SENATE JOURNAL

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

Juneau, Alaska   **Tuesday**   **January 20, 2009**

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-sixth Legislature. The Senate was called to order at 2:03 p.m. by the Honorable Sean Parnell, Lieutenant Governor.

Colors

The following members of the Honor Guard of the Tongass Alaska Girl Scout Council presented the colors:

Sierra Coleman	Rachel Doogan
Chantel Eckland	Annika Pearson
Catriona Pearson	Summer Putman
Grace Terry	Aurora Ward
Sommer Ward	

The Girl Scout Honor Guard led the Senate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Alaska Flag Song and National Anthem

The following members of The Sixteen String Quartet performed the Alaska Flag Song and the National Anthem:

Lindsay Clark – first violin
Pauline Zheng – second violin
Denali Wentz – viola
Tyrel Kramp – cello

Invocation

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

O God our Creator, our Provider and our Sustainer; from your hands come every wealth of land and sea, every wealth of mind and muscle. We ask your blessing upon those who gather this day to dedicate themselves to use of that wealth for the well-being of this Great Land and all her people. Upon this body, and upon our governor, our courts, and all who have offered themselves for election, and have been chosen to serve we ask your Providence and guiding hand.

Great tasks lie ahead of them, and great strength will be asked of them. Prudence, wisdom, and perseverance will be asked as well. As they labor, where there is any danger that these might fail them, we ask that you provide them. But above all things, O Lord, we ask that a great love for the people of this land prevail and permeate every work they do here; a love which sustains and nourishes; a love which calls from each the finest in themselves and curbs a lesser thought for self or advantage over others. For the fresh new day and every hope this day provides, we are grateful.

Protect those hopes, we pray, and the hopes of every person who looks to this government for their due process and equal protection. With thankful hearts we pray your blessing upon all those who have given these servants to our service for a season. May their homes and families suffer no hardship for this gift, and may all be timely re-united. Your Peace be upon this House.   Amen.

Election Certification

The Lieutenant Governor read the certificate of election:

I, Gail Fenumiai, Director of the Division of Elections for the State of Alaska, do hereby certify that a General Election was held on the 4th day of November, 2008, 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	Joe Paskvan	4 year term
District G	Linda K. Menard	4 year term
District I	Fred J. Dyson	4 year term
District K	Bettye J. Davis	4 year term
District M	Hollis S. French II	4 year term
District O	Kevin Meyer	4 year term
District Q	Thomas H. "Tom" Wagoner	4 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 3rd day of December, A.D. 2008.
/s/
Gail Fenumiai, Director
Division of Elections

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

District A	Bert K. Stedman
District E	Joe Paskvan
District G	Linda K. Menard
District I	Fred J. Dyson

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

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

District M	Hollis S. French II
District O	Kevin Meyer
District Q	Thomas H. "Tom" Wagoner
District T	Donald C. "Donny" Olson

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

The following Senators will take their Oath of Office at a later date, after they arrive in Juneau:

District C	Albert M. Kookesh
District K	Bettye J. Davis

Senator Ellis moved and asked unanimous consent that Senators Davis, Elton, Kookesh be excused from a call of the Senate today. Without objection, Senators Davis, Elton, Kookesh were excused.

President Pro Tempore

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

Senator Ellis moved and asked unanimous consent that Senator Huggins be nominated. Without objection, it was so ordered.

Senator Ellis moved and asked unanimous consent that nominations for President pro tempore of the Senate be closed. Without objection, it was so ordered.

Senator Ellis moved and asked unanimous consent that Senator Huggins be elected President pro tempore. There being no objection, Senator Huggins was elected President pro tempore of the Senate.

Lieutenant Governor Parnell requested Senator Olson and Senator Stedman escort the President pro tempore to the rostrum.

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

President pro tempore Huggins 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, 2004 and 2008 will serve as the temporary rules of the current legislature until permanent rules are adopted.

President

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

Senator Ellis moved and asked unanimous consent that Senator Stevens be nominated President of the Senate for the Twenty-sixth Legislature.

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

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

President pro tempore Huggins requested Senator Hoffman and Senator McGuire to escort President Stevens to the podium.

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

President Stevens made the following appointments:

Committee on Committees

Senator Stevens, Chair
Senator Ellis, Vice Chair
Senator Hoffman
Senator Huggins
Senator Stedman

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

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

Recess

Senator Ellis moved and asked unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess. Without objection, the Senate recessed at 2:28 p.m.

After Recess

The Senate reconvened at 2:33 p.m.

Committee on Committees Report

Mr. President:

Your Committee on Committees has met and submits to the Senate for its consideration chairs and members to the ten standing committees as approved by the Committee on Committees:

Community and Regional Affairs Committee
    Senator Olson, Chair
    Senator Thomas, Vice Chair
    Senator French
    Senator Kookesh
    Senator Menard

Education Committee
    Senator Elton, Chair
    Senator Davis, Vice Chair
    Senator Huggins
    Senator Olson
    Senator Stevens

Finance Committee
    Senator Hoffman, Cochair
    Senator Stedman, Cochair
    Senator Ellis
    Senator Elton
    Senator Huggins
    Senator Olson
    Senator Thomas

Health and Social Services Committee
    Senator Davis, Chair
    Senator Paskvan, Vice Chair
    Senator Ellis
    Senator Thomas
    Senator Dyson

Judiciary Committee
    Senator French, Chair
    Senator Wielechowski, Vice Chair
    Senator Elton
    Senator McGuire
    Senator Therriault

Labor and Commerce Committee
    Senator Paskvan, Chair
    Senator Thomas, Vice Chair
    Senator Davis
    Senator Meyer
    Senator Bunde

Resources Committee
    Senator McGuire, Cochair
    Senator Wielechowski, Cochair
    Senator Huggins, Vice Chair
    Senator French
    Senator Stedman
    Senator Stevens
    Senator Wagoner

Rules Committee
    Senator Huggins, Chair
    Senator Stevens, Vice Chair
    Senator Elton
    Senator Hoffman
    Senator Stedman

State Affairs Committee
    Senator Menard, Chair
    Senator Meyer, Vice Chair
    Senator French
    Senator Kookesh
    Senator Paskvan

Transportation Committee
    Senator Kookesh, Chair
    Senator Menard, Vice Chair
    Senator Davis
    Senator Meyer
    Senator Paskvan

The report was signed by Senator Stevens, Chair; Senator Ellis, Vice Chair; Senators Hoffman, Huggins, Stedman.

Senator Ellis moved and asked unanimous consent that the Committee on Committees Report be adopted. Without objection, the Committee on Committees Report was adopted.

President Stevens announced that Senator Ellis will serve as Majority Leader for the Twenty-sixth Legislature.

Messages from the House

Message dated January 14 was read, stating:

The House of Representatives respectfully invites the Senate to a Joint Session of the Twenty-sixth Alaska Legislature at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 22 for the purpose of hearing Governor Palin's annual State of the State message.

Senator Ellis 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.

Introduction and Reference of
Senate Resolutions

SR 1
SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 1 BY THE SENATE RULES COMMITTEE,

>   Relating to establishing a Senate Special Committee
>   on Energy.

was read the first time.

The following fiscal information was published today:
   Fiscal Note No. 1, zero, Senate Rules Committee

Senator Ellis moved and asked unanimous consent that SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 1 be taken up at this time. Without objection, the resolution was before the Senate on final passage.

The question being: "Shall SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 1 Relating to establishing a Senate Special Committee on Energy, pass the Senate?" The roll was taken with the following result:

SR 1
Final Passage
YEAS: 17 NAYS: 0 EXCUSED: 3 ABSENT: 0

Yeas: Bunde, Dyson, Ellis, French, Hoffman, Huggins, McGuire, Menard, Meyer, Olson, Paskvan, Stedman, Stevens, Therriault, Thomas, Wagoner, Wielechowski

Excused: Davis, Elton, Kookesh

and so, SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 1 passed the Senate and was referred to the Secretary for engrossment and enrollment.

SR 2
SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 2 BY THE SENATE RULES COMMITTEE,

> Establishing a Senate Special Committee on World
> Trade, Technology, and Innovations.

was read the first time.

The following fiscal information was published today:
   Fiscal Note No. 1, zero, Senate Rules Committee

Senator Ellis moved and asked unanimous consent that SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 2 be taken up at this time. Without objection, the resolution was before the Senate on final passage.

The question being: "Shall SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 2 Establishing a Senate Special Committee on World Trade, Technology, and Innovations, pass the Senate?" The roll was taken with the following result:

SR 2
Final Passage

YEAS: 16 NAYS: 1 EXCUSED: 3 ABSENT: 0

Yeas: Dyson, Ellis, French, Hoffman, Huggins, McGuire, Menard, Meyer, Olson, Paskvan, Stedman, Stevens, Therriault, Thomas, Wagoner, Wielechowski

Nays: Bunde

Excused: Davis, Elton, Kookesh

and so, SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 2 passed the Senate and was referred to the Secretary for engrossment and enrollment.

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

Introduction and Reference of Senate Bills

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

Unfinished Business

President Stevens made the following appointments:

Select Committee on Legislative Ethics
>   Senator Stevens
>   Senator Wagoner
>   Senator Thomas (alternate)
>   Senator Wielechowski (alternate)

Senator Ellis moved that Senator Stevens and Senator Wagoner be confirmed as members of the Select Committee on Legislative Ethics.

The question being: "Shall Senator Stevens and Senator Wagoner be confirmed as members of the Select Committee on Legislative Ethics?" The roll was taken with the following result:

Shall Senators Stevens and Wagoner
be confirmed as members to the Select
Committee on Legislative Ethics?

YEAS: 17   NAYS: 0   EXCUSED: 3   ABSENT: 0

Yeas: Bunde, Dyson, Ellis, French, Hoffman, Huggins, McGuire, Menard, Meyer, Olson, Paskvan, Stedman, Stevens, Therriault, Thomas, Wagoner, Wielechowski

Excused: Davis, Elton, Kookesh

and so, Senator Stevens and Senator Wagoner were confirmed as members of the Select Committee on Legislative Ethics.

Senator Ellis moved that Senator Thomas and Senator Wielechowski be confirmed as alternate members of the Select Committee on Legislative Ethics.

The question being: "Shall Senator Thomas and Senator Wielechowski be confirmed as alternate members of the Select Committee on Legislative Ethics?" The roll was taken with the following result:

Shall Senators Thomas and Wielechowski
be confirmed as alternate members to
the Select Committee on Legislative Ethics?

YEAS: 17 NAYS: 0 EXCUSED: 3 ABSENT: 0

Yeas: Bunde, Dyson, Ellis, French, Hoffman, Huggins, McGuire, Menard, Meyer, Olson, Paskvan, Stedman, Stevens, Therriault, Thomas, Wagoner, Wielechowski

Excused: Davis, Elton, Kookesh

and so, Senator Thomas and Senator Wielechowski were confirmed as alternate members of the Select Committee on Legislative Ethics.

The Secretary was requested to notify the House.

President Stevens made the following appointments:

Legislative Council
    Senator Davis, Vice Chair
    Senator Ellis
    Senator Elton
    Senator Hoffman
    Senator Olson
    Senator Stedman
    Senator Stevens

Legislative Budget and Audit Committee
    Senator Meyer, Chair
    Senator Hoffman
    Senator Huggins
    Senator Menard
    Senator Stedman
    Senator Olson, alternate

Administrative Regulation Review Committee
    Senator Olson, Vice Chair
    Senator Kookesh
    Senator Meyer

Senate Special Committee on Energy
   Senator McGuire, Chair
   Senator Hoffman
   Senator Kookesh
   Senator Stedman
   Senator Wielechowski

Special Committee on World Trade, Technology, and Innovations
   Senator McGuire, Chair
   Senator French
   Senator Hoffman
   Senator Stevens
   Senator Wielechowski

Education Funding District Cost Factor Commission
(Legislative Resolve No. 62 SLA 2008)
   Senator Davis
   Senator Olson
   Senator Huggins
   Senator Elton
   Senator Stevens

Election of Senate Secretary

In accordance with AS 24.10.030 and Uniform Rule 3(a), Senator Huggins, Rules Committee Chair, nominated Kirsten Waid to serve as Senate Secretary for the Twenty-sixth Legislature and moved and asked unanimous consent that the nominations be closed. Without objection, it was so ordered.

Senator Huggins moved and asked unanimous consent that Kirsten Waid be elected Senate Secretary for the Twenty-sixth Legislature. Without objection, Kirsten Waid was elected Senate Secretary for the Twenty-sixth Legislature.

Senator Huggins, Rules Committee Chair, introduced the following Senate staff:

Introduction of Chamber Staff

   Doug Eckland – Sergeant at Arms
   Edra Morledge – Assistant Sergeant at Arms

Amanda Behrends – Page
Dave Langlee – Page
Amanda Neuman – Page
Matt Neuman – Page
Ellen Peyton – Page
Greta Thibodeau – Page

Citations

Senator Ellis 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

Commemorating – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Senator(s) Davis, Stevens, Bunde, Dyson, Ellis, Elton, French, Hoffman, Huggins, Kookesh, McGuire, Menard, Meyer, Olson, Paskvan, Stedman, Therriault, Thomas, Wagoner, Wielechowski

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 (continued)

Senator Ellis moved and asked unanimous consent to extend by thirty days (to February 19, 2009) the deadline for the Report of the Cook Inlet Salmon Task Force. Without objection, it was so ordered.

Senator Wagoner moved and asked unanimous consent to be excused from a call of the Senate from morning plane time, January 21 to morning plane time, February 16. Without objection, Senator Wagoner was excused.

Senator Dyson moved and asked unanimous consent to be excused from a call of the Senate on January 21. Without objection, Senator Dyson was excused.

Senator Therriault announced that he will serve as Minority Leader for the Twenty-sixth Legislature.

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 21, 2009. Without objection, the Senate adjourned at 3:08 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

RESOURCES

Jan 21   Wednesday   Butrovich 205   3:30 PM
+   Overview: Natural Gas for Instate Use
               Presentations by:
               Alaska Gasline Port Authority
               Alaska Natural Gas Development Authority
               Enstar

OTHER MEETINGS

JOINT SESSION

Jan 22   Thursday   House Chamber   7:00 PM
               Annual State of the State by the Honorable Sarah Palin,
               Governor of Alaska