

**SENATE JOURNAL**  
**ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE**  
**THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE**  
**SECOND SESSION**

**Juneau, Alaska**

**Wednesday**

**January 24, 2024**

**Ninth Day**

Pursuant to adjournment the Senate was called to order by President Stevens at 11:02 a.m.

The roll showed twenty members present.

The prayer was offered by the Chaplain, Reverend Dr. Charles Ensminger, Kunéix Hídi Northern Light United Church. Senator Hoffman moved and asked unanimous consent the prayer be spread. Without objection, it was so ordered.

Almighty God,

As we take this moment to pause, I pray for these members of the state Senate. In thanksgiving for their work, I would ask for your wisdom to instruct them, and clarity of vision and purpose to guide them as they work for the people of Alaska.

I pray that they will be guided by integrity and a desire for justice. Give them the strength of character and be with them as they face the challenges of their office.

I pray that you will help them to work together in unity and the desire to find common ground. Defend them, their families, their constituents, and all who live in this great land.

I ask all of this in your holy name.

Amen.

Senator Giessel led the Senate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Certification**

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the journals for the seventh and eighth legislative days 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:

Alaska Aerospace Corporation  
2023 Annual Report  
in accordance with AS 26.27.100

Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority  
Nature and Extent of Tax Exemption of Property, Assets, Income,  
Receipts, Project, Development Project, and Leasehold Interests  
Devoted to an Essential Public and Governmental Function and  
Purpose Annual Report  
in accordance with AS 44.88.140

Department of Natural Resources  
Division of Mining, Land and Water  
Report on Identified RS-2477 Rights-of-Way  
in accordance with AS 19.30.400

Notification of Annual Mining Report  
in accordance with AS 27.05.060

Land Disposal Program Reports  
in accordance with AS 38.04.022

Notification of Annual Report on Water Removals and Exports  
in accordance with AS 46.15.020

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

Annual Summary of the Department's Efforts to Maintain or  
Enhance Access to and Along Fishing Streams  
in accordance with AS 38.04.205

Annual report of Aquatic Farm Lease Applications, Monetary and  
Job Estimates, and Recommendations  
in accordance with AS 38.05.035

Letter dated January 19 was received from Peter J. Maassen, Chief Justice of the Alaska Supreme Court, stating in accordance with AS 24.60.130(b), the following public members have been nominated to the Select Committee on Legislative Ethics:

Dennis "Skip" Cook  
Joyce Anderson  
Rachel Kelly, alternate

President Stevens stated the nominations would be held on the Secretary's desk.

### **Introduction and Reference of Senate Resolutions**

#### **SR 3**

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 3 BY SENATOR GRAY-JACKSON,

Recognizing March 2024 as Chronic Kidney Disease Awareness Month in Alaska to raise awareness of the need for research, screening programs, and access to care for individuals who suffer from chronic kidney disease.

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

**Introduction and Reference of Senate Bills**

**SB 201**

SENATE BILL NO. 201 BY SENATOR KAUFMAN, entitled:

"An Act establishing the office of information technology; relating to information technology projects undertaken by state agencies; and providing for an effective date."

was read the first time and referred to the State Affairs and Finance Committees.

**SB 202**

SENATE BILL NO. 202 BY THE SENATE RULES COMMITTEE BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR, entitled:

"An Act renaming Fairbanks International Airport as Don Young Fairbanks International Airport; and providing for an effective date."

was read the first time and referred to the State Affairs and Finance Committees.

The following fiscal information was published today:

Fiscal Note No. 1, Department of Transportation and Public Facilities

Governor's transmittal letter dated January 22:

Dear President Stevens:

Under the authority of Article III, Section 18 of the Alaska Constitution, I am transmitting a bill renaming the Fairbanks International Airport to Don Young Fairbanks International Airport.

This bill recognizes Donald Edwin “Don” Young for his lifetime of service to the State of Alaska and advocacy for the construction, maintenance, and safety of the State’s transportation infrastructure.

Don Young advanced transportation development while serving in both chambers of the Alaska State Legislature and throughout his tenure as the longest-serving Republican Congressman in the nation’s history. As a state legislator, Young championed legislation to modernize Alaska’s air commerce system and require that aircraft be outfitted with radio beacon devices for emergency rescue. In Congress, Young served as chair of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and sponsored numerous bills to reshape infrastructure and safety requirements. His efforts with particular impact in Alaska include funding Alaskan ferry and ferry terminal projects, the Alaska highway program, Alaska Railroad passenger operations improvements, and the construction of roads and surface infrastructure in Alaska Native villages and rural communities. Young was also keenly aware of the vital role of air transportation in Alaska and sponsored bills to streamline airline communication to reduce flight delays, provide economic support for the continued operation of airlines affected by the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, protect pilots from in-flight dangers, and authorize improvement grants for small airport safety infrastructure.

By renaming the Fairbanks International Airport to the Don Young Fairbanks International Airport, the State honors Don Young at a place that epitomizes the importance of Alaska’s transportation infrastructure and where the immense benefits of his advocacy can be enjoyed by Alaskans and visitors every day.

I urge your prompt and favorable action on this measure.

Sincerely,

/s/

Mike Dunleavy  
Governor

**SB 203**

SENATE BILL NO. 203 BY THE SENATE RULES COMMITTEE  
BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR, entitled:

"An Act relating to business license fees; and  
providing for an effective date."

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

The following fiscal information was published today:

Fiscal Note No. 1, Department of Commerce, Community, and  
Economic Development

Governor's transmittal letter dated January 22:

Dear President Stevens:

Under the authority of Article III, Section 18 of the Alaska Constitution, I am transmitting a bill increasing business license fees. The Alaska Business License Act (Act) requires that a person obtain and pay for a business license from the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development (DCCED), prior to engaging in business in the State. The Act sets the fees for business licenses and for license endorsements that permit a business to sell tobacco products. This bill would increase these statutory fees.

The bill would increase the fee for a business license from \$50 to \$100 per year. The Act includes an exception for certain sole proprietorships owned by individuals 65 years or older and disabled veterans, which sets a lower fee of \$25 for these businesses. The bill would increase those licenses to \$50. Tobacco endorsements would be increased from \$100 to \$200 annually.

The bill would have an effective date of October 1, 2024, to allow DCCED time to update its forms and public information in advance of license renewals at the start of the upcoming calendar year.

I urge your prompt and favorable action on this measure.

Sincerely,

/s/

Mike Dunleavy  
Governor

**SB 204**

SENATE BILL NO. 204 BY THE SENATE RULES COMMITTEE  
BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR, entitled:

"An Act relating to the issuance of certificates of fitness for plumbers and electricians; relating to fees for certificates of fitness for plumbers and electricians; and providing for an effective date."

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

The following fiscal information was published today:

Fiscal Note No. 1, Department of Labor and Workforce  
Development

Governor's transmittal letter dated January 22:

Dear President Stevens:

Under the authority of Article III, Section 18 of the Alaska Constitution, I am transmitting a bill to authorize the Department of Labor and Workforce Development to issue a six-year trainee certificate of fitness for plumbers and electricians as opposed to the current two-year certificate. The bill maintains the current two-year certification requirement for journeyman level plumbers and electricians.

Passage of this bill will allow plumber and electrician trainees to complete their 8,000 hours of work experience without having to renew their license. Currently, apprentice hours completed under an expired two-year certificate of fitness do not count towards the 8,000 hour requirement. By expanding the duration of the trainee certificate, trainee plumbers and electricians will be able to complete the apprenticeship programs with minimal expense and delay.

Plumbing and electrical services are lagging behind capacity in Alaska. This professional trade gap significantly impacts the ability of public and private sectors to fully-staff development and infrastructure projects that are needed to maintain and advance Alaska's economy. This bill addresses this bottleneck by encouraging people to enter into the plumbing and electrical trades by lowering costs and bureaucratic barriers while simultaneously maintaining the high standards for professional development that Alaskans expect. Under the bill, currently certificated plumbing and electrical trainees are eligible for the new six-year certificate without the need to re-apply.

I urge your prompt and favorable action on this measure.

Sincerely,  
/s/  
Mike Dunleavy  
Governor

**SB 205**

SENATE BILL NO. 205 BY SENATOR KAUFMAN, entitled:

"An Act authorizing the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation to acquire or purchase a building that it occupies for an amount that does not exceed \$9,000,000; and providing for an effective date."

was read the first time and referred to the Finance Committee.



**SB 206**

SENATE BILL NO. 206 BY SENATOR GRAY-JACKSON, entitled:

"An Act relating to workers' compensation reemployment benefits; establishing a workers' compensation stay-at-work program; and providing for an effective date."

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

**Consideration of the Calendar**

**Citations**

Honoring - Bill and Barbara Webb  
Representative(s) McKay

In Memoriam - Joseph Emil Usibelli, Sr.  
Senator(s) Bishop, Kawasaki

In Memoriam - Victor Fischer  
Representative(s) Josephson, Fields  
Senator(s) Gray-Jackson

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

**Unfinished Business**

**SB 172**

Senators Merrick, Olson, Claman, Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent to be shown as cosponsors on SENATE BILL NO. 172 "An Act extending the Alaska senior benefits payment program; and providing for an effective date." Without objection, it was so ordered.

**SB 170**

Senators Merrick, Claman, Bishop, Stedman, Olson, Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent to be shown as cosponsors on SENATE BILL NO. 170 "An Act extending the Alaska senior benefits payment program; and providing for an effective date." Without objection, it was so ordered.

**SB 90**

Senators Merrick, Giessel, Dunbar, Kawasaki, Myers moved and asked unanimous consent to be shown as cosponsors on SENATE BILL NO. 90 "An Act extending the termination date of the Alaska Minerals Commission." Without objection, it was so ordered.

**SB 206**

Senator Bjorkman moved and asked unanimous consent to be shown as a cosponsor on SENATE BILL NO. 206 "An Act relating to workers' compensation reemployment benefits; establishing a workers' compensation stay-at-work program; and providing for an effective date." Without objection, it was so ordered.

**Announcements**

Announcements are at the end of the journal.

**Adjournment**

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the Senate stand in adjournment until 10:30 a.m., January 26, 2024. Without objection, the Senate adjourned at 11:16 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**

**Jan 25                      Thursday                      Beltz 105 (tsbldg)                      1:30 PM**  
 + Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled

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**EDUCATION**

**Jan 24                      Wednesday                      Beltz 105 (tsbldg)                      3:30 PM**  
 + SB 192 SCREENING/READING INTERVENTION K-3  
 -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --  
 Presentation: Alaska Native Language Literacy  
 Update by  
 Joel Isaak, Deputy Commissioner of the Alaska  
 Department of Education and Early Development  
 + Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled  
 \*\*Streamed live on AKL.tv\*\*

**Jan 26                      Friday                      Beltz 105 (tsbldg)                      3:30 PM**  
 No Meeting Scheduled

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**FINANCE**

**Jan 24                      Wednesday                      Senate Finance 532                      9:00 AM**  
 + Overview: FY25 Budget Overview by  
 Legislative Finance Division  
 + Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled

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**FINANCE (continued)**

**Jan 24      Wednesday                      Senate Finance 532              1:30 PM**  
+ SB 127 TAXATION: VEHICLE RENTALS, SUBPOENAS  
-- Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --  
+ Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled:  
+= SB 88 RETIREMENT SYSTEMS; DEFINED BENEFIT OPT.

**Jan 25      Thursday                              Senate Finance 532              9:00 AM**  
+ Overview: FY25 Budget Overview by  
Legislative Finance Division  
+ Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled

**Jan 25      Thursday                              Senate Finance 532              1:30 PM**  
No Meeting Scheduled

**Jan 26      Friday                                      Senate Finance 532              9:00 AM**  
+ Presentation: Alaska Permanent Fund Corporation  
+ Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled

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**HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES**

**Jan 25      Thursday                              Butrovich 205                      3:30 PM**  
+ Presentation: Department of Family and  
Community Services Overview  
+ Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled

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**JUDICIARY**

**Jan 24      Wednesday                              Butrovich 205                      1:30 PM**  
-- Delayed to a Call of the Chair --  
+ SB 100 ACCESS TO MARIJUANA CONVICTION RECORDS  
-- Invited & Public Testimony --  
+ Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled

**Jan 26      Friday                                      Butrovich 205                      1:30 PM**  
+ Presentation: Informational Hearing by the  
Office of Public Advocacy on Public  
Guardianship

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**LABOR & COMMERCE**

**Jan 24            Wednesday                            Beltz 105 (tsbldg)                            1:30 PM**  
 Presentation: UAA Workforce Solutions for Alaska by  
 UAA Provost Dr. Denise Runge  
 -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --  
 +    SB 173    AUTHORIZE HANDGUNS SCHOOL  
 EMPLOYEE/VOLUNT  
 -- Invited & Public Testimony --  
 \*\*Streamed live on AKL.tv\*\*

**Jan 26            Friday    Beltz 105 (tsbldg)                            1:30 PM**  
 No Meeting Scheduled

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**RESOURCES**

**Jan 24            Wednesday                            Butrovich 205                            3:30 PM**  
 +    HB 125    TRAPPING CABINS ON STATE LAND  
 -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --  
 Randy Zarnke, President, Alaska Trappers  
 Association  
 +            Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled  
 \*\*Streamed live on AKL.tv\*\*

**Jan 26            Friday    Butrovich 205                            3:30 PM**  
 +=   SB 49    CARBON STORAGE  
 -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --  
 +            Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled  
 \*\*Streamed live on AKL.tv\*\*

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**STATE AFFAIRS**

**Jan 25            Thursday                                    Beltz 105 (tsbldg)                            3:30 PM**  
 -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --  
 Presentation: A.I. Overview by  
 Addie Cooke, Global A.I. Policy Lead at  
 Google Cloud  
 Ilana Beller, Field Manager Public Citizen  
 +            Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled  
 \*\*Streamed live on AKL.tv\*\*

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**TRANSPORTATION**

**Jan 25**      **Thursday**                      **Butrovich 205**      **1:30 PM**  
SB 141 NAMING RAYMOND & ESTHER CONQUEST BRIDGE  
-- Public Testimony --  
+ Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled  
\*\*Streamed live on AKL.tv\*\*

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**OTHER MEETINGS**

**MISCELLANEOUS MEETINGS**

**Jan 31**      **Wednesday**                      **Butrovich 205**      **12:00 PM**  
Alaska Children's Trust  
Presented by: Trevor Storrs, President and CEO  
and Jen Griffis, Vice President of Policy &  
Advocacy  
Sponsored by Senator Tobin

**Feb 06**      **Tuesday**                      **Butrovich 205**      **12:00 PM**  
Lunch & Learn Presentation:  
Understanding the Crisis of MMIWG2S/MMIP in  
Alaska by:  
Dr. Charlene Aqpiq Apok, Executive Director,  
Data for Indigenous Justice  
Kendra Kloster, Co-Director Law & Policy, Alaska  
Native Women's Resource Center  
Kelsey Potdevin, Education and Outreach Manager,  
Alaska Native Justice Center  
Sponsored by Senator Olson

**MISCELLANEOUS MEETINGS (continued)**

**Feb 07      Wednesday      Butrovich 205      12:00 PM**  
Lunch & Learn Presentation:  
Understanding Recent Changes to Alaska's Unique  
Legal Landscape: How Alaska Tribes are Pursuing  
Justice and Public Safety In Our Communities  
by Alex Cleghorn, Chief Operating Officer, Alaska  
Native Justice Center  
Rick Garcia, Co-Director Law & Policy, Alaska  
Native Women's Resource Center  
Maude Blair, Tribal Justice Manager for Alaska  
Native Justice Center  
Tami Truett Jerue, Executive Director, Alaska  
Native Women's Resource Center  
Sponsored by Senator Wielechowski