# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

## THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

## SECOND SESSION

Juneau, Alaska

#### Monday

February 26, 2024

### Forty-second Day

Pursuant to adjournment the Senate was called to order by President Stevens at 10:31 a.m.

The roll showed nineteen members present. Senator Kaufman was excused from a call of the Senate.

The prayer was offered by the Chaplain, Ordained Minister Sherry Patterson, Breakthrough Family Church. Senator Hoffman moved and asked unanimous consent the prayer be spread. Without objection, it was so ordered.

> Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors, and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

> For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Senator Bishop led the Senate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

## Certification

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the journals for the thirty-ninth through forty-first legislative days be approved as certified by the Secretary. Without objection, it was so ordered.

## Messages from the House

Message dated February 23 was read stating the House passed and transmitted for consideration:

## First Reading and Reference of House Bills

#### HB 143

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 143(RES) BY THE HOUSE RESOURCES COMMITTEE, entitled:

"An Act relating to the Department of Environmental Conservation; relating to advanced recycling and advanced recycling facilities; relating to waste; and providing for an effective date."

was read the first time and referred to the Resources and Labor and Commerce Committees.

### **Concur Messages**

#### SB 140

Senator Giessel moved the Senate concur in the House amendment to CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 140(FIN), thus adopting:

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 140(FIN) am H "An Act relating to funding for Internet services for school districts; relating to charter schools; relating to transportation of public school students; relating to correspondence study funding; relating to the base student allocation; relating to funding for reading improvement plans; and providing for an effective date."

and recommended the body vote yes.

Senators Hoffman, Olson, Bjorkman moved and asked unanimous consent to abstain from voting due to a conflict of interest. Objections were heard and Senators Hoffman, Olson, Bjorkman were required to vote.

The question being: "Shall the Senate concur in the House amendment(s)?" The roll was taken with the following result:

CSSB 140(FIN) am H Shall the Senate Concur in the House Amendment to CSSB 140(FIN)? Effective Date(s)

## YEAS: 18 NAYS: 1 EXCUSED: 1 ABSENT: 0

Yeas: Bishop, Bjorkman, Claman, Dunbar, Giessel, Gray-Jackson, Hoffman, Hughes, Kawasaki, Kiehl, Merrick, Myers, Olson, Stedman, Stevens, Tobin, Wielechowski, Wilson

Nays: Shower

Excused: Kaufman

and so, the Senate concurred in the House amendment(s), thus adopting CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 140(FIN) am H "An Act relating to funding for Internet services for school districts; relating to charter schools; relating to transportation of public school students; relating to correspondence study funding; relating to the base student allocation; relating to funding for reading improvement plans; and providing for an effective date."

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the vote on concurrence be considered the vote on the effective date clause(s). Without objection, it was so ordered.

The Secretary was requested to notify the House.

The bill was referred to the Secretary for enrollment.

## HCR 4

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4 was before the Senate on final passage.

The question being: "Shall HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4 Suspending Rules 24(c), 35, 41(b), and 42(e), Uniform Rules of the Alaska State Legislature, concerning Senate Bill No. 140, relating to funding for Internet services for school districts, pass the Senate?" The roll was taken with the following result:

1736

February 26, 2024

## HCR 4 Final Passage

## YEAS: 19 NAYS: 0 EXCUSED: 1 ABSENT: 0

Yeas: Bishop, Bjorkman, Claman, Dunbar, Giessel, Gray-Jackson, Hoffman, Hughes, Kawasaki, Kiehl, Merrick, Myers, Olson, Shower, Stedman, Stevens, Tobin, Wielechowski, Wilson

Excused: Kaufman

and so, HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4 passed the Senate, was signed by the President and Secretary and returned to the House.

## **Standing Committee Reports**

## SJR 14

The Finance Committee considered SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 14 Calling on the United States Congress and all federal agencies to adopt policies and engage in certain efforts to improve the competitiveness and resiliency of the state's seafood industry.

Signing do pass: Senators Hoffman, Olson, Cochairs; Senators Wilson, Kiehl, Merrick, Bishop.

The following fiscal information was published today: Fiscal Note No. 1, zero, Senate Finance Committee.

The resolution is on today's calendar.

Report dated February 26 was read stating:

In accordance with AS 39.05.080, the Finance Committee held a hearing on the following appointee(s). A signature on this report does not reflect an intent by any of the members to vote for or against the confirmation of the individual(s) during any further sessions.

Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority Board of Trustees Brent Fisher John Sturgeon

Signing the report: Senators Hoffman, Olson, Cochairs; Senators Wilson, Kiehl, Merrick, Bishop.

## **Consideration of the Calendar**

## **Second Reading of Senate Resolutions**

#### SJR 14

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 14 Calling on the United States Congress and all federal agencies to adopt policies and engage in certain efforts to improve the competitiveness and resiliency of the state's seafood industry, was read the second time.

President Stevens stated SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 14 will advance to third reading on the February 28 calendar.

#### Citations

In Memoriam - Sara Lynn Cebulski Senator(s) Kawasaki, Myers

In Memoriam - Betty Ruth "Bruth" George Senator(s) Bishop, Kawasaki

In Memoriam - David Elbert Austin Senator(s) Hughes, Stedman

In Memoriam - Bryce Clinton Ray Senator(s) Hughes

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the citations be adopted. Without objection, the citations were adopted and referred to the Secretary for transmittal.

1738

February 26, 2024

## **Unfinished Business**

Senator Shower moved and asked unanimous consent to be excused from a call of the Senate on March 1. Without objection, Senator Shower was excused.

### SB 206

Senator Dunbar moved and asked unanimous consent to be shown as a cosponsor on SENATE BILL NO. 206 "An Act relating to workers' compensation reemployment benefits; establishing a workers' compensation stay-at-work program; and providing for an effective date." Without objection, it was so ordered.

### SJR 14

Senators Stedman, Wielechowski, Kawasaki, moved and asked unanimous consent to be shown as cosponsors on SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 14 Calling on the United States Congress and all federal agencies to adopt policies and engage in certain efforts to improve the competitiveness and resiliency of the state's seafood industry. Without objection, it was so ordered.

Senator Stedman moved and asked unanimous consent to be excused from a call of the Senate on March 4 to evening plane time. Without objection, Senator Stedman was excused.

#### SB 56

Senator Bishop moved and asked unanimous consent to be shown as a cosponsor on SENATE BILL NO. 56 "An Act relating to the Alaska performance scholarship program." Without objection, it was so ordered.

#### Recess

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the Senate stand in recess to the Joint Session. Without objection, the Senate recessed at 10:58 a.m.

#### After Recess

#### Joint Session in the House

Speaker Tilton called the House to order and in accordance with Uniform Rule 51 turned the gavel over to President Stevens, who called the Joint Session to order at 11:16 a.m.

The purpose of the Joint Session was to hear an address by the Honorable Mary Sattler Peltola, U.S. Representative.

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the roll call of the Senate be waived and all members be shown as present. Without objection, it was so ordered.

Representative Rauscher, Acting Majority Leader, moved and asked unanimous consent the roll call of the House be waived and all members be shown as present. Without objection, it was so ordered.

President Stevens appointed Senator Hoffman and Representative Stapp to escort U.S. Representative Mary Sattler Peltola to the Joint Session.

The Senate Sergeant at Arms, Matt Simpson, announced the Honorable Mary Sattler Peltola's entrance to the House Chamber.

Representative Peltola was escorted to the rostrum.

Representative Peltola delivered her address. This address appears in House and Senate Joint Journal Supplement No. 16.

Following her address, there was a question and answer period. Representative Peltola received a standing ovation and was escorted from the chamber by Representative Stapp and Senator Hoffman.

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the Joint Session stand in adjournment. Without objection, President Stevens adjourned the Joint Session at 11:58 a.m.

1740

February 26, 2024

After Recess

#### In the Senate

The Senate reconvened at 12:02 p.m.

#### Announcements

Announcements are at the end of the journal.

#### Enrollment

#### SB 140

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 140(FIN) am H "An Act relating to funding for Internet services for school districts; relating to charter schools; relating to transportation of public school students; relating to correspondence study funding; relating to the base student allocation; relating to funding for reading improvement plans; and providing for an effective date" was enrolled, signed by the President and Secretary, Speaker and Chief Clerk and the engrossed and enrolled copies transmitted to the Office of the Governor at 3:46 p.m., February 26, 2024.

Memorandum from Division of Legal and Research Services, Legislative Affairs Agency, was received, reporting the following manifest errors in CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 140(FIN) am H which have been corrected in enrolling:

Page 2, line 18, following "school": Insert "contract" Page 5, line 9: Delete "article 15 to"

# Adjournment

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the Senate stand in adjournment until 11:00 a.m., February 28, 2024. Without objection, the Senate adjourned at 12:02 p.m.

> Liz Clark Secretary of the Senate

1742

February 26, 2024

#### Announcements

Americans with Disabilities Act Notice - Persons with disabilities who require special accommodation or alternative communication formats to access committee meetings may contact the appropriate committee office or the Legislative Information Office in their community. Reasonable advance notice is needed to accommodate the request. For further information, call the ADA Coordinator at 465-3854 Voice/465-4980 TDD.

#### **STANDING COMMITTEES**

+ indicates teleconference

## = indicates bill previously heard/scheduled

#### **COMMUNITY & REGIONAL AFFAIRS**

Feb 27	Tuesday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	1:30 PM
+= SB 161	TAX EXEMPTION FOR	FARM USE LAND	
+= SR 3	CHRONIC KIDNEY DIS	SEASE AWARENESS MO	NTH
+	Bills Previously Heard/Sc	cheduled	

Feb	29	Thursday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	1:30 PM
+	SB 242	PROPERTY ASSESSMEN	T	
+=	SB 236	GRANTS TO DISASTER	VICTIMS	
+		Bills Previously Heard/Sch	neduled	

#### EDUCATION

Feb	26	Monday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	3:30 PM
+=	SB 215	TEACHERS: BOARD CE	RTIFICATION INCENTIV	/E
+	SJR 17	EXTEND DEADLINE FC	R ARP-HCY FUNDS	
		Invited & Public Testim	ony	
+		Presentation: Governor's T	ask Force on Child	
		Care by		
		Department of Health Con	missioner Heidi Hedberg	
		Leah Van Kirk, Healthcare	Policy Advisor	
		Stephanie Bergland, CEO	of Thread	
+		Bills Previously Heard/Sch	eduled	
		**Streamed live on AKL.t	v**	

# **EDUCATION (continued)**

Feb 28	Wednesday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	3:30 PM
+ SB 158 +	MEETING CANCELE SCHOOL GRANTS AND Invited & Public Testir Bills Previously Heard/So **Streamed live on AKL	D BOND DEBT REIMBU nony cheduled	RSEMENT
Mar 01	Friday No Meeting Scheduled	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	3:30 PM

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# FINANCE

Feb +	26	Monday Confirmation of Governe		9:00 AM
		John Sturgeon, Alaska N	Iental Health Trust	
		Authority Brent Fisher, Alaska Me	ntal Health Trust	
		Authority	ntai maitii must	
+	SB 85	PERM FUND; EMPLOY	YMENT; ELIGIBILITY	
		Invited & Public Testi	mony	
+		Bills Previously Heard/S		
+=	SJR 14	SUPPORT STATE SEA	FOOD INDUSTRY	
Feb	26	Monday	Senate Finance 532	1:30 PM
		MEETING CANCELI	ED	
		Please Note Time Cha		
+		Bills Previously Heard/S	cheduled	
Feb	27	Tuesday	Senate Finance 532	9:00 AM
+	SB 105	RAILROAD CORP. FIN	JANCING	
		Invited & Public Testi		
+	SB 205		O ACQUIRE BUILDING	
		Invited & Public Testi		
+	~~	Bills Previously Heard/S		
+=	SB 125	AK HOUSING FINANC	CE CORP: SUSTAIN ENERG	Ϋ́
Feb	27	Tuesday	Senate Finance 532	1:30 PM
		Please Note Time Cha		
+		Bills Previously Heard/S	cheduled	

	SENA	ATE JOURNAL	
1744		Februa	ary 26, 2024
	FINAN	NCE (continued)	
Feb 28 + +	Wednesday Update: State Trans Department of Tran Bills Previously He		9:00 AM
Feb 28 +	Wednesday Please Note Time Bills Previously He	6	1:30 PM
Feb 29 + +	<b>Thursday</b> Fiscal Summary Up Legislative Finance Bills Previously He	Division	9:00 AM
Feb 29 +	<b>Thursday</b> Please Note Time Bills Previously He	6	1:30 PM
Mar 01 + +	Friday Update from the Al Thomas Lochner, D Bills Previously He		9:00 AM

# **HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES**

Feb 27	Tuesday	<b>Butrovich 205</b>	3:30 PM
+	Presentation: Department of H	Iealth Response	
	to LB&A Audit Findings		
5D 240	Testimony <invitation only<br="">SCHOOL DISTRICT MEDIO</invitation>		
+ SB 240	Invited & Public Testimony		
+	Bills Previously Heard/Sched		
	Dills Treviously fielded	uica	
Feb 29	Thursday	<b>Butrovich 205</b>	3:30 PM
+	Bills Previously Heard/Sched	uled	

## JUDICIARY

Feb + +		Monday MENTAL HEALTH/PSYCH Invited & Public Testimony Bills Previously Heard/Sched	/	1:30 PM Force
Feb	28	Wednesday	<b>Butrovich 205</b>	1:30 PM
+	HB 66	CONTROLLED SUB;HOMI		NCING
		Invited & Public Testimony		
+	SB 165	DEFENSE OF PUB. OFFICE	R: ETHICS COMPLAI	NT
		Invited & Public Testimony	T <b></b>	
+		Bills Previously Heard/Sched	uled	
Мя	r 01	Friday	Butrovich 205	1:30 PM

Mar 01	Friday	Butrovich 205	1:30 PM
+	Bills Previously Heard/	Scheduled	

## LABOR & COMMERCE

	SB 144	RATES: MOTOR VEHIC Public Testimony <time CERT. OF FITNESS: PLU  Invited &amp; Public Testim  Public Testimony <time< th=""><th>e Limit May Be Set&gt; JMBERS/ELECTRICIANS ony e Limit May Be Set&gt; ASSAGE THERAPISTS ony e Limit May Be Set&gt;</th><th>1:30 PM</th></time<></time 	e Limit May Be Set> JMBERS/ELECTRICIANS ony e Limit May Be Set> ASSAGE THERAPISTS ony e Limit May Be Set>	1:30 PM
Feb	28	Wednesday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	
+	SB 121		ACISTS/BENEFITS MANA	GERS
+	SB 115	Invited & Public Testim Public Testimony <time PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT  Invited &amp; Public Testim  Public Testimony <time **Streamed live on AKL.t</time </time 	e Limit May Be Set> Γ SCOPE OF PRACTICE ony e Limit May Be Set>	

1746

February 26, 2024

# LABOR & COMMERCE (continued)

Ma	r 01	Friday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	1:30 PM
+=	SB 173	AUTHORIZE HANDGUN	NS SCHOOL	
		EMPLOYEE/VOLUNT		
		Public Testimony < Time	e Limit May Be Set>	
+	SB 211	AGRICULTURAL PROD	UCTS/LOANS/SALES	
		Invited & Public Testim	ony	
		Public Testimony < Time	e Limit May Be Set>	
		**Streamed live on AKL.t		

# RESOURCES

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Feb 26 + + SB 243	MondayButrovich 205Presentation: Mining Industry Update by Karen Matthias, Executive Director, Alaska Metal MinesDeantha Skibinski, Executive Director, Alaska Miners AssociationKatie Sweeney, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, National Mining AssociationALASKA ENERGY AUTHORITY GOVERNANCE	3:30 PM
+	Testimony <invitation only=""> Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled **Streamed live on AKL.tv**</invitation>	
Feb 28	WednesdayButrovich 205Presentation: Alaska Industrial Development andExport Authority (AIDEA) Update byRandy Ruaro, Executive Director, AIDEABrandon Brefczynski, Deputy Director, AIDEA	3:30 PM
+= SB 220	RCA REGULATE NATURAL GAS STORAGE FAC	ILITY
+ SB 243 +	Testimony <invitation only=""> ALASKA ENERGY AUTHORITY GOVERNANCE  Invited &amp; Public Testimony Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled **Streamed live on AKL.tv**</invitation>	

February 26, 2024

# **RESOURCES** (continued)

Mar 01	Friday	<b>Butrovich 205</b>	3:30 PM
+= SB 210	SALMON HATCHERY PER	MITS	
	Testimony < Invitation Only	/>	
+= SB 199	STATE LAND: DISPOSAL/S	SALE/LEASE/RESTRIC	CT
	Invited & Public Testimony	·	
+= SB 171	<b>RESIDENCY REQ: HUNTIN</b>	G, TRAPPING, FISHIN	١G
	Public Testimony		
	Bills Previously Heard/Schedu	uled	
	**Streamed live on AKL.tv**		

STATE AFFAIRS

27	Tuesday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	3:30 PM
SB 223	ASSISTANT ADJUTANT	GENERAL APPOINTM	IENT
	Invited & Public Testim	ony	
SB 185	ESTABLISH AK MILITA	<b>RY AFFAIRS COMMIS</b>	SION
	Invited & Public Testim	ony	
	**Streamed live on AKL.t	V**	
	Bills Previously Heard/Scl	neduled	
	SB 223	SB 223 ASSISTANT ADJUTANT Invited & Public Testim SB 185 ESTABLISH AK MILITA Invited & Public Testim **Streamed live on AKL.t	27TuesdayBeltz 105 (tsbldg)SB 223ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GENERAL APPOINTM Invited & Public TestimonySB 185ESTABLISH AK MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMIS Invited & Public Testimony **Streamed live on AKL.tv** Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled

Feł	o 29	Thursday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	3:30 PM
+	SJR 15	CONST. AM: VOTES NE	EDED FOR VETO OVE	RRIDE
		Invited & Public Testim	ony	
		**Streamed live on AKL.t	V**	
+		Bills Previously Heard/Sch	neduled	

# TRANSPORTATION

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Feb 27	<b>Tuesday</b> No Meeting Scheduled	Butrovich 205	1:30 PM
Feb 29	Thursday No Meeting Scheduled	Butrovich 205	1:30 PM

1748

February 26, 2024

## FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEES

# ADMINISTRATION

Feb 27 +	<b>Tuesday</b> Please Note Time Char Jointly Meeting with Hou Department of Administr	ise Subcommittee on	4:00 PM
Mar 05 +	<b>Tuesday</b> Department of Administr	Beltz 105 (tsbldg) ation Budget	11:00 AM
Mar 19 +	<b>Tuesday</b> Department of Administr	Butrovich 205 ation Budget	5:15 PM

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### **COMMERCE, COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEV**

Feb 28	Wednesday	Senate Finance 532	8:00 AM
+	Department of Comm	erce, Community and Economi	c
	Development Budget		
	**Streamed live on A	KL.tv**	

## CORRECTIONS

Feb 29	Thursday	<b>Butrovich 205</b>	5:15 PM
+	Department of Corre	ctions Budget	

 Mar 21
 Thursday
 Butrovich 205
 5:15 PM

 +
 Department of Corrections Budget

## FISH & GAME

Feb 26	Monday	Senate Finance 532	8:00 AM
+	Department of Fis	h & Game Budget	
	**Streamed live o	n AKL.tv**	

## FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEES (continued)

# JUDICIARY

Feb 26 +	<b>Monday</b> Court System Budget	<b>Butrovich 205</b>	5:15 PM
Mar 11 +	Monday Court System Budget	Butrovich 205	5:15 PM

## **MILITARY & VETERANS' AFFAIRS**

Feb 29	Thursday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	11:00 AM
+	Overview: Departr Affairs Budget	nent of Military & Veterans'	

## **TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC FACILITIES**

Feb 29	Thursday	Senate Finance 532	7:30 AM
+	FY25 Request		

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# JOINT COMMITTEES

# **LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

Feb 28	Wednesday	Senate Finance 532	5:30 PM
+	1. Approval of the Agen	da	
+	2. Approval of Minutes -	December 14, 2023	
+	3. Ratification of Charity	/ Events	
	a. Alaska SeaLife Center	Soiree -February 3, 2024	
	b. Trend Alaska Fashion	Show - February 17, 2024	
	c. Juneau Animal Rescue	e Extravaganza -February 17,	2024
	d. Sham Jam - March 23	, 2024	
	e. Kenai River Junior Cl	assic -August 21, 22, 23, 2024	Ļ
	f. Ted Stevens Kenai Riv	ver Classic -August 21, 22, 23	, 2024
	g. Kenai River Women's	Classic -September 12, 13, 14	4, 2024
+	4. Contract Approvals	- · · ·	
	a. Cybersecurity Licensi	ng, Maintenance and	
	Technical Support Renew	wal	
(Continued	on Next Page)		

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# JOINT COMMITTEES (continued)

#### LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL (continued)

#### (Continued from Previous Page)

- 5. Executive Session
- a. Legal Update (LAW/Janus)
- b. Security Update
- c. Salary Schedule Discussion
- 6. Committee Business
  - a. FY23 Legislature Independent Audit
  - b. FY25 Legislative Council Budget
  - c. Print Shop Policy
  - d. Subcommittee Updates
  - e. Preview of Upcoming Items
  - 7. Adjourn
  - \*\*Streamed live on AKL.tv\*\*

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#### **OTHER MEETINGS**

#### JOINT SESSION

Feb 26	Monday	House Chamber	11:00 AM
+	Address by Mary Sa Representative		
	Representative		

## MISCELLANEOUS MEETINGS

Feb 26	Monday	<b>Butrovich 205</b>	12:00 PM	
+	Lunch & Learn Presentation:			
	Complete Streets			
	Presented by Beth Osborne, Director of			
	Transportation for America and Julius Adolfsson,			
	Active Transportation Planner at DOTPF			
	Sponsored by Senator Kiehl			

# **MISCELLANEOUS MEETINGS (continued)**

Feb 26 +	MondayDavis 10612:0Lunch & Learn Presentation:The Alaska Trucking Association will bePresenting on the Trucking Industry in Alaska byJoe Michel, Executive Director, Alaska TruckingAssociationKelly Droop, Pape KenworthSamantha Brown, United Freight & TransportDarren Kessler, Odyssey AlaskaBrooke Sillers, Alaska West ExpressRandy Efrid, Weaver Bros.Sponsored by Senator Myers			
Feb 27 +	<b>Tuesday</b> Lunch & Learn Presentation:	Butrovich 205	12:00 PM	

Lunch & Learn Presentation: Alaska Long Trail by Alaska Trails Deputy Director, Haley Johnston Sponsored by Senator Merrick