

SENATE JOURNAL
ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
TWENTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE -- FIRST SESSION

Juneau, Alaska

Thursday

January 18, 2001

Eleventh Day

Pursuant to adjournment the Senate was called to order by President Halford at 11:16 a.m.

The roll showed eighteen members present. Senators Green, Taylor were excused from a call of the Senate.

The prayer was offered by the Chaplain, Major Larry Fankhauser of The Salvation Army. Senator Hoffman moved and asked unanimous consent that the prayer be spread. Without objection, it was so ordered.

This is the day the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it. Dear God, we thank You this day for each senator, who with care and thoughtfulness, seeks to serve this state and its people.

We realize that we must look to a higher power than ourselves, and so as a nation under God we look to You for keen minds, clear thoughts, and purposeful direction. There are many voices, opinions, agendas; but as we seek Your insight and wisdom, we rest assured that right decisions will be made.

Thank You God for all that is ours in this moment in time. Amen.

Senator Elton led the Senate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Certification

Senator Leman moved and asked unanimous consent that the journal for the tenth legislative day be approved as certified by the Secretary. Without objection, it was so ordered.

Messages from the Governor**SB 35**

Message dated January 17 was received, regarding SENATE BILL NO. 35, "An Act relating to electronic application for and issuance of licenses, permits, and tags issued by the Department of Fish and Game; relating to violations regarding a license, permit, or tag applied for or issued electronically; and providing for an effective date":

Dear President Halford:

This letter replaces my letter dated January 12, 2001 as shown in 2001 Senate Journal, pages 71-72, concerning SB 35.

Since the beginning of my Administration, state agencies have increasingly moved into the high technology age. It is now common for agencies to use electronic means to interact with the public, whether it be to renew a driver's license, check the status of a permanent fund dividend application, or offer up-to-the-minute election results.

The bill I transmitted January 12 is yet another effort by the state to make it easier for the public to conduct business with state government through electronic media. Building upon the Internet application process currently in place for applying for a fishing or hunting license, it will lay the groundwork for the state to eventually issue paperless licenses.

A process allowing fishers and hunters to apply for and receive licenses, permits, or tags electronically should reduce paperwork for the public and the state while building a better, more efficient system for license management. This expedited process will improve fish and wildlife law enforcement efforts by making the online license data file available immediately.

I urge your prompt and favorable action on this measure.

Sincerely,
/s/
Tony Knowles
Governor

Messages from the House

Message dated January 17 was read, stating the House passed and transmitted for consideration:

First Reading and Reference of House Resolutions

HCR 2

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 2 BY THE HOUSE RULES COMMITTEE,

Authorizing two recesses by the Senate and House of Representatives, each for a period of more than three days.

was read the first time.

Second Reading of House Resolutions

HCR 2

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 2 was read the second time and was before the Senate on final passage.

The question being: "Shall HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 2 Authorizing two recesses by the Senate and House of Representatives, each for a period of more than three days, pass the Senate?" The roll was taken with the following result:

HCR 2

Second Reading - Final Passage

YEAS: 18 NAYS: 0 EXCUSED: 2 ABSENT: 0

Yea: Austerman, Cowdery, Davis, Donley, Ellis, Elton, Halford, Hoffman, Kelly, Leman, Lincoln, Olson, Pearce, Phillips, Therriault, Torgerson, Ward, Wilken

Excused: Green, Taylor

and so, HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 2 passed the Senate, was signed by the President and Secretary and returned to the House.

Communications

The following report is on file in the Office of the Secretary of the Senate:

Notification of Availability of "Report Card to the Public containing school level information"
from Commissioner Holloway, Department of Education and Early Development
in accordance with Chapter 83, SLA 1998
Report available electronically at: www.eed.state.ak.us

Introduction and Reference of Senate Resolutions

SJR 6

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 6 BY THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE,

Urging the Congress of the United States to provide federal education funds as a block grant to the state.

was read the first time and referred to the Finance Committee.

Introduction and Reference of Senate Bills

SB 46

SENATE BILL NO. 46 BY THE SENATE RULES COMMITTEE
BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR, entitled:

"An Act relating to increasing the minimum hourly wage under the Alaska Wage and Hour Act; and providing for an effective date."

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

The following fiscal information was published today:

Fiscal Note No. 1, zero, Department of Administration

Fiscal Note No. 2, Department of Health and Social Services

Governor's transmittal letter dated January 17:

Dear President Halford:

At \$5.65 an hour, Alaska's minimum wage is the lowest on the West Coast, some eighty-five cents under the next lowest minimum wage. A single parent working year-round at minimum wage earns only two-thirds of the poverty level for a family of three and cannot hope to rise out of poverty. These are disturbing facts that must change.

This bill I transmit today is meant to offer Alaska's low wage workers a better quality of life by increasing the minimum wage to \$6.40 on October 1, 2001, followed by a raise to \$7.15 a year later. The wage would then adjust annually to match inflation, increasing by pennies per year, but protecting the minimal essential purchasing power of low-wage workers.

Alaska's current minimum wage is tied to the federal law. So we are reliant on whether Congress decides a raise is in order, rather than

being able to determine the wage needs specifically for Alaskans. This outdated relationship has caused our minimum wage to remain stagnant for as long as nine years, from 1981 to 1990. And it's currently been more than 3 years since the last increase.

We know Alaska's economy rarely moves in exact synchronization with the rest of the country. To tie our workers' wages to what the rest of the country is doing is a disservice to Alaskans. That is why it is so important not only to raise Alaska's minimum wage, but to provide for its continued adjustment to our local economy.

We have made great progress in the past four years in moving Alaskans from welfare to work. But in FY 2000, 22 percent of public assistance recipients entering the workforce earned less than \$6.50 per hour. Increasing the wage of these Alaskans will reduce the temporary cash assistance needed to support their families.

Working for a minimum wage in Alaska should not mean a minimum quality of life. In the interest of allowing Alaskans the opportunity to achieve financial independence, I urge your prompt and favorable action on this important measure.

Sincerely,
/s/
Tony Knowles
Governor

SB 47

SENATE BILL NO. 47 BY SENATOR GREEN, entitled:

"An Act relating to credited service under the teachers' retirement system for former employment as a noncertificated school nurse."

was read the first time and referred to the Health, Education and Social Services and Finance Committees.

SB 48

SENATE BILL NO. 48 BY SENATORS WILKEN, Donley,

Cowdery, Green, Phillips, entitled:

"An Act relating to the determination of full and true value of taxable municipal property for purposes of calculating funding for education and certain other programs; and relating to incorporation of second class boroughs in the unorganized borough and to annexation of portions of the unorganized borough to boroughs and unified municipalities."

was read the first time and referred to the Community and Regional Affairs and Finance Committees.

Consideration of the Calendar

Citations

Honoring – Agnes Royer

Senator(s) Taylor, Wilken, Hoffman, Davis, Pearce, Lincoln, Green, Austerman, Kelly, Elton, Leman, Therriault

In Memoriam – Dr. Milo H. Fritz

Senator(s) Torgerson, Ward, Phillips, Wilken, Hoffman, Davis, Pearce, Lincoln, Green, Austerman, Kelly, Taylor, Elton, Leman, Therriault, Halford

In Memoriam – Darald Dewitt, Ka-Klaa

Senator(s) Taylor, Wilken, Hoffman, Davis, Pearce, Lincoln, Green, Austerman, Kelly, Elton, Leman, Therriault

In Memoriam – Opal J. Amundson

Senator(s) Taylor, Wilken, Hoffman, Davis, Pearce, Lincoln, Green, Austerman, Kelly, Elton, Leman, Therriault, Halford

In Memoriam – Winifred E. Williams

Senator(s) Taylor, Wilken, Hoffman, Davis, Pearce, Lincoln, Green, Austerman, Kelly, Elton, Leman, Therriault, Halford

In Memoriam – Alfred Nakak

Representative(s) Foster

Senator(s) Olson, Phillips, Wilken, Hoffman, Davis, Pearce, Lincoln, Green, Austerman, Kelly, Taylor, Elton, Leman, Therriault, Halford

In Memoriam – John Richard 'Dick' Hafer

Representative(s) Rokeberg

Senator(s) Pearce, Wilken, Hoffman, Davis, Lincoln, Green, Austerman, Kelly, Taylor, Donley, Elton, Leman, Therriault, Halford

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

Senator Leman moved and asked unanimous consent that the following citation be made a special order of business. Without objection, it was so ordered.

Special Order of Business

In Memoriam – Mark Keith Cameron

Senator(s) Leman, Hoffman, Wilken, Elton, Phillips, Davis, Pearce, Green, Kelly, Taylor, Austerman, Lincoln, Halford, Ellis, Olson

Senator Leman moved and asked unanimous consent that the citation be adopted. Without objection, the citation was adopted and referred to the Secretary for transmittal.

Unfinished Business

Senator Cowdery moved and asked unanimous consent to be excused from a call of the Senate from afternoon plane time, January 18 through plane time, January 21. Without objection, Senator Cowdery was excused.

Senator Pearce moved and asked unanimous consent to be excused from a call of the Senate through morning plane time on January 22. Without objection, Senator Pearce was excused.

Senator Lincoln moved and asked unanimous consent to be excused from a call of the Senate on January 25 and 26. Without objection,

Senator Lincoln was excused.

Announcements

Announcements are at the end of the journal.

Adjournment

Senator Leman moved and asked unanimous consent that the Senate stand in adjournment until 11:00 a.m., January 19, 2001. Without objection, the Senate adjourned at 11:26 a.m.

Heidi Vogel
Secretary of the Senate

January 2001

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.

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEES

+ indicates teleconference

= indicates bill previously heard/scheduled

COMMUNITY & REGIONAL AFFAIRS

FAHRENKAMP 203

Jan 19	Friday	1:30 PM
No Meeting Scheduled		
Jan 22	Monday	1:30 PM
No Meeting Scheduled		
Jan 24	Wednesday	1:30 PM
No Meeting Scheduled		
Jan 26	Friday	1:30 PM
No Meeting Scheduled		

FINANCE

SENATE FINANCE 532

Jan 18	Thursday	9:00 AM
Update on Federal and State Medical		
Issues- American Medical Association		
Jan 23	Tuesday	9:00 AM
Presentation by Alaska Travel Industry		
Association		

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**HEALTH, EDUCATION & SOCIAL SERVICES
BUTROVICH 205**

Jan 24 Wednesday 1:30 PM
Overview:
Department of Health & Social Services

HOUSE FINANCE 519
Jan 27 Saturday 10:00 AM
-- Teleconference --
Joint w/(H) Special Committee
on Education
High School Competency Test

JUDICIARY

BELTZ 211

Jan 19 Friday 1:30 PM
No Meeting Scheduled

Jan 26 Friday 1:30 PM
No Meeting Scheduled

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LABOR & COMMERCE

BELTZ 211

Jan 25 Thursday 1:30 PM
Walking Tour:
Dept. Community & Economic Development

RESOURCES

RESOURCES
BUTROVICH 205

BUKOVICIA 203
Jan 19 Friday 3:30 PM
No Meeting Scheduled

Jan 24 Wednesday 3:30 PM
Senate Bill:
NO SOC SEC. # REQ'D ON HUNT/FISH LICENSE
<Pending Introduction and Referral>
SB 19 CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT/SOC SEC. #

Jan 26 Friday 3:30 PM
No Meeting Scheduled

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RESOURCES (continued)

Feb 02 Friday 3:30 PM
-- Agenda to be Announced --

Feb 05 Monday 3:30 PM
Natural Gas Pipeline Briefing:
Foothills Pipelines Co.

SENATE FINANCE 532
Feb 06 Tuesday 12:15 PM
Joint w/(H) Resources
Mining Industry Briefing

STATE AFFAIRS

BELTZ 211
Jan 18 Thursday 3:30 PM
No Meeting Scheduled

Jan 23 Tuesday 3:30 PM
No Meeting Scheduled

Jan 25 Thursday 3:30 PM
+SJR 3 F-22 RAPTOR AIRCRAFT AT ELMENDORF AFB
+SJR 5 NCAA BASKETBALL PRESEASON TOURNAMENTS

TRANSPORTATION

BUTROVICH 205
Jan 18 Thursday 1:30 PM
Joint w/(H) Transportation
Transportation Department Workshop
General Overview

Jan 23 Tuesday 1:30 PM
SB 36 INTERNATIONAL AIRPORTS REVENUE BONDS

JOINT COMMITTEES

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET & AUDIT HOUSE FINANCE 519

OTHER MEETINGS

CHILDREN'S CAUCUS FAHRENKAMP 203