

SENATE JOURNAL
ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION

Juneau, Alaska

Wednesday

February 7, 2024

Twenty-third Day

Pursuant to adjournment the Senate was called to order by President Stevens at 10:45 a.m.

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

The prayer was offered by the Chaplain, Pastor Greg Weinert, Emmanuel Baptist Church. Senator Hoffman moved and asked unanimous consent the prayer be spread. Without objection, it was so ordered.

In deepest reverence for the beliefs of all Alaskans, I invite you into a time of reflection on our solemn covenant as servants of the people.

Our Father, glorious Creator, I praise you for our state and the many blessings you have bestowed upon us already. I further ask that You, in benevolence, bless our senators with strength to face the burdens placed upon them by the people of Alaska.

Grant them the courage to face full-on the challenges that are set before them and to hold on to their beliefs that they may be endowed with the ability to inspire the best in all those who call themselves Alaskans.

Confer to them a spirit of understanding and cooperation in the face of adversity, that they would lead wisely and with civility, working together for our common good, seeking Your wisdom first in all their decisions and obligations.

This I humbly petition, not to our glory, Lord, but to you and you alone. I pray in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, Amen.

Senator Merrick led the Senate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Certification

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the journals for the twenty-first and twenty-second 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:

Department of Education & Early Development
State Tribal Education Compact Schools Demonstration Report
January 29, 2024
in accordance with ch. 43, SLA 22

Department of Administration
Office of Administrative Hearings Annual Report
January 31, 2024
in accordance with AS 44.64.020

Standing Committee Reports

SJR 13

The Community and Regional Affairs Committee considered SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 13 Encouraging the United States Congress and the President of the United States to pass and sign legislation amending the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act to release certain land held in trust back to affected Alaska Native village corporations.

Signing do pass: Senator Dunbar, Chair; Senator Gray-Jackson.
Signing no recommendation: Senator Bjorkman.

The following fiscal information was published today:

Fiscal Note No. 1, zero, Senate Community and Regional Affairs
Committee

The resolution was referred to the Rules Committee.

Introduction and Reference of Senate Bills

SB 218

SENATE BILL NO. 218 BY SENATOR KAWASAKI BY
REQUEST, entitled:

"An Act relating to vehicle weight limits; and
providing for an effective date."

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

SB 219

SENATE BILL NO. 219 BY SENATOR WILSON, entitled:

"An Act relating to utilization review entities;
exempting certain health care providers from making
preauthorization requests for certain services; and
providing for an effective date."

was read the first time and referred to the Labor and Commerce and
Health and Social Services Committees.

Consideration of the Calendar

Citations

Honoring - Norman "Norm" Regis
Senator(s) Stevens
Representative(s) Stutes

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 citations be made a special order of business. Without objection, it was so ordered.

Special Order of Business

Honoring - Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. XI PSI Omega Chapter
40th Anniversary

Representative(s) Wright

Senator(s) Tobin, Gray-Jackson

In Memoriam - Eugene R. "Buzzy" Peltola, Jr.

Senator(s) Hoffman, Kawasaki

Representative(s) McCormick

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

The presence of Senator Shower was noted.

Unfinished Business

SB 141

Senator Bishop moved and asked unanimous consent to be shown as a cosponsor on SENATE BILL NO. 141 "An Act naming the Raymond and Esther Conquest Bridge." Without objection, it was so ordered.

Recess

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the Senate stand in recess to the Joint Session. Without objection, the Senate recessed at 11:01 a.m.

After Recess**Joint Session in the House**

Speaker Tilton called the House to order and in accordance with Uniform Rule 51 turned the gavel over to President Stevens, who called the Joint Session to order at 11:08 a.m.

The purpose of the Joint Session was to hear Chief Justice Peter J. Maassen's State of the Judiciary address.

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

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

President Stevens appointed Senator Kiehl and Representative Carpenter to escort Chief Justice Peter J. Maassen to the Joint Session.

The Senate Sergeant at Arms, Matt Simpson, announced Chief Justice Maassen's entrance to the House Chamber.

Chief Justice Maassen was escorted to the rostrum and welcomed by President Stevens and Speaker Tilton.

The Honorable Peter J. Maassen delivered his address. This address appears in Senate and House Joint Journal Supplement No. 13.

The Chief Justice received a standing ovation and was escorted from the chamber by Representative Carpenter and Senator Kiehl.

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the Joint Session stand in adjournment. Without objection, President Stevens adjourned the Joint Session at 11:42 a.m.

After Recess

In The Senate

The Senate reconvened at 11:47 a.m.

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., February 8, 2024. Without objection, the Senate adjourned at 11:47 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

Feb 08	Thursday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	1:30 PM
+ SB 207	MILITARY AND VETERAN FAMILY HELP DESK		
	-- Invited & Public Testimony --		
+	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		

EDUCATION

Feb 07	Wednesday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	3:30 PM
+	Presentation: The Different Education Models Used by Alaska's Public Schools by Norm Wooten, Association of Alaska School Boards		
	Michael Hanley, Superintendent, Aleutian Region Schools		
	Todd Hindman, Retired Principal at the Fireweed Academy in Homer		
	Scott MacManus, Director of State and Federal Programs, Yukon-Koyukuk School District		
	Dean O'Dell, Director, IDEA Homeschool Program		
	Additional Invited Testifiers		
+	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		

Feb 09	Friday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	3:30 PM
	No Meeting Scheduled		

EDUCATION (continued)

- Feb 12 Monday Beltz 105 (tsbldg) 3:30 PM**
 + Presentation: Association of Alaska School
 Boards Legislative Fly-in by School Board
 Members and Students from Across Alaska
 + Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv
- Feb 14 Wednesday Beltz 105 (tsbldg) 3:30 PM**
 + SB 215 TEACHERS: BOARD CERTIFICATION INCENTIVE
 -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --
 + Presentation: The State of Teaching in Alaska
 by Invited Teachers and Stakeholders
 + Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv
- Feb 16 Friday Beltz 105 (tsbldg) 3:30 PM**
 No Meeting Scheduled
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FINANCE

- Feb 07 Wednesday Senate Finance 532 9:00 AM**
 + SB 141 NAMING RAYMOND & ESTHER CONQUEST BRIDGE
 -- Invited & Public Testimony --
 <Time Limit May Be Set> --
 + SB 24 PUBLIC SCHOOLS: MENTAL HEALTH EDUCATION
 -- Invited & Public Testimony --
 <Time Limit May Be Set> --
 Administration Response to Prior Meetings:
 Office of Management and Budget
 Legislative Finance Division
 + Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
- Feb 08 Thursday Senate Finance 532 9:00 AM**
 + Alaska Housing Finance Corporation Update &
 Overview
 Administration Response to Prior Meetings:
 Department of Natural Resources
 + Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled

SENATE JOURNAL

February 7, 2024

1555

FINANCE (continued)

Feb 08 Thursday Senate Finance 532 1:30 PM
-- Please Note Time Change --
+= SB 125 AK HOUSING FINANCE CORP: SUSTAIN ENERGY
-- Invited & Public Testimony --
<Time Limit May Be Set> --
+ Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
+= SB 170 EXTEND SENIOR BENEFITS PAYMENT PROGRAM
-- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --

Feb 09 Friday Senate Finance 532 9:00 AM
No Meeting Scheduled

HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES

Feb 08 Thursday Butrovich 205 3:30 PM
-- MEETING CANCELED --
+ Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled

JUDICIARY

Feb 07 Wednesday Butrovich 205 1:30 PM
+ EO 133 ELIMINATING THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE
INFORMATION ADVISORY BOARD
-- Invited & Public Testimony --
+ EO 135 ELIMINATING THE ALASKA SAFETY
ADVISORY COUNCIL
-- Invited & Public Testimony --
+ Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled

Feb 09 Friday Butrovich 205 1:30 PM
-- MEETING CANCELED --
+ SB 163 ANIMAL ADOPTION RECORDS
-- Testimony <Invitation Only> --
+ Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled

STATE AFFAIRS

- Feb 08 Thursday Beltz 105 (tsbldg) 3:30 PM**
 + SB 131 ASIAN AMERICAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER PROGRAM
 -- Invited & Public Testimony --
 + EO 128 SEPARATE MEMBERSHIP OF THE BOARD OF
 DIRECTORS OF THE ALASKA ENERGY AUTHORITY
 AND THE ALASKA INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND
 EXPORT AUTHORITY
 -- Public Testimony --
 + HB 3 GOLD AND SILVER SPECIE AS LEGAL TENDER
 -- Invited & Public Testimony --
 + Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEES

ADMINISTRATION

- Feb 20 Tuesday Gruenberg 120 4:00 PM**
 + Meeting Jointly with House Subcommittee on
 Department of Administration Budget
- Feb 27 Tuesday Butrovich 205 5:15 PM**
 + Department of Administration Budget
- Mar 19 Tuesday Butrovich 205 5:15 PM**
 + Department of Administration Budget

CORRECTIONS

- Feb 29 Thursday Butrovich 205 5:15 PM**
 + Department of Corrections Budget
- Mar 21 Thursday Butrovich 205 5:15 PM**
 + Department of Corrections Budget

FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEES (continued)

JUDICIARY

Feb 26 **Monday** **Butrovich 205** **5:15 PM**
 + Court System Budget

Mar 11 **Monday** **Butrovich 205** **5:15 PM**
 + Court System Budget

OTHER MEETINGS

JOINT SESSION

Feb 07 **Wednesday** **House Chamber** **11:00 AM**
 + State of the Judiciary Address by Chief Justice
 Peter J. Maassen

Feb 14 **Wednesday** **House Chamber** **11:00 AM**
 + Annual Address by Lisa Murkowski, U.S. Senator

Feb 21 **Wednesday** **House Chamber** **11:00 AM**
 + Annual Address by Dan Sullivan, U.S. Senator

MISCELLANEOUS MEETINGS

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

MISCELLANEOUS MEETINGS (continued)

- Feb 08** **Thursday** **Butrovich 205** **12:00 PM**
+ Lunch & Learn Presentation:
Academies of Anchorage ASD by Senior Director of
Teaching and Learning by Kersten Johnson
Sponsored by Senator Merrick
- Feb 09** **Friday** **Butrovich 205** **12:00 PM**
+ Lunch & Learn Presentation:
Informational Session about General Obligation
Bonds and the Capital Budget Process by:
Ryan Williams, State Debt Manager, Department of
Revenue
Steve Nerland, The Alliance for Support of
American Legion Baseball
Sponsored by Senator Claman and Representative
Coulombe
- Feb 14** **Wednesday** **Butrovich 205** **12:00 PM**
+ Lunch & Learn Presentation:
Navigating the Future: Protecting Alaska's Blue
Economy
Presented by the Marine Exchange of Alaska
Sponsored by: Senator Kiehl & Senator Olson
- Feb 22** **Thursday** **Butrovich 205** **12:00 PM**
Lunch & Learn Presentation:
Overview of the Experiences and Structural
Damages caused by the 1964 Earthquake Compared to
the 2018 Earthquake
Presented by: Dennis L. Berry and Colin Maynard,
Alaska Professional Design Council
Sponsored by Senator Kaufman