

Special Sessions of the Alaska Legislature: Dates, Duration, Subjects, and Costs

Legislature	Convened	Adjourned	Days	Subjects under Consideration
3rd Legislature (1963-1964) 1st Special Session Called by Governor Egan	31-Aug-64	2-Sep-64	3	Disaster relief (1964 Good Friday Earthquake)
5th Legislature (1967-1968) 1st Special Session Called by Governor Hickel	29-Sep-67	4-Oct-67	6	Disaster relief (1967 Fairbanks-Nenana Flood) and establishment of a continuing disaster relief fund
8th Legislature (1973-1974) 1st Special Session Called by Governor Egan	17-Oct-73	12-Nov-73	27	Regulation and taxation of oil and gas exploration, production, and transportation
2nd Special Session Called by Governor Egan	17-Jun-74	20-Jun-74	4	Financial assistance to municipalities impacted by oil development, appropriations for election campaign reform; funding reapportionment, royalties under state leases, authority of the Alaska Pipeline Commission, appropriations for Bristol Bay Regional Development Council & regional projects
11th Legislature (1979-1980) 1st Special Session Called by Governor Hammond	6-Aug-79	8-Aug-79	3	Supplemental appropriations for state employee negotiated contracts and salaries and amendments to public employees collective bargaining laws
2nd Special Session Called by Governor Hammond	22-Sep-80	24-Sep-80	3	Repeal of the state income tax and providing tax refunds for individuals
12th Legislature (1981-1982) 1st Special Session Called by Governor Hammond	13-Jul-81	15-Jul-81	3	Constitutional limit on appropriations
14th Legislature (1985-1986) 1st Special Session Called by the Legislature	15-Jul-85	13-Aug-85	30	Possible impeachment of Governor Sheffield

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15th Legislature (1987-1988) 1st Special Session Called by Governor Cowper	1-Jul-87	3-Jul-87	3	Balancing the state budget and authority for adjustments to salaries of certain state employees not covered by collective bargaining
16th Legislature (1989-1990) 1st Special Session Called by Governor Cowper	25-Jun-90	8-Jul-90	14	Subsistence
17th Legislature (1991-1992) 1st Special Session Called by the Legislature	13-May-92	16-May-92	4	Supplemental and capital appropriations, reappropriations, housing, procedures for implementing the <i>Exxon Valdez</i> oil spill settlement, and state agency operations and fees
2nd Special Session Called by Governor Hickel	15-Jun-92	22-Jun-92	8	Subsistence
18th Legislature (1993-1994) 1st Special Session House Senate Called by Governor Hickel	12-May-94 10-May-94	16-May-94 16-May-94	5 7	Procedures related to the assessment for certain state taxes; appropriations for mental health land trust and associated litigation; appropriations to satisfy certain collective bargaining agreements; open meetings; and income withholding and other methods of enforcement for support and medical support orders
2nd Special Session Called by Governor Hickel	26-Sep-94	28-Sep-94	3	Mental health land trust litigation
19th Legislature (1995-1996) 1st Special Session Called by Governor Knowles	8-May-96	6-Jun-96	30	Appropriations for state employee collective bargaining agreements & adjustments to salary schedules for other employees; appropriations from the constitutional budget reserve fund; resolution of state and federal requirements for (a) the public school foundation program, school construction grants, and transportation of students, and (b) administration of the state drivers and commercial motor vehicle laws; appropriations for operating and capital expenses of the comprehensive, integrated mental health program; increasing the tax on tobacco products; cost saving for state (retirement incentives, cost-of-living differentials, geographic differentials, personal leave issues, and contributions and benefits in PERS for new employees; capital and operating appropriations (public safety; essential services for children, the elderly poor & individuals with disabilities; economic development & natural resource management; and intent for long-range fiscal planning); defining and designating program receipts

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20th Legislature (1997- 1998) 1st Special Session Called by Governor Knowles	26-May-98	1-Jun-98	7	Subsistence	\$ 181,721	\$ 25,960
2nd Special Session Called by Governor Knowles	20-Jul-98	21-Jul-98	2	Subsistence--constitutional amendment with repeal upon a final order or judgment of a federal court holding the rural subsistence priority of ANILCA to be unconstitutional; authorization for the Legislative Council to sue on behalf of the state in <i>Legislative Council v. Babbitt</i>	\$ 86,717	\$ 43,359
21st Legislature (1999-2000) 1st Special Session Called by Governor Knowles	20-May-99	25-May-99	6	Budget bills; Constitutional Budget Reserve Fund; Long Range Fiscal Plan; Deposits to the Alaska Permanent Fund	\$ 110,163	\$ 18,361
2nd Special Session Called by Governor Knowles	22-Sep-99	30-Sep-99	9	Subsistence	\$ 255,041	\$ 28,338
3rd Special Session Called by Governor Knowles	4-May-00	6-May-00	3	State Employee Compensation	\$ 62,813	\$ 20,938
22nd Legislature (2001-2002) 1st Special Session Called by Governor Knowles	7-Jun-01	9-Jun-01	3	Discharge from Commercial Passenger Vessels	\$ 88,095	\$ 29,365
2nd Special Session Called by Legislature	17-May-02	21-May-02	5	Appropriations & Reappropriations; Constitutional Budget Reserve Fund; Housing & Services for Veterans; Municipal Bond Reimbursement; G.O. Bonds for Schools & Museum Facilities; Foundation Funding; Subsistence; Regulatory Commission of Alaska	\$ 101,590	\$ 20,318
22nd Legislature (2001-2002, contd.) 3rd Special Session Called by Governor Knowles	24-Jun-02	27-Jun-02	4	Regulatory Commission of Alaska; Funding Veterans' Services	\$ 144,003	\$ 36,001
23rd Legislature (2003-2004) 1st Special Session Called by Governor Murkowski	22-Jun-04	24-Jun-04	3	Permanent Fund POMV & implementation; Advisory Vote on Source of Money Available for Appropriation; Spending Limit; Tobacco Tax; G.O. Bonds for Transportation & Education Capital Projects; Workers' Compensation; appropriations for listed subjects; and appropriation to DCCED to purchase fuel for rural communities	\$ 128,616	\$ 42,872

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24th Legislature (2005-2006) 1st Special Session Called by Governor Murkowski	11-May-05	25-May-05	15	Capital Appropriations & Appropriations to capitalize funds; workers' compensation; teachers and public employee retirement systems; base student allocation in foundation formula; operating & capital appropriations for comprehensive integrated mental health program; appropriations for operating & loan programs; supplemental, capital, & other appropriations & reappropriations; university land grant; insurance regulation; state virology lab; elections, voters, political parties; state aid for retirement of school construction indebtedness	\$ 381,560	\$ 25,437
2nd Special Session Called by Governor Murkowski	10-May-06	8-Jun-06	30	Changes to the Stranded Gas Development Act (AS 43.82); judicial review of constitutionality or enforceability of a contract executed under AS 43.82; State interest in NS natural gas pipeline project, including indemnifications among project management & construction entities; establishing fiscal certainty for certain NS oil and gas leases; preliminary findings & determination of DNR commissioner made under AS 43.82.400(a)(1); provisions of proposed Alaska stranded gas fiscal contract; and production tax on oil and gas	\$ 801,326	\$ 26,711
3rd Special Session Called by Governor Murkowski	12-Jul-06	10-Aug-06	30	Repeal of the oil production tax and the gas production tax and passage of a production tax on oil and gas; statutory changes for the purpose of clarifying or providing additional authority for the development of contract terms under the Stranded Gas Development Act (AS 43.82); gang-related violence, contempt of court, and temporary detention and identification of persons; and an appropriation to study the feasibility of a spur line from the gas pipeline in the state	\$ 774,931	\$ 25,831
4th Special Session Called by Governor Murkowski House / Senate	14-Nov-06 15-Nov-06	17-Nov-06 20-Nov-06	3 7	Employment-related benefits for same-sex domestic partners of state employees and retirees under the state's retirement systems	\$ 192,647	\$ 27,521
25th Legislature (2007-2008) 1st Special Session Called by Legislature	26-Jun-07	26-Jun-07	1	Senior Benefits Payment Program	\$ 111,793	\$ 111,793
2nd Special Session Called by Governor Palin	18-Oct-07	16-Nov-07	30	Making amendments related to oil and gas production taxes and conservation surcharges on oil; placing certain oil and gas tax and royalty auditors in the exempt service; authorizing public disclosure of certain taxpayer information on oil and gas production taxes; sharing certain oil and gas tax and royalty information among state agencies	\$ 831,991	\$ 27,733

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25th Legislature (2007-2008, contd.) 3rd Special Session Called by Governor Palin	3-Jun-08	2-Jul-08	30	To consider any action taken by the commissioner of Natural Resources and the commissioner of Revenue under AS 43.90, the Alaska Gasline Inducement Act	\$ 940,593	\$ 31,353
4th Special Session Called by Governor Palin	9-Jul-08	7-Aug-08	30	To consider 1) approval of a license under AGIA to TransCanada Alaska Company, LLC and Foothills Pipe Lines Ltd., jointly as licensee; 2) statutory changes to establish the Alaska resource rebate program and to provide payments under the program to state residents; 3) statutory changes relating to power cost equalization under AS 42.45.100 - 42.45.190; 4) statutory changes to suspend temporarily the motor fuel tax; 5) statutory changes relating to a renewable and alternative energy grant fund and recommendation program, including statutory changes to authorize assistance for alternative energy purposes; and relating to the Alaska Renewable Energy Task Force; and 6) making appropriations relating to such subjects; also, [added Aug 7, 2008] statutory changes to the bulk fuel revolving loan fund and bulk fuel bridge loan fund and program; and making appropriations for those funds	\$ 896,845	\$ 29,895
26th Legislature (2009-2010) 1st Special Session Called by Legislature	10-Aug-09	10-Aug-09	1	To consider an override of Governor Palin's veto of federal energy stimulus finds and to consider confirmation of the lieutenant governor designee	\$ 76,592	\$ 76,592
27th Legislature (2011-2012) 1st Special Session Called by Governor Parnell	18-Apr-11	14-May-11	27	Operating Budget and Loan Program Expenses; Mental Health Appropriations; Capital Budget; Supplemental Appropriations; Alaska Performance Scholarship Fund; Power Projects; Extending the Alaska Coastal Management Program; Vocational Education and Basic Funding/Tax Credits; Extending the Regulatory Commission of Alaska; and Extending Boards and Commissions	\$ 1,002,084	\$ 37,114
2nd Special Session House Senate Called by Legislature	27-Jun-11	6/28 6/27	2 1	Alaska Coastal Management Program	\$ 99,160	\$ 49,580
3rd Special Session Called by Governor Parnell	18-Apr-12	4/30/12 (H) 4/26/12 (S)	13 9	Oil and gas production taxes; in-state gasline development corporation (HB 9); and sex crimes and human trafficking (HB 359).	\$ 468,693	\$ 36,053

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29th Legislature (2015-2016) 1st Special Session Called by Governor Walker	28-Apr-15	21-May-15	24	Sexual Abuse/Sexual Assault Prevention Programs (HB 44); Medicaid Expansion and Reform (HB 148); Operating Budget and appropriations under Art. IX, Section 17(c) of the Constitution from the Constitutional Budget Reserve sufficient to cover the remainder of FY 15 and to cover FY 16.	\$ 443,218	\$ 18,467
2nd Special Session Called by Legislature	21-May-15	11-Jun-15	22	Operating Budget and Sexual Abuse/ Sexual Assault Prevention Program	\$ 454,543	\$ 20,661
3rd Special Session Called by Governor Walker	24-Oct-15	5-Nov-15	13	Acquire TransCanada's interest in the Alaska Liquefied Nature Gas Project and levy of a gas reserves tax.	\$ 640,604	\$ 49,277
Totals					\$ 9,275,339	\$ 29,920

Notes:

- Costs specific to special sessions have been tracked since 1997. Since that time, the legislature has convened in special session 23 times, for a total of 297 days.
- During special sessions called by the governor, consideration is limited to subjects the governor designates and to bills vetoed following adjournment of the last regular session. Under subjects considered, we do not include measures to suspend uniform rules or to override vetoes.
- Lawmakers extended the second regular session of the 22nd Legislature from May 14, 2002, through May 16, 2002, at which time members of both chambers voted to convene in special session on the following day, May 17, 2002. By so doing, the legislature was able to dictate the topics of consideration, rather than being limited to the governor's agenda (subsistence).
- The first special session of the 25th Legislature was held in Anchorage and marks the first time the full legislature has met outside of the Capital.
- The third special session of the 25th Legislature marks the first time a session has toured the state.
- The first special session of the 26th Legislature is the second to have been held in Anchorage.
- The legislature at impasse, the first regular session of the 27th Legislature was adjourned by the governor, who then called a special session for the following day.
- In an unprecedented move, the governor on April 25, 2012, issued a supplemental proclamation withdrawing his oil tax bills (SB and HB 3001) from consideration by the third special session of the 27th Legislature. A Legal Services opinion deemed that action to be unauthorized, but the senate concluded that without the governor's support of the bill, there was no realistic chance of meaningful policy discussion. The Senate adjourned, leaving the only bill in play, HB 9--the instate gasoline bill--unaddressed. After lengthy caucus considerations, the House also adjourned.
- Lawmakers went beyond the 90-day statutory limit for regular sessions in the 29th Legislature, extending to the 98th day, relying on the constitutional limit of 121 days. The Legislature then adjourned and held technical session during budget standoff in the first special session. Despite the governor's call for the session to be held in Juneau, the special session was reconvened in Anchorage on 5/21/15, at which time both bodies adjourned the first special session sine die and immediately called themselves into the second special session, in Anchorage.

Sources: *Summary of Alaska Legislation*, (dates); Executive Proclamations (subjects); Legislative Affairs Agency (costs).