

SENATE JOURNAL
ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION

Juneau, Alaska

Tuesday

January 15, 2008

First Day

Pursuant to adjournment the Senate was called to order by President Green at 3:09 p.m.

The roll showed eighteen members present. Senator Cowdery was excused from a call of the Senate. Senator Stedman was absent.

Senator Green cited Uniform Rule 15 and stated Senator Cowdery was excused due to illness. A letter, dated October 22, 2007, from Senator Cowdery's physician is on file in the Senate Secretary's Office.

The prayer was offered by the Chaplain, The Reverend Hunter Silides, Associate Pastor of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church. Senator Hoffman moved and asked unanimous consent that the prayer be spread. Without objection, it was so ordered.

May the God who created us hold us now, granting us quietness of mind and peace of heart. Gracious Lord, I thank you for this moment. I ask that you fill it with your presence that your power and love may be felt in this body.

Sustain these servants of your people. Guard and protect those they left at home, I pray. Give to all those gathered here a sure knowledge that their parents, children and loved ones are secure in your hands, that they may diligently perform the tasks they have been set. May it please you to bless them with wisdom, insight and patience. May they uphold one another and work together for the common good.

Make them brave in defense of justice, and of all the peoples of this blessed land. Keep us all humble in the face of your mighty creation, and make us faithful stewards of the riches you have bestowed upon us in nature. Lord, these my brothers and sisters have a mighty work laid out for them. You have given them a will to do what is best for our people, give them now also the means to do it.

And finally, Gracious One, I ask you to deal gently with them. Hold them tenderly in your mercy as pressures mount that they may deal gently with one another. And whenever in doubt, dear God, remind us simply to return to you and be restored. Amen.

Senator Kookesh led the Senate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Green appointed Senator Ellis and Senator Therriault to inform the Governor that the Senate is ready to do business.

President Green appointed Senator Bunde and Senator Kookesh to inform the House that the Senate is ready to do business.

Certification

Senator Stevens moved and asked unanimous consent that the journal for the thirtieth legislative day of the Second Special Session and the Final Supplement of the Second Special Session be approved as certified by the Secretary. Without objection, it was so ordered.

Introduction of Senate Floor Staff

Senator Elton introduced the following Senate Pages:

Alida Bus	Jeff Fanning
Stephanie Orsi	Jake Kreuzenstein
April Shoemaker	Lauren Brooks

Messages from the Governor

Message dated December 18, 2007, was read, stating:

Under the provisions of article III, section 18 of the Alaska Constitution, I am hereby requesting the opportunity to address a joint session of the Twenty-Fifth Alaska State Legislature on Tuesday, January 15, 2008, at 6:00 p.m. for presentation of the State of the State and State of the Budget Address.

Messages from the House

Message dated January 9 was read, stating:

The House of Representatives respectfully invites the Senate to a Joint Session of the Twenty-fifth Alaska Legislature at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 15 for the purpose of hearing the Governor's State of the State and Budget message.

Follow-up message dated January 15 was read, stating:

At your request, I am asking that the starting time for the joint session to hear the State of the State and Budget message be changed from 7:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The change in time will accommodate the Governor's out of state travel plans for personal reasons.

Senator Stevens moved and asked unanimous consent that the Senate accept the House invitation to meet in Joint Session at 4:00 p.m. Without objection, it was so ordered.

The Secretary was requested to notify the House.

Message dated January 9 was read, stating:

The House of Representatives respectfully invites the Senate to a Joint Session of the Twenty-fifth Alaska Legislature at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, February 19 for the purpose of hearing Senator Ted Stevens' annual message to the legislature.

Senator 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

The following reports are on file in the Office of the Secretary of the Senate:

2007 Report Listing Alaska Statutes with Delayed Repeals or Delayed Amendments and Examining Court Decisions and Opinions of the Attorney General Construing Alaska Statutes
from Division of Legal and Research Services
Legislative Affairs Agency
in accordance with AS 24.20.065(b)

69th Annual Report, Calendar Year 2006 – Fiscal Year 2007
from Linda S. Hall, Director, Division of Insurance
Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development
in accordance with AS 21.06.110

Financial Statements and Schedules with
Independent Auditors' Report, June 30, 2007 and 2006
from Alaska Energy Authority
in accordance with AS 44.83.940

2007 Annual Report, Promoting a Healthy Alaska
Offering Hope and Opportunity
from Karleen K. Jackson, Commissioner
Department of Health and Social Services
in accordance with AS 18.05.020

Alaska Annual Report on Activities of the National Conference of
Commissioners on Uniform State Laws
from Deborah E. Behr, Alaska Uniform Law Commissioner
Office of the Attorney General, Department of Law

The following Budget and Audit Reports were received from Pat Davidson, Legislative Auditor, in accordance with AS 24.20.311 and are on file in the Office of the Secretary of the Senate:

Condensed 2007 Annual Report from the Legislative Budget & Audit Committee

Unabridged 2007 Annual Report from the Legislative Budget & Audit Committee

Department of Education and Early Development, Special Education Service Agency, October 9, 2007

Recess

Senator Stevens moved and asked unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess to the Joint Session. Without objection, the Senate recessed at 3:26 p.m.

After Recess

Joint Session in the House

Speaker Harris called the House to order and in accordance with Uniform Rule 51 turned the gavel over to President Green, who called the Joint Session to order at 4:02 p.m.

The purpose of the Joint Session was to hear an address by the Honorable Sarah Palin, Governor.

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

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

President Green appointed Representative Roses and Senator Hoffman to escort the Governor to the Joint Session.

The Senate Sergeant at Arms, Gary Stambaugh, announced Governor Palin's entrance to the House Chamber.

The Honorable Sarah Palin was escorted to the rostrum and welcomed by President Green.

Governor Palin delivered her address. This address appears in House and Senate Joint Journal Supplement No. 10.

Governor Sarah Palin received a standing ovation and was escorted from the chamber by Senator Hoffman and Representative Roses.

Senator Stevens moved and asked unanimous consent that the Joint Session stand in adjournment. Without objection, President Green adjourned the Joint Session at 4:30 p.m.

After Recess

In the Senate

The Senate reconvened at 4:39 p.m.

President Green stated the Senate would move down the calendar to Unfinished Business. Without objection, the Senate proceeded to:

Unfinished Business

Senator Davis moved and asked unanimous consent to be excused from a call of the Senate on January 18. Without objection, Senator Davis was excused.

Senator Bunde moved and asked unanimous consent to be excused from a call of the Senate from September 1 through November 30. Without objection, Senator Bunde was excused.

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SB 101

Senator Ellis moved and asked unanimous consent that SENATE BILL NO. 101 "An Act relating to private professional conservators and private and public guardians" be returned to the Labor and Commerce Committee. Without objection, the bill was returned to the Labor and Commerce Committee.

President Green stated that a letter dated January 15 had been received from Senator Cowdery, Rules Committee Chair, resigning his chairmanship of the Rules Committee effective immediately.

The letter is on file in the Office of the Senate Secretary.

Announcements

Announcements are at the end of the journal.

Adjournment

Senator Stevens moved and asked unanimous consent that the Senate stand in adjournment until 10:00 a.m., January 16, 2008. Without objection, the Senate adjourned at 4:46 p.m.

Kirsten Waid
Secretary of the Senate

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

Jan 17	Thursday	Beltz 211	3:30 PM
-- Meeting Postponed to 1/22/08 --			
+ SB 161	COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM		
Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled			
Jan 22	Tuesday	Beltz 211	3:30 PM
-- Meeting Postponed from 1/17/08 --			
+ SB 161	COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM		
Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled			

FINANCE

Jan 15	Tuesday	Senate Finance 532	9:00 AM
No Meeting Scheduled			
Jan 16	Wednesday	House Finance 519	1:00 PM
+	Joint with House Finance		
FY 2009 Budget Overview and Policy			
Discussion, by Dir. Karen Rehfeld,			
Office of Management and Budget			
Jan 17	Thursday	House Finance 519	1:00 PM
+	Joint with House Finance		
Overview of Governor's Proposed FY 2009			
Budget, by Dir. David Teal, Legislative			
Finance Division			

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FINANCE (continued)

Jan 18 Friday **Senate Finance 532** **9:00 AM**
No Meeting Scheduled

JUDICIARY

Jan 16 Wednesday **Butrovich 205** **10:30 AM**
+ 10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Senate Judiciary Committee Crime Summit
-- Testimony <Invitation Only> --

Jan 17 Thursday **Butrovich 205** **8:30 AM**
+ 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Senate Judiciary Committee Crime Summit
-- Testimony <Invitation Only> --

LABOR & COMMERCE

Jan 15 Tuesday **Beltz 211** **1:30 PM**
-- MEETING CANCELED --
Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
= SB 28 LIMIT OVERTIME FOR REGISTERED NURSES
= SB 107 NATUROPATHS

Jan 17 Thursday **Beltz 211** **1:30 PM**
+ SB 147 WORKERS' COMP EMPLOYER LIABILITY
<Bill Hearing Postponed>
Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
= SB 120 UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION BENEFITS
= SB 28 LIMIT OVERTIME FOR REGISTERED NURSES
= SB 107 NATUROPATHS

RESOURCES

Jan 18 Friday **Butrovich 205** **3:30 PM**
-- Teleconference --
Gas Offtake, Resource Considerations in
the 'Maximum Benefit' Equation
Alaska Oil & Gas Conservation Commission
-- Testimony <Invitation Only> --

RESOURCES (continued)

Jan 19 Saturday Butrovich 205 11:00 AM
-- Teleconference --
-- Note Time Change --
Alaska's Gas: How Our Current Fiscal Policies Stack Up;
North American and International Regimes
Administration: Departments of Revenue and Natural
Resources
-- Testimony <Invitation Only> --

JOINT COMMITTEES**LEGISLATIVE BUDGET & AUDIT**

Jan 29 Tuesday House Finance 519 9:00 AM
Denali Commission Presentation
Consider Final & Preliminary Audits
Audit Software
Other Committee Business

SELECT COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE ETHICS

Jan 16 Wednesday Beltz 211 1:00 PM
FULL COMMITTEE: Open Session
Public Comment
Chair/Staff Report
Budget
Advisory Opinions:
07-05 Blackberry Use
07-08 Legislative Travel & Campaigning
Legislative Internship Programs
Committee Rules of Procedure
Legislation Update
Other Business
SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE: Executive Session
Public Comment
Executive Session
Public Session
HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE: Executive Session
Public Comment
Executive Session
Public Session

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TASK FORCE ON THE REGULATORY COM OF AK

Jan 21	Monday	Butrovich 205	9:00 AM
+	Legislative Resolve 11 - RCA TASK FORCE		
+	Overview with Commissioner Anthony Price		
Jan 22	Tuesday	Butrovich 205	9:00 AM
+	Legislative Resolve 11 - RCA Task Force		
+	Overview with Commissioner Anthony Price		

OTHER MEETINGS

JOINT SESSION

Feb 19	Tuesday	House Chamber	11:00 AM
Annual Address by the Honorable Ted Stevens, U.S. Senator			

VPSO TASK FORCE

Jan 18	Friday	Beltz 211	8:00 AM
-- Rescheduled from 01/04/08 --			
Findings & Recommendations for Report to			
Legislature (due in February)			
-- Testimony <Invitation Only> --			