

SENATE JOURNAL
ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION

Juneau, Alaska

Wednesday

March 15, 2023

Fifty-eighth Day

Pursuant to adjournment the Senate was called to order by President Stevens at 11:01 a.m.

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

The prayer was offered by the Chaplain, Dr. Keith Hamilton, President, Alaska Christian College. Senator Hoffman moved and asked unanimous consent the prayer be spread. Without objection, it was so ordered.

Lord, today all gather in this capitol building to ask for guidance and direction for the elected leaders sitting in this mighty chamber. Each of them has been given a great responsibility to uphold the Constitution, to be fair in all matters, and seek what is best for all the citizens of our great state. Their jobs can be hard, stressful, and at times can cause difficulty in their personal lives. They have been chosen for, and have been elected to serve, all of our residents and that is an enormous task.

So, this day, again I pray for our great leaders Donny, Shelley, David, Robert, and Mike as they will have decisions to make that impact each of us. Use their wisdom to provide the best possible answers for Alaska's future.

Thanks for the hard work that Jesse B., Click, Matt, Elvi, and Lyman and their teams do every day in this building to propel us forward as a State. They serve well.

We are grateful for the powerful leadership of Bill, Cathy, Gary, Löki, and Bert in their places of influence as they are respected for the tasks before them... and finally for Scott, Forrest, Kelly, Jesse K. and James who strive to do all they can to serve all Alaskans through the many roles that they have been called to.

I know our Legislature and Governor are working overtime to bring us a budget that serves our State the best way they know how as well as many other critical issues. I pray for holy wisdom, incredible discernment, honest evaluation, and a strong sense of unity that results in what is best for their constituents as they deliberate these issues.

Bring peace Lord to the legislative process today; also, Lord as I have prayed many times before, protect each of our service men and women that come from our great state from harm as they have gone before us, in our places, to protect our country, our values, and our homes. All this I ask in the name of your son Jesus, Amen.

Senator Giessel led the Senate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Certification

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the journals for the fifty-sixth and fifty-seventh legislative days be approved as certified by the Secretary. Without objection, it was so ordered.

Senator Myers moved and asked unanimous consent Senator Shower be excused from a call of the Senate today. Without objection, Senator Shower was excused.

Communications

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

Notice of Availability:

Department of Revenue

Alaska Salmon Price and Production Report

Calendar Year 2022

in accordance with AS 43.80.060

Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities

Alaska Marine Highway Operations Board (AMHOB)

Annual Report February 2023

in accordance with Ch. 20, SLA 2021

Department of Natural Resources

2022 Determination to Take Oil and Gas Royalty In-Value

in accordance with AS 38.05.182

Disclosure letters received from the Select Committee on Legislative Ethics, in accordance with AS 24.60, will be published in Senate Journal Supplement No. 3 and Senate and House Joint Journal Supplement No. 8.

Standing Committee Reports

Report dated March 14 was read stating:

In accordance with AS 39.05.080, the Health and Social Services Committee held a hearing on the following appointee(s). A signature on this report does not reflect an intent by any of the members to vote for or against the confirmation of the individual(s) during any further sessions.

Commissioner, Department of Family and Community Services

Kim Kovol

Signing the report: Senator Wilson, Chair; Senators Dunbar, Giessel.

SB 52

The Education Committee considered SENATE BILL NO. 52 "An Act relating to education; increasing the base student allocation; and providing for an effective date" and recommended it be replaced with

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 52(EDC) "An Act relating to education; requiring the Department of Education and Early Development to provide information relating to public schools on an Internet website; relating to information on the post-secondary education, career path, and residency of graduates from high schools in the state; increasing the base student allocation; and providing for an effective date."

Signing do pass: Senator Tobin, Chair; Senators Bjorkman, Gray-Jackson, Stevens, Kiehl.

The following fiscal information was published today:

Fiscal Note No. 1, Department of Education and Early Development

Fiscal Note No. 2, zero, Department of Education and Early Development

The bill was referred to the Finance Committee.

HJR 5

The Resources Committee considered CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 5(FSH) Urging the United States Secretary of Commerce, the National Marine Fisheries Service, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and other federal and state agencies to defend the state's fisheries, including the Southeast Alaska troll fishery.

Signing do pass: Senators Bishop, Giessel, Cochairs; Senators Dunbar, Kaufman, Kawasaki, Claman, Wielechowski.

The following previously published fiscal information applies:

Fiscal Note No. 1, zero, House Special Committee on Fisheries

The resolution was referred to the Rules Committee.

Introduction and Reference of Senate Bills

SB 101

SENATE BILL NO. 101 BY SENATOR TOBIN, entitled:

"An Act relating to a renewable portfolio standard; relating to electrical energy transmission; relating to distributed energy systems; relating to power cost equalization; relating to the Alaska Energy Authority; and providing for an effective date."

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

SB 102

SENATE BILL NO. 102 BY SENATOR MYERS, entitled:

"An Act relating to refuse utility rates and Regulatory Commission of Alaska regulations regarding refuse utilities; and providing for an effective date."

was read the first time and referred to the Labor and Commerce Committee.

SB 103

SENATE BILL NO. 103 BY SENATOR DUNBAR, entitled:

"An Act relating to peer support counseling programs for law enforcement agencies, emergency service providers, and the Department of Corrections."

was read the first time and referred to the Community and Regional Affairs Committee.

SB 104

SENATE BILL NO. 104 BY SENATOR DUNBAR, entitled:

"An Act relating to appropriations to the civil legal services fund."

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

SB 105

SENATE BILL NO. 105 BY THE SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE, entitled:

"An Act authorizing the Alaska Railroad Corporation to issue revenue bonds to finance the replacement of the Alaska Railroad Corporation's passenger dock and related terminal facility in Seward, Alaska; and providing for an effective date."

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

Consideration of the Calendar**Second Reading of Senate Bills****SB 38**

SENATE BILL NO. 38 "An Act establishing the crime of interference with emergency communications" was read the second time.

President Stevens stated SENATE BILL NO. 38 will advance to third reading on the March 17 calendar.

Third Reading of Senate Bills**SB 80**

SENATE BILL NO. 80 "An Act making corrective amendments to the Alaska Statutes as recommended by the revisor of statutes; and providing for an effective date" was read the third time.

The question being: "Shall SENATE BILL NO. 80 "An Act making corrective amendments to the Alaska Statutes as recommended by the revisor of statutes; and providing for an effective date" pass the Senate?" The roll was taken with the following result:

SB 80

Third Reading - Final Passage

Effective Date(s)

YEAS: 19 NAYS: 0 EXCUSED: 1 ABSENT: 0

Yeas: Bishop, Bjorkman, Claman, Dunbar, Giessel, Gray-Jackson, Hoffman, Hughes, Kaufman, Kawasaki, Kiehl, Merrick, Myers, Olson, Stedman, Stevens, Tobin, Wielechowski, Wilson

Excused: Shower

and so, SENATE BILL NO. 80 passed the Senate.

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the vote on the passage of the bill be considered the vote on the effective date clause(s). Without objection, it was so ordered and the bill was referred to the Secretary for engrossment.

Citations

Honoring - The Tanana Valley Farmers Market Fiftieth Anniversary
Senator(s) Kawasaki, Bishop
Representative(s) Carrick

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the citation be adopted. Without objection, the citation was adopted and referred to the Secretary for transmittal.

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the following citation be made a special order of business. Without objection, it was so ordered.

Special Order of Business

Honoring - Georgianna Lincoln
Senator(s) Bishop
Representative(s) Cronk

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the citation be adopted. Without objection, the citation was adopted and referred to the Secretary for transmittal.

Unfinished Business**SB 13**

Senators Gray-Jackson, Dunbar, Tobin moved and asked unanimous consent to be shown as cosponsors on SENATE BILL NO. 13 "An Act relating to costs of and charges for textbooks and other course materials required for University of Alaska courses; and providing for an effective date." Without objection, it was so ordered.

SB 101

Senators Gray-Jackson, Kawasaki moved and asked unanimous consent to be shown as cosponsors on SENATE BILL NO. 101 "An Act relating to a renewable portfolio standard; relating to electrical energy transmission; relating to distributed energy systems; relating to power cost equalization; relating to the Alaska Energy Authority; and providing for an effective date." Without objection, it was so ordered.

SB 103

Senator Gray-Jackson moved and asked unanimous consent to be shown as a cosponsor on SENATE BILL NO. 103 "An Act relating to peer support counseling programs for law enforcement agencies, emergency service providers, and the Department of Corrections." Without objection, it was so ordered.

President Stevens made the following appointments:

Pacific Northwest Economic Region Delegate Council

Senator Giessel

Senator Kiehl

Senator Olson, alternate

Senator Wielechowski, alternate

Pacific Northwest Economic Region Arctic Caucus

Senator Stevens

NCSL Cybersecurity Task Force

Senator Hughes

Announcements

Announcements are at the end of the journal.

Engrossment**SB 80**

SENATE BILL NO. 80 "An Act making corrective amendments to the Alaska Statutes as recommended by the revisor of statutes; and providing for an effective date" was engrossed, signed by the President and Secretary and transmitted to the House for consideration.

Adjournment

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the Senate stand in adjournment until 10:30 a.m., March 17, 2023. Without objection, the Senate adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Liz Clark
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

Mar 16 Thursday Beltz 105 (tsbldg) 1:30 PM

+ SB 77 MUNI PROP TAX EXEMPTION/TAX BLIGHTED PROP

-- Invited & Public Testimony --

Presentation: Housing Alaskans - A Public
Private Partnership by Preston Simmons,
DSc. Chair Michele Brown, Senior Fellow,
Rasmusson Foundation

+ Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled

Streamed live on AKL.tv

EDUCATION

Mar 15 Wednesday Davis 106 8:30 AM

-- Please Note Time & Location Change --

Uniform Rule 23(a) Waived

Joint meeting with the House Education Committee

Presentation: Alaska State Board of Education
and Early Development by James Fields, State
Board Chair; Heidi Teshner, DEED Acting
Commissioner

+ Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled

Streamed live on AKL.tv

Mar 17 Friday Beltz 105 (tsbldg) 3:30 PM

No Meeting Scheduled

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FINANCE

Mar 15	Wednesday	Senate Finance 532	9:00 AM
	Presentation: Alaska Industrial Development & Export Authority by Randy Ruaro, Exec. Director		
+	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
Mar 16	Thursday	Senate Finance 532	9:00 AM
	Presentation: Alaska's Economy by Dan Robinson, Research Chief, Dept. of Labor; Brett Watson ISER		
+	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
Mar 17	Friday	Senate Finance 532	9:00 AM
	Presentation: 404 Primacy - Clean Water Act Permitting by Randy Bates, Dept. of Environmental Conservation		
+	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		

HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES

Mar 16	Thursday	Butrovich 205	3:30 PM
	-- MEETING CANCELED --		
+	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		

JUDICIARY

Mar 15	Wednesday	Butrovich 205	1:30 PM
+= SB 53	FIVE-YEAR INVOLUNTARY COMMITMENTS		
	<Bill Hearing Canceled>		
+= SB 12	ADDRESS CONFIDENTIALITY PROGRAM		
	-- Testimony <Invitation Only> --		
+	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
Mar 17	Friday	Butrovich 205	1:30 PM
+	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		

LABOR & COMMERCE

Mar 15 Wednesday Beltz 105 (tsbldg) 1:30 PM

+ SB 88 RETIREMENT SYSTEMS; DEFINED BENEFIT OPT.
 -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

Mar 17 Friday Beltz 105 (tsbldg) 1:30 PM

+ = SB 70 OWNER & CONTRACTOR CONTROLLED INSURANCE
 -- Public Testimony --
 + SB 88 RETIREMENT SYSTEMS; DEFINED BENEFIT OPT.
 -- Invited & Public Testimony --
 -- <Time Limit May Be Set> --
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

RESOURCES

Mar 15 Wednesday Butrovich 205 3:30 PM

+ SB 68 PUBLIC NOTICE FOR WATER RIGHTS
 -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --
 Christy Colles, Director, Dept. of Mining
 Land and Water (DNR); Tom Barrett, Section Chief
 of Water, DMLW, DNR
 + SB 34 CITIZEN ADVISORY COMM ON FEDERAL AREAS
 -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --
 Tina Cuning, Alaska National Interest Lands
 Conservation Act (ANILCA) Expert; Ted Spraker,
 President, Safari Club International, Kenai
 + SB 87 LUMBER GRADING PROGRAM
 -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --
 Jeremy Douse, Northern Region Forester, DNR
 Division of Forestry and Fire Protection; Helge
 Eng, Director, DNR Division of Forestry and Fire
 Protection
 + Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

RESOURCES (continued)

Mar 17	Friday	Butrovich 205	3:30 PM
+ SB 72	NATL. RES. WATER NOMINATION/DESIGNATION		
	-- Testimony <Invitation Only> --		
	Randy Bates, Director, Division of Water, (DEC)		
	Presentation: Heavy Oil Recovery by		
	Abhijit Dandekar, Ph.D, Professor and Chair,		
	Department of Petroleum Engineering, UAF		
	College of Engineering and Mines		
+	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		

STATE AFFAIRS

Mar 16	Thursday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	3:30 PM
	No Meeting Scheduled		

TRANSPORTATION

Mar 16	Thursday	Butrovich 205	1:30 PM
	Presentation: Alaska Railroad Corporation		
	Overview by Bill O'Leary, President & CEO,		
	Alaska Railroad Corporation		
	-- Teleconference <Listen Only> --		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		

FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEES

ADMINISTRATION

Mar 15	Wednesday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	6:00 PM
	-- Teleconference --		
+	Administration Budget		

CORRECTIONS

Mar 16	Thursday	Butrovich 205	6:00 PM
	-- Teleconference --		
+	Corrections Budget		

FAMILY & COMMUNITY SERVICES

Mar 28	Tuesday	Senate Finance 532	5:30 PM
+	Department of Family & Community Services Budget Overview -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --		

FISH & GAME

Mar 16	Thursday	Senate Finance 532	11:00 AM
	-- Rescheduled from 03/09/23 -- Budget Overview		

Mar 21	Tuesday	Senate Finance 532	11:00 AM
	Budget Overview		

HEALTH

Mar 15	Wednesday	Senate Finance 532	5:30 PM
+	-- MEETING CANCELED -- Department of Health Budget Overview -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --		

Mar 16	Thursday	Butrovich 205	3:30 PM
+	-- Please Note Time Change -- Department of Health Budget Overview -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --		

Mar 27	Monday	Senate Finance 532	5:30 PM
+	Department of Health Budget Overview -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --		

NATURAL RESOURCES

Mar 16	Thursday	Senate Finance 532	7:30 AM
+	FY24 Budget Overview		

TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC FACILITIES

Mar 21 +	Tuesday FY24 Airports & Aviation	Senate Finance 532	7:30 AM
Mar 28 +	Tuesday FY24 Marine Highways	Senate Finance 532	7:30 AM
Apr 04 +	Tuesday Closeout	Senate Finance 532	7:30 AM

OTHER MEETINGS**MISCELLANEOUS MEETINGS**

Mar 21 +	Tuesday Lunch & Learn Presentation: Healtheconnect and Alaska eHealth Network presentation on "Alaska's Statewide Health Information Exchange" by Dr. Gene Quinn Sponsored by Senator David Wilson	Butrovich 205	12:00 PM
Mar 22	Wednesday Lunch and Learn Presentation: Red Cross of Alaska Sharing the Impact of Red Cross Volunteers and Employees Across the State by: Tanguy Libbrecht, Red Cross of Alaska Regional Executive; Buddy Custard, Red Cross of Alaska Board Chair Sponsored by Senator Olson	Butrovich 205	12:00 PM