural Alaska are exempted from the mandatory insurance requirements and for this reason House Bill 44 will not affect our communities in District 22, Barrow.

I recently introduced House Bill 101, an act to entitlements for municipalities and unincorporated communities. This is a House companion bill to Senate Bill 31 originally introduced by Sen. Al Adams, D-

Kotzebue.

These bills would raise the minimum revenue sharing payment to municipalities and unincorporated communities from \$25,000 to \$50,000. The new levels would not take effect however unless the total revenue sharing for fiscal year 1990 equals at least \$44,282,400.

The governor's proposed budget currently has revenue sharing pegged at \$40,773,000 or approximately \$3.5 million less than what is needed.

A House Finance Revenue Working Group is looking at potential budget scenarios and will make recommendations to the House Finance Committee on budget cutting and revenue raising options.

They are looking at what services would be reduced if the state budget was cut by \$100 million, \$175 million, \$300 million and \$872 million. In the future, they will look at various revenue generating options such as increasing taxes, like a statewide sales tax or user fees.