

SENATE JOURNAL
ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION

Juneau, Alaska

Saturday

January 19, 2008

Fifth Day

Pursuant to adjournment the Senate was called to order by President Green at 10:02 a.m.

The roll showed fifteen members present. Senators Cowdery, McGuire, Stedman, Wilken were excused from a call of the Senate. Senator Davis was absent.

The prayer was offered by the Chaplain, Senator Huggins. Senator Hoffman moved and asked unanimous consent that the prayer be spread. Without objection, it was so ordered.

Our Most Precious Heavenly Father,

We thank thee for bringing us together here today and we ask for thy forgiveness for all of our deeds and misdeeds. As we look back, we say thanks for the opportunity to bring our families together for the holidays.

We ask your blessing as we move forward in this new year and new session. We ask you to guide us so that we do the people's business blessed with integrity based on standards that we know you would approve of.

As we look around the world, we know that many young Americans are doing our country's business; we ask you to bless them and we say thank you for guiding them safely back to their moms and dads.

Again Father, we say thank you for all that you do for
us. Guide us as we go forth. Amen.

Senator Stevens led the Senate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Certification

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

Communications

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

2008 Report to the Legislature for the Division of Mining, Land and Water:

Report on Identified R.S. 2477 Rights-of-Way
in accordance with AS 19.30.400(b)

Notification of Annual Mining Report
Alaska's Mineral Industry 2006
(published jointly with Department of Commerce, Community
and Economic Development)
in accordance with AS 27.05.060
available at: www.dggs.dnr.state.ak.us/pubs/pubs

Land Disposal Income Fund Report
in accordance with AS 38.04.022(b)

Notification of Annual Report on the Status of Land in the
Land Disposal Bank
in accordance with AS 38.04.020(d)

Notification of Annual Report on Water Removals and Exports
in accordance with AS 46.15.020(b)(5)

Notification of Interim Classifications
in accordance with AS 38.05.300

Summary of Cooperative Resource Management or
Development Agreements
in accordance with AS 38.05.027

from Dick Mylius, Director, Division of Mining, Land and Water
Department of Natural Resources

Introduction and Reference of Senate Bills

SB 243

SENATE BILL NO. 243 BY SENATOR DAVIS, entitled:

"An Act relating to the duties and powers of the
Alaska Commission on Aging and the Department of
Health and Social Services."

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

SB 244

SENATE BILL NO. 244 BY SENATOR DYSON, entitled:

"An Act establishing a consumer health information
Internet website within the Department of Health and
Social Services."

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

SB 245

SENATE BILL NO. 245 BY THE SENATE RULES COMMITTEE
BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR, entitled:

"An Act establishing the Alaska Health Care
Commission and the Alaska health care information
office; relating to health care planning and

information; repealing the certificate of need program for certain health care facilities and relating to the repeal; annulling certain regulations required for implementation of the certificate of need program for certain health care facilities; and providing for an effective date."

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

The following fiscal information was published today:

Fiscal Note No. 1, indeterminate, Department of Health and Social Services

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

Fiscal Note No. 3, Department of Health and Social Services

Fiscal Note No. 4, Department of Health and Social Services

Governor's transmittal letter dated January 18:

Dear President Green:

Under the authority of art. III, sec. 18 of the Alaska Constitution, I am transmitting a bill to further the provision of affordable and quality health care services for all Alaskans. This bill is my administration's Alaska Health Care Transparency Act.

Access to affordable, quality health care services is one of the most pressing issues facing Alaska families. Providing these services in Alaska is particularly challenging, given our small population and wide geographic area to be served.

Dynamic health care planning, that involves both the public and private sectors, is essential to providing affordable, quality health care services. This bill would further health care planning by establishing an Alaska Health Care Commission to look at health care services from a statewide perspective. It would encourage non-traditional stakeholders, including businesses and civic organizations, to share their expertise to address the important issues facing the provision of these essential services.

Finally, now is the time to recognize that market mechanisms, not static governmental restrictions, are the best way to ensure that proper business decision-making guides the development of health care services. Therefore, to allow business decision-making to take place more efficiently, this bill would repeal the certificate of need program. The bill would also establish an Alaska health care information office to give consumers factually based information on quality, cost, and other important matters to make better informed decisions about health care facilities in the state.

Alaska families deserve the best health care that Alaska can offer. This bill would play a major role in improving the health care system in Alaska.

I urge your prompt and favorable consideration of this bill.

Sincerely,

/s/

Sarah Palin
Governor

SB 246

SENATE BILL NO. 246 BY SENATORS THOMAS, Therriault,
entitled:

"An Act establishing a working group to analyze the
potential of a hydroelectric power project on the
Susitna River; and providing for an effective date."

was read the first time and referred to the Resources and Finance
Committees.

Consideration of the Calendar

Second Reading of House Bills

HB 29

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 29(FIN) "An Act relating to infants who
are safely surrendered by a parent shortly after birth" was read the
second time.

The following fiscal information was published today:

Fiscal Note No. 4, zero, Senate Rules Committee

Fiscal Note No. 5, zero, Department of Law

Senator Ellis moved and asked unanimous consent that the bill be advanced to third reading and placed on final passage. Without objection, it was so ordered.

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 29(FIN) was read the third time.

Senators Dyson, French, Therriault, Stevens, Bunde, Wagoner, Ellis Elton, Wielechowski, Huggins, Green, Kookesh, Olson moved and asked unanimous consent to be shown as cross sponsors on the bill. Without objection, it was so ordered.

The question being: "Shall CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 29(FIN) "An Act relating to infants who are safely surrendered by a parent shortly after birth" pass the Senate?" The roll was taken with the following result:

CSHB 29(FIN)

Third Reading - Final Passage

YEAS: 15 NAYS: 0 EXCUSED: 4 ABSENT: 1

Yeas: Bunde, Dyson, Ellis, Elton, French, Green, Hoffman, Huggins, Kookesh, Olson, Stevens, Therriault, Thomas, Wagoner, Wielechowski

Excused: Cowdery, McGuire, Stedman, Wilken

Absent: Davis

and so, CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 29(FIN) passed the Senate, was signed by the President and Secretary and returned to the House.

Citations

Honoring – Alaska Federation of Natives 2007 Parents of the Year
Wilfred and Vivian Lane

Representative(s) Joule

Senator(s) Olson, Green, Bunde, Cowdery, Davis, Dyson, Ellis, Elton, Hoffman, Huggins, Kookesh, McGuire, Stedman, Stevens, Therriault, Thomas, Wagoner, Wielechowski, Wilken

Senator Ellis 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 153

Senator Ellis moved and asked unanimous consent to be shown as a cosponsor on SENATE BILL NO. 153 "An Act relating to the use of credited military service by retired peace officers and fire fighters to meet certain requirements for major medical insurance coverage benefits." Without objection, it was so ordered.

SB 183

Senator Ellis moved and asked unanimous consent to be shown as a cosponsor on SENATE BILL NO. 183 "An Act repealing the defined contribution retirement plans for teachers and for public employees; making conforming amendments; and providing for an effective date." Without objection, it was so ordered.

Senator French moved and asked unanimous consent to be excused from a call of the Senate from February 2 through February 6. Without objection, Senator French was excused.

Senator Stevens moved and asked unanimous consent to be excused from a call of the Senate from afternoon plane time, January 23 through evening plane time, January 28. Without objection, Senator Stevens was excused.

SCR 13

President Green added a Resources Committee referral to SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 13 Urging the governor to direct the attorney general to file an amicus curiae brief with the United States Supreme Court in the case of Parker v. District of Columbia, supporting the individual right to keep and bear arms under the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution.

The bill was referred to the Resources Committee.

Announcements

Announcements are at the end of the journal.

Adjournment

Senator Ellis moved and asked unanimous consent that the Senate stand in adjournment until 11:00 a.m., January 23, 2008. Without objection, the Senate adjourned at 10:24 a.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

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COMMUNITY & REGIONAL AFFAIRS

Jan 22	Tuesday	Beltz 211	3:30 PM
	-- Meeting Postponed to 1/29/08 --		
+ SB 161	COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM		
	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
Jan 24	Thursday	Beltz 211	3:30 PM
	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
Jan 29	Tuesday	Beltz 211	3:30 PM
	-- Meeting Postponed from 1/22/08 --		
+ SB 161	COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM		
	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		

FINANCE

Jan 21	Monday	Senate Finance 532	9:00 AM
	No Meeting Scheduled		
Jan 22	Tuesday	Senate Finance 532	9:00 AM
	No Meeting Scheduled		
Jan 23	Wednesday	Senate Finance 532	9:00 AM
+ HB 125	BUDGET PLANNING & LONG-RANGE FISCAL PLAN		

FINANCE (continued)

Jan 24 Thursday House Finance 519 1:00 PM
 -- Please Note Time Change --
 + Joint with House Finance
 Dir. Karen Rehfeld, Office of Management and Budget
 Dir. David Teal, Div. of Legislative Finance
 FY09 Budget Discussion and Follow-up

Jan 25 Friday Senate Finance 532 9:00 AM
 + Commercial Passenger Vessel Tax Program
 Update
 Presentations by the Dept of Revenue
 and DEC

HEALTH, EDUCATION & SOCIAL SERVICES

Jan 21 Monday Butrovich 205 1:30 PM
 No Meeting Scheduled
 In Observance of Martin Luther King Day

Jan 23 Wednesday Butrovich 205 1:30 PM
 + SB 212 MEDICAL ASSISTANCE ELIGIBILITY

Jan 25 Friday Butrovich 205 1:30 PM
 SB 245 HEALTH CARE: PLAN/COMMISSION/FACILITIES

JUDICIARY

Jan 21 Monday Beltz 211 1:30 PM
 + HB 151 INDEMNITY CLAUSE IN PUBLIC CONTRACTS

Jan 23 Wednesday Beltz 211 1:30 PM
 -- MEETING CANCELED --
 + HB 7 FALSE CALLER IDENTIFICATION
 + HB 149 POLLUTANT DISCHARGE PERMITS
 + Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled

Jan 25 Friday Beltz 211 1:30 PM
 + Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 += HB 149 POLLUTANT DISCHARGE PERMITS
 += HB 7 FALSE CALLER IDENTIFICATION

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LABOR & COMMERCE

Jan 22 Tuesday Beltz 211 1:30 PM
 += SB 147 WORKERS' COMP EMPLOYER LIABILITY
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Including But Not Limited to:
 += SB 120 UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION BENEFITS
 += SB 28 LIMIT OVERTIME FOR REGISTERED NURSES
 += SB 107 NATUROPATHS

Jan 24 Thursday Beltz 211 1:30 PM
 += SB 101 GUARDIANSHIP AND CONSERVATORS
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled

RESOURCES

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> --

Jan 21 Monday Butrovich 205 3:30 PM
 + Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled

Jan 23 Wednesday Barnes 124 1:00 PM
 -- Please Note Time & Location Change --
 + Joint with House Resources
 Presentation by Ray Beamesderfer, Kenai
 Sports Fishing Association
 -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --

Jan 23 Wednesday Butrovich 205 3:30 PM
 + Presentation: ConocoPhillips Gas Pipeline
 Proposal by Brian Wenzel, VP ANS Gas Development
 -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --

Jan 25 Friday Butrovich 205 3:30 PM
 No Meeting Scheduled

STATE AFFAIRS

Jan 22	Tuesday	Beltz 211	9:00 AM
	No Meeting Scheduled		
Jan 24	Thursday	Beltz 211	9:00 AM
+ SB 223	G.O. BONDS FOR CRIME LAB		
+ HB 101	UNIFORM TRAFFIC LAWS		

TRANSPORTATION

Jan 22	Tuesday	Fahrenkamp 203	1:00 PM
	-- Please Note Location Change -- Aviation Overview: Department of Transportation & Public Facilities		
Jan 24	Thursday	Butrovich 205	1:00 PM
	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		

FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEES

ADMINISTRATION

Jan 23	Wednesday	Senate Finance 532	3:30 PM
+	Joint with House Administration Budget Overview - Commissioner Kreitzer		

CORRECTIONS

Jan 24	Thursday	Fahrenkamp 203	8:00 AM
+	Corrections Budget FY 08 Update		

COURT SYSTEM

Jan 22	Tuesday	Fahrenkamp 203	8:00 AM
+	Court System Budget FY 08 Update		

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ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Jan 24 Thursday House Finance 519 3:30 PM
 -- Please Note Time & Location Change --
 Joint with House DEC
 DEC Budget

Jan 29 Tuesday House Finance 519 3:30 PM
 Joint with House DEC
 Review of FY 08
 Initiatives, Programs & Supplemental Spending

FISH & GAME

Jan 24 Thursday Senate Finance 532 3:30 PM
 + Joint with House Fish & Game
 Budget Overview - Commissioner Lloyd

MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

Feb 07 Thursday House Finance 519 12:00 PM
 + Joint with House Military & Veterans Affairs
 Budget Overview
 Presentation by General Campbell
 -- 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

TASK FORCE ON THE REGULATORY COM OF AK

Jan 21 Monday Butrovich 205 9:00 AM
 + Legislative Resolve 11 - RCA TASK FORCE
 RCA Presentation and Q&A

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TASK FORCE ON THE REGULATORY COM OF AK (continued)

Jan 22	Tuesday	Butrovich 205	1:00 PM
+	Legislative Resolve 11 - RCA TASK FORCE		
	Public Testimony		
	Task Force Work Session		

OTHER MEETINGS

CHILDREN'S CAUCUS

Jan 29	Tuesday	Butrovich 205	12:00 PM
+	Presentation by Children's Justice Act Task Force:		
	- Sexual Exploitation of Children via the Internet		
	- Report on Children's Advocacy Centers (CAC)		

JOINT SESSION

Feb 06	Wednesday	House Chamber	11:00 AM
	State of the Judiciary Address by		Chief Justice Dana Fabe

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