

SENATE JOURNAL

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

TWENTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE -- FIRST SESSION

Juneau, Alaska

Tuesday

January 23, 2001

Sixteenth Day

Pursuant to adjournment the Senate was called to order by President Halford at 11:12 a.m.

The roll showed nineteen members present. Senator Kelly was absent.

The prayer was offered by the Chaplain, Father Rob Bruschi of the Holy Trinity Episcopal Church. Senator Hoffman moved and asked unanimous consent that the prayer be spread. Without objection, it was so ordered.

Let us place ourselves in God's presence. Let us pray.
Creator of all, we lift up before You today those in
need of Your healing embrace; those who have lost a
loved one or heard disappointing news from a doctor.
Often we feel alone in a sea of company. But we
know, as a mother cares for her children, You will
never forget us. Send forth the spirit of life and
renewal and transform us by the knowledge that You
are always there. Heal the brokenhearted, lift up the
fallen, and grant us Your gracious care. Give us the
power to care for each other, allowing us to share
Your life within us to all we meet. Amen.

Senator Ward led the Senate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Certification

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

Standing Committee Reports**SB 16**

The Resources Committee considered SENATE BILL NO. 16 "An Act regarding oil discharge prevention and cleanup involving self-propelled nontank vessels exceeding 400 gross registered tonnage and railroad tank cars and related facilities and operations and requiring preparation and implementation of oil discharge contingency plans for those nontank vessels and railroad tank cars; amending the definition of 'response action' that relates to releases or threatened releases of oil and thereby amending the duties and liabilities of response action contractors; and authorizing compliance verification for nontank vessels and for trains and related facilities and operations; and providing for an effective date." Signing do pass: Senator Torgerson, Chair, Senators Elton, Pearce, Kelly. Signing no recommendation: Senators Lincoln, Taylor.

The following fiscal information was published today:

Fiscal Note No. 1, Department of Transportation and Public
Facilities

Fiscal Note No. 2, Department of Environmental Conservation

The bill was referred to the Finance Committee.

SB 21

The Judiciary Committee considered SENATE BILL NO. 21 "An Act increasing the maximum civil fine that may be imposed by the State Medical Board as a disciplinary sanction." Signing do pass: Senator Taylor, Chair, Senators Ellis, Cowdery, Therriault.

The following fiscal information was published today:

Fiscal Note No. 1, zero, Department of Community and Economic
Development

The bill was referred to the Finance Committee.

SCR 1

The Resources Committee considered SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1 Relating to Avalanche Awareness Month. Signing do pass: Senator Torgerson, Chair, Senators Taylor, Pearce, Lincoln, Elton.

The following fiscal information was published today:

Fiscal Note No. 1, zero, Senate Resources Committee

The resolution was referred to the Rules Committee.

The presence of Senator Kelly was noted.

Recess

Senator Lemman moved and asked unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess to a call of the Chair for a Committee on Committees meeting. Without objection, the Senate recessed at 11:16 a.m.

After Recess

The Senate reconvened at 11:23 a.m.

Special Committee Reports**Committee on Committees Report**

January 23, 2001

Dear Mr. President:

Your Committee on Committees has met and submits to the Senate for its consideration the following changes to the original Committee on Committees report dated January 8, 2001:

Health, Education & Social Services Committee
Senator Wilken replaces Senator Kelly

Community and Regional Affairs Committee
Senator Kelly replaces Senator Wilken

The report was signed by Senator Halford, Chair, Senators Kelly, Pearce, Ward, Ellis.

Senator Leman moved that the Committee on Committees report be adopted. Without objection, it was so ordered.

Introduction and Reference of Senate Resolutions

SCR 2

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 2 BY SENATOR WARD,

Relating to declaring March 2001 as Sobriety Awareness Month.

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

Introduction and Reference of Senate Bills

SB 52

SENATE BILL NO. 52 BY THE SENATE RULES COMMITTEE BY REQUEST OF THE LEGISLATIVE BUDGET AND AUDIT COMMITTEE, entitled:

"An Act extending the termination date of the State Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Board."

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

SB 53

SENATE BILL NO. 53 BY THE SENATE RULES COMMITTEE BY REQUEST OF THE LEGISLATIVE BUDGET AND AUDIT COMMITTEE, entitled:

"An Act extending the termination date of the Board of Barbers and Hairdressers."

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

SB 54

SENATE BILL NO. 54 BY THE SENATE RULES COMMITTEE BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR, entitled:

"An Act establishing the Alaska Veterans Advisory Council; and providing for an effective date."

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

The following fiscal information was published today:

Fiscal Note No. 1, Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

Governor's transmittal letter dated January 22:

Dear President Halford:

In 1996 I issued Administrative Order No. 164 to establish the Alaska Veterans Advisory Council. The council advises the state on ways to better address the needs and concerns of Alaska's veterans, their dependents and their survivors. Its work is vital and deserves a permanent status. I am therefore transmitting this bill to establish the Alaska Veterans Advisory Council in statute within the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA).

The work of the council will remain the same. Its duties will continue to include making recommendations concerning veterans' priority service needs, developing public and private partnerships to meet those needs, and providing coordination of information regarding veterans' benefits and services around the state. The chair of the council would also serve on the Alaska Pioneers' and Veterans' Home Advisory Board as proposed under separate legislation.

This bill would maintain the present 20-member structure of the council to include one or more persons affiliated with a veterans organization, one or more persons from a state agency that manages programs affecting veterans, and one or more members of the general public familiar with veterans' issues. Council members would continue to serve without compensation other than per diem and travel expenses.

I urge your prompt and favorable action on this measure.

Sincerely,
/s/
Tony Knowles
Governor

SB 55

SENATE BILL NO. 55 BY THE SENATE RULES COMMITTEE
BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR, entitled:

"An Act changing the name of the Alaska Pioneers' Home to the Alaska Pioneers' and Veterans' Home and of the Alaska Pioneers' Homes Advisory Board to the Alaska Pioneers' and Veterans' Home Advisory Board; relating to services for veterans in the home; relating to the advisory board for the home; making other amendments to the statutes relating to the home; making conforming amendments to other statutes; and providing for an effective date."

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

The following fiscal information was published today:

Fiscal Note No. 1, zero, Department of Administration

Governor's transmittal letter dated January 22:

Dear President Halford:

Alaska has more veterans per capita than any other state except one. Yet, this is the only state in the nation without a veterans' home in service or development. At the same time, no other state operates a care program for seniors comparable to the Pioneers' Home system. We have a unique opportunity to enhance our Pioneers' Home system and serve our veterans at the same time. The bill I transmit today establishes the Alaska Pioneers' and Veterans' Home system as an efficient means to fully use our existing resources and serve our older veterans.

This bill would allow use of some 100 Pioneers' Home beds statewide that are empty today because cost of care has increased faster than the operating budget. A certain number of beds in the Pioneers Homes would be reserved for veterans who meet eligibility requirements for admission, including being at least 65 years old, being an Alaska resident for at least one year, and needing the services the homes provide. The number of beds to be reserved for veterans would be determined by the department by regulation.

Certainly the homes already serve a number of veterans. Some 78 current residents are veterans. Another 44 veterans are on the active waiting list.

Because of operating budget inadequacies, I have requested, in addition to this legislation, nearly \$2.5 million in General Funds and another \$2.6 million in receipts for staff and ancillary services at the Pioneers Homes as part of my Fiscal Year 2002 operating budget. Fully staffed, a Pioneers' and Veterans' Home system can begin filling vacant beds and serving the needs of all Alaska seniors. At the same time, it provides an opportunity to recognize the service of Alaska's veterans, particularly those in need of long term care. To help guide us in future planning for services to meet the needs of veterans, I have also requested a \$200,000 capital appropriation to conduct a veterans housing and health needs survey.

The bill also modifies the membership of the Pioneers' Homes Advisory Board to include at least two veterans on the seven-member panel, with one seat reserved for the chair of the Alaska Veterans Advisory Council. I am introducing separate legislation today to establish that council in statute.

Finally, the bill also places in statute the current practice of requiring a one-year residency for admission to the homes. This is in response to a court decision years ago that found the 15-year residency requirement unconstitutional.

For years, building a veterans' home in Alaska has been an important goal of the state's veteran organizations. We can finally provide this service for our veterans and, at the same time, improve services for all Alaska senior citizens. I encourage your prompt and favorable action on this measure.

Sincerely,
/s/
Tony Knowles
Governor

Consideration of the Calendar

Citations

Honoring – Chief Jason A. Elson
Representative(s) Chenault
Senator(s) Ward, Lincoln, Austerman, Taylor, Kelly, Green, Pearce,
Hoffman, Leman, Elton, Wilken, Davis, Halford

In Memoriam – James (Jim) Sutherland Watson
Senator(s) Taylor, Lincoln, Austerman, Kelly, Green, Pearce,
Hoffman, Leman, Elton, Wilken, Davis, Halford

In Memoriam – John D. Schandelmeier, 1917-2001
Representative(s) Davies
Senator(s) Wilken, Halford, Lincoln, Austerman, Taylor, Kelly,
Green, Pearce, Hoffman, Leman, Elton, Davis, Phillips

In Memoriam – Don H. Delk
Representative(s) Bunde
Senator(s) Cowdery, Ward, Lincoln, Austerman, Taylor, Kelly, Green,
Pearce, Hoffman, Leman, Elton, Wilken, Donley, Davis, Phillips,
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 – Admiral John Briggs Hayes
Representative(s) Halcro
Senator(s) Pearce, Halford, Wilken, Hoffman, Elton, Phillips, Davis,
Donley, Leman, Green, Kelly, Taylor, Austerman, Lincoln

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

SB 49

Senator Ward moved and asked unanimous consent to be shown as a cosponsor on SENATE BILL NO. 49 "An Act eliminating a requirement that a social security number be provided by an applicant for a hunting or sport fishing license or tag and for certain hunting permits; and providing for an effective date." Without objection, it was so ordered.

Senator Ellis moved and asked unanimous consent to be excused from a call of the Senate on January 26 and through morning plane time on January 29. Without objection, Senator Ellis was excused.

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

Senator Austerman moved and asked unanimous consent to be excused from a call of the Senate on February 1 and 2. Without objection, Senator Austerman was excused.

Senator Lincoln moved and asked unanimous consent to withdraw her excused absence on January 25. Without objection, it was so ordered.

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 24, 2001. Without objection, the Senate adjourned at 11:30 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 24	Wednesday	1:30 PM
	No Meeting Scheduled	
Jan 26	Friday	1:30 PM
	No Meeting Scheduled	

FINANCE

SENATE FINANCE 532

Jan 23	Tuesday	9:00 AM
	Presentation by Alaska Travel Industry Association	

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 -- -- Time and Location Change -- Joint w/(H) Special Committee on Education High School Competency Test	

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JUDICIARY

BELTZ 211

Jan 24 Wednesday 1:30 PM
 -- Teleconference --
 Confirmation Hearing- Select Committee on Legislative Ethics:
 Thomas P. Owens, Jr., Dennis "Skip" Cook

Jan 26 Friday 1:30 PM
 No Meeting Scheduled

LABOR & COMMERCE

BELTZ 211

Jan 23 Tuesday 1:30 PM
 +SB 9 EXTENDED BOARD OF ARCHITECTS ETC
 SB 10 EXTENDED BOARD OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTANCY

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

RESOURCES

BUTROVICH 205

Jan 24 Wednesday 3:30 PM
 +SB 49 NO SOC SEC. # REQ'D ON HUNT/FISH LICENSE
 +SB 19 CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT/SOC SEC. #

Jan 26 Friday 3:30 PM
 No Meeting Scheduled

Jan 29 Monday 3:30 PM
 Status of Statehood Defense Cases:
 Department of Law

Jan 31 Wednesday 3:30 PM
 Alaska Soil and Water Conservation District Briefing
 Department overviews on Natural Gas Pipeline:
 Department of Revenue,
 Department of Natural Resources

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

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RESOURCES (continued)

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

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

RULES

Jan 24 FAHRENKAMP 203 Wednesday 10:45 AM
SCR 1 AVALANCHE AWARENESS MONTH

STATE AFFAIRS

Jan 23 BELTZ 211 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

Jan 23 BUTROVICH 205 Tuesday 1:30 PM
SB 36 INTERNATIONAL AIRPORTS REVENUE BONDS

Jan 30 Tuesday 1:30 PM
Joint w/(H) Transportation
Report by the Commissioner of Transportation, Joseph L. Perkins

JOINT COMMITTEES**ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION REVIEW**

BUTROVICH 205

Jan 30	Tuesday	9:30 AM
+	Overview of Committee Review of Committee Powers Law's Review of Regulations Board of Pharmacy Review	
Feb 01	Thursday	9:30 AM
+	Review of Public Hearing on Shellfish Regulations	

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET & AUDIT

HOUSE FINANCE 519

Jan 24	Wednesday	12:30 PM
	-- Time Change --	

OTHER MEETINGS**CHILDREN'S CAUCUS**

FAHRENKAMP 203

Jan 24	Wednesday	12:00 PM
	-- Teleconference -- Alaska Association of Homes for Children	
Jan 30	Tuesday	12:00 PM
	-- Teleconference -- Balloon Project Report	

FISH CAUCUS

BUTROVICH 205

Jan 26	Friday	12:00 PM
	Organizational meeting	

MINORITY CAUCUS

GOVERNOR'S CONF. RM - 3RD FLOOR

Jan 23	Tuesday	4:00 PM
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