

SENATE JOURNAL
ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION

Juneau, Alaska **Monday** **January 10, 2005**

First Day

Pursuant to provisions of the Constitution of the State of Alaska, the Uniform Rules of the Alaska State Legislature, and AS 24.05.160, the Senate of the State of Alaska assembled in the Senate chamber for the first regular session of the Twenty-fourth Legislature. The Senate was called to order at 11:06 a.m. by the Honorable Loren Leman, Lieutenant Governor.

Colors

The following members of the Southeast Alaska Boy Scout Area Council presented the colors: Alex Botelho, Nick Waldo, Arthur Ackerman and Trevor Larsen.

The Southeast Alaska Boy Scout Area Council led the Senate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Alaska Flag Song

The Alaska Youth Choir performed the Alaska Flag Song.

Invocation

The prayer was offered by the Chaplain, Father Tony Dummer, of St. Paul's Catholic Church. Senator Hoffman moved and asked unanimous consent that the prayer be spread. Without objection, it was so ordered.

Almighty and eternal God,

You have revealed Your glory to all Your people, especially during these past few months, as You continue to show us Your majesty and power.

You are a God of power and might, a God of wisdom and justice, and through You, authority is rightly administered, laws are enacted and judgment is decreed.

Assist with Your spirit of counsel and fortitude the Governor and this Legislature of 2005, that those here present, duly elected by the people, may administer with righteousness and may they be useful to Your people. May they respect each individual, and yet know that the common good is always the yardstick for action.

Let the light of Your divine wisdom direct the deliberations of this Legislature and shine forth in all the proceedings and laws framed for our rule and government. May this session of 2005 preserve peace, promote happiness, and bring us the blessings of liberty and equality.

We pray especially for Governor Murkowski and Lieutenant Governor Leman and for all the members of this legislature, for all judges, elected city and civil officials, and all others who are entrusted to guard our political welfare. May they be enabled by Your powerful protection to discharge their duties with honesty and truth.

As we begin this session, may we always remember our children, the elderly, the homeless, the prisoner, and all those who are helpless and abandoned.

We also commend to Your unbounded mercy all the people of the State of Alaska, that we may all be blessed in the knowledge of and sanctified in the observance of Your laws. May we be united in a peace that the world does not give, and as we enjoy the blessings of this year, may we be granted peace, protection and insight to do what is best for Your people and for Your glory.

We pray to You, Who are Lord and God, forever and ever. Amen.

Election Certification

The Lieutenant Governor read the certificate of election:

I, Laura A. Glaiser, Director of the Division of Elections for the State of Alaska, do hereby certify that a General Election was held on the 2nd day of November, 2004, pursuant to AS 15.15.020 in the State of Alaska and the following candidates were elected to the office of State Senator for the district and term indicated:

District A	Bert K. Stedman – 4 year term
District C	Albert M. Kookesh – 4 year term
District E	Gary R. Wilken – 4 year term
District G	Lyda N. Green – 4 year term
District I	Fred J. Dyson – 4 year term
District K	Bettye Davis – 4 year term
District M	Hollis S. French II – 4 year term
District O	John J. Cowdery – 4 year term
District Q	Thomas H. “Tom” Wagoner – 4 year term
District R	Gary L. Stevens – 2 year term
District T	Donald C. “Donny” Olson – 4 year term

In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed hereto the Seal of the State of Alaska, at Juneau, the Capital, this 22nd day of December, A.D. 2004.

Oath of Office

Lieutenant Governor Leman requested the following Senators approach the rostrum to be administered the Oath of Office:

District A	Bert K. Stedman
District C	Albert M. Kookesh
District E	Gary R. Wilken
District G	Lyda N. Green

The Lieutenant Governor administered the Oath of Office to the Senators.

Lieutenant Governor Leman requested the following Senators approach the rostrum to be administered the Oath of Office:

District I	Fred J. Dyson
District K	Bettye Davis
District M	Hollis S. French II
District O	John J. Cowdery

The Lieutenant Governor administered the Oath of Office to the Senators.

Lieutenant Governor Leman requested the following Senators approach the rostrum to be administered the Oath of Office:

District Q	Thomas H. "Tom" Wagoner
District R	Gary L. Stevens
District T	Donald C. "Donny" Olson

The Lieutenant Governor administered the Oath of Office to the Senators.

Appointment Confirmation

Letter dated September 28, 2004, from the Senate Majority regarding the appointment of Charles Huggins, was received, stating:

Dear Governor Murkowski:

Members of the Senate Republican Caucus have met with Charles Huggins, your appointee to fill the Senate seat for District H, and by signing this letter have cast their vote for his confirmation.

Signing the letter: Senators Therriault, Ben Stevens, Cowdery, Green, Wilken, Bunde, Dyson, Gary Stevens, Seekins, Stedman, Wagoner.

Oath of Office

Lieutenant Governor Leman administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Huggins on September 28, 2004.

President Pro Tempore

Lieutenant Governor Leman announced that nominations were in order for President pro tempore of the Senate.

Senator Gary Stevens moved and asked unanimous consent that Senator Green be nominated. Without objection, it was so ordered.

Lieutenant Governor Leman stated that, without objection, nominations for President pro tempore for the Senate were closed.

Senator Gary Stevens moved and asked unanimous consent that Senator Green be elected President pro tempore. There being no objection, Senator Green was elected President pro tempore.

Lieutenant Governor Leman requested Senator Huggins and Senator Olson to escort the President pro tempore to the rostrum.

President pro tempore Green requested Senator Huggins and Senator Olson to escort the Lieutenant Governor from the chamber.

President pro tempore Green announced that under provisions of law, AS 24.05.120, the Uniform Rules of the Twelfth Legislature, First Session, as amended in 1985, 1988, 1989, 1991, 1998, 2001, 2003 and 2004 will serve as the temporary rules of the current legislature until permanent rules are adopted.

President

President pro tempore Green announced that nominations for permanent President of the Senate were open.

Senator Stedman moved that Senator Ben Stevens be nominated President of the Senate for the Twenty-fourth Legislature.

Senator Gary Stevens moved and asked unanimous consent that nominations be closed. Without objection, it was so ordered.

Senator Stedman moved and asked unanimous consent that Senator Ben Stevens be elected President of the Senate for the Twenty-fourth Legislature. Without objection, Senator Ben Stevens was elected President of the Senate.

President pro tempore Green requested Senator Huggins and Senator Olson to escort President Stevens to the podium.

President Stevens requested Senator Huggins and Senator Olson to escort Senator Green from the podium.

Representative Joule and Representative Kelly called on the Senate to advise that the House of Representatives was organized and ready to do business.

President Stevens appointed:

Committee on Committees

Senator Ben Stevens, Chair
Senator Cowdery
Senator Gary Stevens
Senator Ellis
Senator Hoffman

President Stevens appointed Senator Huggins and Senator Kookesh to inform the Governor that the Senate was organized and ready to do business.

President Stevens appointed Senator Green and Senator Davis to inform the House that the Senate was organized and ready to do business.

Senator Gary Stevens moved and asked unanimous consent that Senator Bunde be excused from a call of the Senate through January 13. Without objection, Senator Bunde was excused.

Senator Gary Stevens moved and asked unanimous consent that Senator Guess be excused from a call of the Senate today. Without objection, Senator Guess was excused.

Recess

Senator Gary Stevens 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 11:38 a.m.

After Recess

The Senate reconvened at 11:53 a.m.

Committee on Committees Report

Mr. President:

Your Committee on Committees has met and recommends appointment to the nine standing committees as follows:

Community and Regional Affairs Committee

Senator Gary Stevens, Chair
Senator Stedman
Senator Wagoner
Senator Ellis
Senator Kookesh

Finance Committee

Senator Green, Cochair (Capital Budget)
Senator Wilken, Cochair (Operating Budget)
Senator Bunde, Vice Chair
Senator Dyson
Senator Stedman
Senator Hoffman
Senator Olson

Health, Education and Social Services Committee

Senator Dyson, Chair
Senator Wilken, Vice Chair
Senator Green
Senator Elton
Senator Olson

Judiciary Committee

Senator Seekins, Chair
Senator Huggins, Vice Chair
Senator Therriault
Senator French
Senator Guess

Labor and Commerce Committee

Senator Bunde, Chair
Senator Seekins, Vice Chair
Senator Ben Stevens
Senator Ellis
Senator Davis

Resources Committee

Senator Wagoner, Chair
Senator Seekins, Vice Chair
Senator Ben Stevens
Senator Dyson
Senator Stedman
Senator Elton
Senator Guess

Rules Committee

Senator Cowdery, Chair
Senator Ben Stevens
Senator Gary Stevens
Senator Ellis
Senator Kookesh

State Affairs Committee

Senator Therriault, Chair
Senator Wagoner, Vice Chair
Senator Huggins
Senator Davis
Senator Elton

Transportation Committee

Senator Huggins, Chair
Senator Cowdery, Vice Chair
Senator Therriault
Senator Kookesh
Senator French

The report was signed by Senator Ben Stevens, Chair; Senators Cowdery, Gary Stevens, Ellis, Hoffman.

Senator Gary Stevens moved and asked unanimous consent that the Committee on Committees report be adopted. Without objection, the Committee on Committees report was adopted.

President Stevens stated that Senator Gary Stevens will serve as Majority Leader for the Twenty-fourth Legislature.

President Stevens announced that the Minority has selected Senator Ellis to serve as Minority Leader for the Twenty-fourth Legislature.

Messages from the Governor

Message dated January 10 was read, stating:

Under the provision of article III, section 18 of the Alaska Constitution, I am requesting the opportunity to address a Joint Session of the Legislature on Wednesday, January 12, at 7:00 p.m. for presentation of a combined State of the State and Budget Address.

Executive Orders**EO 113**

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 113

Transferring all functions from the
Telecommunications Information Council to the
Department of Administration and the Office of the
Governor

was referred to the State Affairs Committee.

Governor's transmittal letter dated January 10:

Dear President Stevens:

Under the authority of art. III, sec. 23, of the Alaska Constitution, I am transmitting an Executive Order transferring all functions currently assigned by statute to the Telecommunications Information Council (TIC) to the Department of Administration and the Office of the Governor.

By statute, the TIC is housed in the Office of the Governor. It is presided over by the Governor and is comprised primarily of high-level state officials, including commissioners of all the departments, the president of the University of Alaska, the executive director of the Legislative Affairs Agency and a legislator from each house.

Currently, the TIC is charged with establishing guidelines and preparing short-term and long-term information system plans for the state. It is also charged with adopting regulations for providing information to the public. The TIC has broad authority to establish information policies and engage in any information-related activities it considers necessary.

In reality, the TIC has not met over the last four years and has proven itself to be a failed experiment. State officials with responsibility for the TIC are too busy within their own departments or branches to participate and furthermore, often lack the expertise in the various technical areas to make the necessary informed decisions. Therefore, state government-wide telecommunications activities have largely been undertaken by the Department of Administration, which has the personnel and the statutory authority to carry out this mission.

In order to provide a more efficient administration, it is necessary to eliminate the unwieldy and overly bureaucratic TIC and transfer its functions to the Department of Administration and the Office of the Governor where they are currently being carried out.

Sincerely yours,

/s/

Frank H. Murkowski
Governor

Messages from the House

Message dated January 10 was read, stating:

The House of Representatives respectfully invites the Senate to a Joint Session of the Legislature at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 12 for the purpose of hearing Governor Murkowski's annual State of the State and Budget message.

Senator Gary Stevens moved and asked unanimous consent that the Senate accept the House invitation to meet in Joint Session. Without objection, it was so ordered.

The Secretary was requested to notify the House.

Communications

Letter dated November 30, 2004, from Chief Justice Alexander Bryner was received, stating the Chief Justice has nominated Dennis "Skip" Cook, Herman G. Walker, Jr. and Marianne Stillner to additional terms as public members of the Select Committee on Legislative Ethics. The current terms will expire on the first day of the legislative session.

President Stevens referred the appointments to the Judiciary Committee.

**Introduction and Reference of
Senate Resolutions**

Senator Gary Stevens moved and asked unanimous consent that the introduction and reference of senate resolutions be held one legislative day. Without objection, it was so ordered.

Introduction and Reference of Senate Bills

Senator Gary Stevens moved and asked unanimous consent that the introduction and reference of senate bills be held one legislative day. Without objection, it was so ordered.

Announcements

Announcements are at the end of the journal.

Adjournment

Senator Gary Stevens moved and asked unanimous consent that the Senate stand in adjournment until 11:00 a.m., January 11, 2005. Without objection, the Senate adjourned at 11:58 a.m.

Kirsten Waid
Acting Secretary of the Senate

October 2006

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

RULES

Jan 13	Thursday	Location Tba	10:00 AM
	JOINT W/(H) RULES		
	Lounge Staff Salaries		

OTHER MEETINGS

JOINT SESSION

Jan 12	Wednesday	House Chamber	7:00 PM
	Address by Governor Frank H. Murkowski		
	State of the State and the Budget Message		