

SENATE JOURNAL
ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION

Juneau, Alaska

Friday

February 23, 2024

Thirty-ninth Day

Pursuant to adjournment the Senate was called to order by President Stevens at 10:31 a.m.

The roll showed fifteen members present. Senators Bjorkman, Claman, Dunbar, Hoffman were excused from a call of the Senate. Senator Stedman was absent.

The prayer was sung by the Chaplain, Reverend Bobby Lewis, New Light Baptist Church of Harlem, New York. Senator Olson moved and asked unanimous consent the prayer be spread. Without objection, it was so ordered.

God bless America, land that I love
Stand beside her and guide her
Through the night with the light from above

From the mountains to the prairies
To the oceans white with foam
God bless America, my home sweet home
God bless America, my home sweet home Amen.

Senator Giessel led the Senate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Certification

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the journals for the thirty-seventh and thirty-eighth legislative days and Senate and House Joint Journal Supplement No. 15 be approved as certified by the Secretary. Without objection, it was so ordered.

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

Messages from the House

Concur Messages

SB 140

Message dated February 22 was read stating the House passed and returned for consideration CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 140(FIN) "An Act relating to funding for Internet services for school districts; and providing for an effective date" with the following amendment(s):

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 140(FIN) am H "An Act relating to funding for Internet services for school districts; relating to charter schools; relating to transportation of public school students; relating to correspondence study funding; relating to the base student allocation; relating to funding for reading improvement plans; and providing for an effective date."

(Title Change HCR 4)

Communications

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

Department of Fish and Game

Status of Brown Bears and Other Natural Resources in the
McNeil River State Game Sanctuary and Refuge in 2023
Annual Report to the Alaska State Legislature
January 2024

in accordance with AS 16.20.041 and AS 16.20.162

Board of Game Allocation Report

February 20, 2024

in accordance with AS 16.05.050

Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission
2023 Annual Report
in accordance with AS 16.43.980

Standing Committee Reports

SB 147

The Labor and Commerce Committee considered SENATE BILL NO. 147 "An Act relating to reemployment rights and benefits" and recommended it be replaced with

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 147(L&C) "An Act relating to reemployment rights and benefits; and providing for an effective date."
(technical title change)

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

The following fiscal information was published today:
Fiscal Note No. 1, zero, Department of Labor and Workforce Development

The bill was referred to the Rules Committee.

SB 183

The Labor and Commerce Committee considered SENATE BILL NO. 183 "An Act relating to the workers' compensation benefits guaranty fund; and providing for an effective date."

Signing do pass: Senator Bjorkman, Chair; Senators Dunbar, Gray-Jackson, Merrick.

The following fiscal information was published today:
Fiscal Note No. 1, Department of Labor and Workforce Development

The bill was referred to the Finance Committee.

SB 197

The Labor and Commerce Committee considered SENATE BILL NO. 197 "An Act relating to residential building codes; relating to construction contractors and residential contractor endorsements; establishing the Alaska State Building Code Council; and providing for an effective date."

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

The following fiscal information was published today:

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

Fiscal Note No. 2, Department of Revenue

The bill was referred to the Finance Committee.

SB 206

The Labor and Commerce Committee considered 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."

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

The following fiscal information was published today:

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

The bill was referred to the Finance Committee.

HB 57

The Labor and Commerce Committee considered HOUSE BILL NO. 57 "An Act relating to review organizations and permitting an emergency medical services provider to establish a review organization; and relating to patient records."

Signing do pass: Senator Bjorkman, Chair; Senators Dunbar, Gray-Jackson, Merrick.

The following fiscal information was published today:

Fiscal Note No. 2, zero, Department of Health

The bill was referred to the Health and Social Services Committee.

EO 131

The Transportation Committee considered EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 131 Reorganizing the Alaska Marine Highway Operations Board.

Attached Senate Special Concurrent Resolution No. 8.

Signing no recommendation: Senator Kaufman, Chair; Senator Myers.
Signing disapprove: Senator Tobin.

This does not reflect an intent by any of the members to vote for or against a special concurrent resolution in joint session.

SSCR 8

The Transportation Committee considered SENATE SPECIAL CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 8 Disapproving Executive Order No. 131.

Signing no recommendation: Senator Kaufman, Chair; Senator Myers.
Signing do pass: Senator Tobin.

The following fiscal information was published today:

Fiscal Note No. 1, zero, Senate Transportation Committee

In accordance with Uniform Rule 49(a)(4), the resolution was transmitted to the House for consideration.

Consideration of the Calendar

Citations

Honoring - Charles "C.B." Bettisworth
Representative(s) Dibert, Stapp
Senator(s) Kawasaki

Honoring - Dr. Priscilla M. Schulte
Representative(s) Ortiz
Senator(s) Stedman

In Memoriam - Matthew H. Glover
Senator(s) Myers
Representative(s) Stapp, Prax

In Memoriam - Joe Lynn Shedd
Senator(s) Myers
Representative(s) Prax

In Memoriam - George W. Seuffert
Senator(s) Bishop

In Memoriam - Lyle Russell Simpson
Representative(s) Ortiz
Senator(s) Stedman

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the citations be adopted. Without objection, the citations were 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 - Jirdes Winther Baxter
Senator(s) Kiehl
Representative(s) Hannan, Story

Honoring - 50th Anniversary of the Festival of Native Arts
Senator(s) Kawasaki, Bishop
Representative(s) Dibert

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

Senator Kaufman moved and asked unanimous consent to be excused from a call of the Senate from plane time, February 24 through plane time, March 3. Without objection, Senator Kaufman was excused.

SB 242

Senators Shower, Hughes moved and asked unanimous consent to be shown as cosponsors on SENATE BILL NO. 242 "An Act relating to assessment of property, boards of equalization, and certification of assessors; and providing for an effective date." Without objection, it was so ordered.

Senator Gray-Jackson moved and asked unanimous consent to be excused from a call of the Senate on April 3 and April 4. Without objection, Senator Gray-Jackson was excused.

SB 189

Senators Tobin, Gray-Jackson, Stevens moved and asked unanimous consent to be shown as cosponsors on SENATE BILL NO. 189 "An Act extending the termination date of the Alaska Commission on Aging; and providing for an effective date." Without objection, it was so ordered.

SJR 14

Senators Kiehl, Tobin, Shower, Wilson, Gray-Jackson, Olson, Hughes, Kaufman moved and asked unanimous consent to be shown as cosponsors on SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 14 Calling on the United States Congress and all federal agencies to adopt policies and engage in certain efforts to improve the competitiveness and resiliency of the state's seafood industry. 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., February 26, 2024. Without objection, the Senate adjourned at 10:52 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 27	Tuesday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	1:30 PM
+ SB 161	TAX EXEMPTION FOR FARM USE LAND		
+ SR 3	CHRONIC KIDNEY DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH		
+	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		

Feb 29	Thursday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	1:30 PM
+ SB 242	PROPERTY ASSESSMENT		
+ SB 236	GRANTS TO DISASTER VICTIMS		
+	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		

EDUCATION

Feb 23	Friday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	3:30 PM
	No Meeting Scheduled		

Feb 26	Monday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	3:30 PM
+ SB 215	TEACHERS: BOARD CERTIFICATION INCENTIVE		
+ SJR 17	EXTEND DEADLINE FOR ARP-HCY FUNDS		
	-- Invited & Public Testimony --		
+	Presentation: Governor's Task Force on Child Care by		
	Department of Health Commissioner Heidi Hedberg		
	Leah Van Kirk, Healthcare Policy Advisor		
	Stephanie Bergland, CEO of Thread		
+	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		

EDUCATION (continued)

Feb 28 Wednesday Beltz 105 (tsbldg) 3:30 PM
+ SB 158 SCHOOL GRANTS AND BOND DEBT REIMBURSEMENT
 -- Invited & Public Testimony --
+ Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

Mar 01 Friday Beltz 105 (tsbldg) 3:30 PM
 No Meeting Scheduled

FINANCE

Feb 23 Friday Senate Finance 532 9:00 AM
+ SJR 14 SUPPORT STATE SEAFOOD INDUSTRY
+ Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled

Feb 26 Monday Senate Finance 532 9:00 AM
+ Confirmation of Governor's Appointees:
 John Sturgeon, Alaska Mental Health Trust
 Authority
 Brent Fisher, Alaska Mental Health Trust
 Authority
+ SB 85 PERM FUND; EMPLOYMENT; ELIGIBILITY
 -- Invited & Public Testimony --
+ Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled:
+= SJR 14 SUPPORT STATE SEAFOOD INDUSTRY

Feb 26 Monday Senate Finance 532 1:30 PM
+ -- Please Note Time Change --
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled

Feb 27 Tuesday Senate Finance 532 9:00 AM
+ SB 105 RAILROAD CORP. FINANCING
 -- Invited & Public Testimony --
+ SB 205 AHFC AUTHORITY TO ACQUIRE BUILDING
 -- Invited & Public Testimony --
+ Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled

Feb 27 Tuesday Senate Finance 532 1:30 PM
+ -- Please Note Time Change --
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled

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FINANCE (continued)

Feb 28	Wednesday	Senate Finance 532	9:00 AM
+	Update: State Transportation Improvement Plan		
	Department of Transportation		
+	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
Feb 28	Wednesday	Senate Finance 532	1:30 PM
	-- Please Note Time Change --		
+	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
Feb 29	Thursday	Senate Finance 532	9:00 AM
+	Fiscal Summary Update and Scenarios		
	Legislative Finance Division		
+	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
Feb 29	Thursday	Senate Finance 532	1:30 PM
	-- Please Note Time Change --		
+	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
Mar 01	Friday	Senate Finance 532	9:00 AM
+	Update from the Alaska Broadband Office		
	Thomas Lochner, Director		
+	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		

HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES

Feb 27	Tuesday	Butrovich 205	3:30 PM
+	Presentation: Department of Health Response		
	to LB&A Audit Findings		
	-- Testimony <Invitation Only> --		
+	SB 240	SCHOOL DISTRICT MEDICAL ASSISTANCE	
	-- Invited & Public Testimony --		
+	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
Feb 29	Thursday	Butrovich 205	3:30 PM
+	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		

JUDICIARY

Feb 23	Friday	Butrovich 205	1:30 PM
	No Meeting Scheduled		

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JUDICIARY(continued)

Feb 26	Monday	Butrovich 205	1:30 PM
+	SB 166	MENTAL HEALTH/PSYCHEDELIC MED. TASK FORCE	
		-- Invited & Public Testimony --	
+		Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled	
Feb 28	Wednesday	Butrovich 205	1:30 PM
+	HB 66	CONTROLLED SUB;HOMICIDE;CRIMES;SENTENCING	
		-- Invited & Public Testimony --	
+	SB 165	DEFENSE OF PUB. OFFICER: ETHICS COMPLAINT	
		-- Invited & Public Testimony --	
+		Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled	
Mar 01	Friday	Butrovich 205	1:30 PM
+		Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled	

LABOR & COMMERCE

Feb 23	Friday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	1:30 PM
		No Meeting Scheduled	
Feb 26	Monday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	1:30 PM
+=	SB 144	RATES: MOTOR VEHICLE WARRANTY WORK	
		-- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --	
+	SB 204	CERT. OF FITNESS: PLUMBERS/ELECTRICIANS	
		-- Invited & Public Testimony --	
		-- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --	
+	SB 228	EXTEND BOARD OF MASSAGE THERAPISTS	
		-- Invited & Public Testimony --	
		-- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --	
		Streamed live on AKL.tv	
Feb 28	Wednesday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	1:30 PM
+	SB 121	PHARMACIES/PHARMACISTS/BENEFITS MANAGERS	
		-- Invited & Public Testimony --	
		-- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --	
+	SB 115	PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT SCOPE OF PRACTICE	
		-- Invited & Public Testimony --	
		-- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --	
		Streamed live on AKL.tv	

LABOR & COMMERCE (continued)

Mar 01 Friday Beltz 105 (tsbldg) 1:30 PM
 += SB 173 AUTHORIZE HANDGUNS SCHOOL
 EMPLOYEE/VOLUNT
 -- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --
 + SB 211 AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS/LOANS/SALES
 -- Invited & Public Testimony --
 -- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

RESOURCES

Feb 23 Friday Butrovich 205 3:30 PM
 + SB 220 RCA REGULATE NATURAL GAS STORAGE FACILITY
 -- Invited & Public Testimony --
 + SB 194 REDUCE ROYALTY ON COOK INLET OIL & GAS
 -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --
 + Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

Feb 26 Monday Butrovich 205 3:30 PM
 + Presentation: Mining Industry Update by
 Karen Matthias, Executive Director, Alaska Metal Mines
 Deantha Skibinski, Executive Director, Alaska
 Miners Association
 Katie Sweeney, Executive Vice President and
 Chief Operating Officer, National Mining Association
 + SB 243 ALASKA ENERGY AUTHORITY GOVERNANCE
 -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --
 + Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

Feb 28 Wednesday Butrovich 205 3:30 PM
 Presentation: Alaska Industrial Development and
 Export Authority (AIDEA) Update by
 Randy Ruaro, Executive Director, AIDEA
 Brandon Brefczynski, Deputy Director, AIDEA
 += SB 220 RCA REGULATE NATURAL GAS STORAGE FACILITY
 -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --
 + SB 243 ALASKA ENERGY AUTHORITY GOVERNANCE
 -- Invited & Public Testimony --
 + Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

RESOURCES (continued)

Mar 01	Friday	Butrovich 205	3:30 PM
+ SB 210	SALMON HATCHERY PERMITS		
	-- Testimony <Invitation Only> --		
+ SB 199	STATE LAND: DISPOSAL/SALE/LEASE/RESTRICT		
	-- Invited & Public Testimony --		
+ SB 171	RESIDENCY REQ: HUNTING, TRAPPING, FISHING		
	-- Public Testimony --		
	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		

STATE AFFAIRS

Feb 27	Tuesday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	3:30 PM
+ SB 223	ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GENERAL APPOINTMENT		
	-- Invited & Public Testimony --		
+ SB 185	ESTABLISH AK MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMISSION		
	-- Invited & Public Testimony --		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		
+	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		

Feb 29	Thursday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	3:30 PM
+ SJR 15	CONST. AM: VOTES NEEDED FOR VETO OVERRIDE		
	-- Invited & Public Testimony --		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		
+	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		

TRANSPORTATION

Feb 27	Tuesday	Butrovich 205	1:30 PM
	No Meeting Scheduled		
Feb 29	Thursday	Butrovich 205	1:30 PM
	No Meeting Scheduled		

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FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEES

ADMINISTRATION

Feb 27	Tuesday	Adams 519	4:00 PM
+	-- Please Note Time Change -- Jointly Meeting with House Subcommittee on Department of Administration Budget		
Mar 05	Tuesday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	11:00 AM
+	Department of Administration Budget		
Mar 19	Tuesday	Butrovich 205	5:15 PM
+	Department of Administration Budget		

COMMERCE, COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEV

Feb 28	Wednesday	Senate Finance 532	8:00 AM
+	Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development Budget **Streamed live on AKL.tv**		

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		

FISH & GAME

Feb 26	Monday	Senate Finance 532	8:00 AM
+	Department of Fish & Game Budget **Streamed live on AKL.tv**		

FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEES (continued)

JUDICIARY

Feb 26 +	Monday Court System Budget	Butrovich 205	5:15 PM
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Mar 11 +	Monday Court System Budget	Butrovich 205	5:15 PM
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MILITARY & VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Feb 29 +	Thursday Overview: Department of Military & Veterans' Affairs Budget	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	11:00 AM
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TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC FACILITIES

Feb 29 +	Thursday FY25 Request	Senate Finance 532	7:30 AM
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JOINT COMMITTEES

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Feb 28 + + +	Wednesday 1. Approval of the Agenda 2. Approval of Minutes - December 14, 2023 3. Ratification of Charity Events a. Alaska SeaLife Center Soiree -February 3, 2024 b. Trend Alaska Fashion Show - February 17, 2024 c. Juneau Animal Rescue Extravaganza -February 17, 2024 d. Sham Jam - March 23, 2024 e. Kenai River Junior Classic -August 21, 22, 23, 2024 f. Ted Stevens Kenai River Classic -August 21, 22, 23, 2024 g. Kenai River Women's Classic -September 12, 13, 14, 2024 4. Contract Approvals a. Cybersecurity Licensing, Maintenance and Technical Support Renewal	Senate Finance 532	5:30 PM
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JOINT COMMITTEES (continued)

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL (continued)

(Continued from Previous Page)

- 5. Executive Session
 - a. Legal Update (LAW/Janus)
 - b. Security Update
 - c. Salary Schedule Discussion
- + 6. Committee Business
 - a. FY23 Legislature Independent Audit
 - b. FY25 Legislative Council Budget
 - c. Print Shop Policy
 - d. Subcommittee Updates
 - e. Preview of Upcoming Items
- + 7. Adjourn

****Streamed live on AKL.tv****

OTHER MEETINGS

JOINT SESSION

Feb 26	Monday	House Chamber	11:00 AM
+	Address by Mary Sattler Peltola, U.S. Representative		

MISCELLANEOUS MEETINGS

Feb 26	Monday	Butrovich 205	12:00 PM
+	Lunch & Learn Presentation: Complete Streets Presented by Beth Osborne, Director of Transportation for America and Julius Adolfsson, Active Transportation Planner at DOTPF Sponsored by Senator Kiehl		

MISCELLANEOUS MEETINGS (continued)

Feb 26 +	Monday Lunch & Learn Presentation: The Alaska Trucking Association will be Presenting on the Trucking Industry in Alaska by Joe Michel, Executive Director, Alaska Trucking Association Kelly Droop, Pape Kenworth Samantha Brown, United Freight & Transport Darren Kessler, Odyssey Alaska Brooke Sillers, Alaska West Express Randy Efrid, Weaver Bros. Sponsored by Senator Myers	Davis 106	12:01 PM
Feb 27 +	Tuesday Lunch & Learn Presentation: Alaska Long Trail by Alaska Trails Deputy Director, Haley Johnston Sponsored by Senator Merrick	Butrovich 205	12:00 PM