

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

**Juneau, Alaska**

**Tuesday**

**April 2, 2024**

**Seventy-eighth Day**

Pursuant to adjournment the Senate was called to order by President Stevens at 2:04 p.m.

The roll showed seventeen members present. Senator Hughes was excused from a call of the Senate. Senators Hoffman, Shower were absent.

The prayer was offered by the Chaplain, Father Patrick Casey, Cathedral of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Senator Olson moved and asked unanimous consent the prayer be spread. Without objection, it was so ordered.

God of the covenant you pledged your commitment  
to us into all your creation continue to keep us in  
your loving care and help us to care for each other as  
you hear the prayers we make for ourselves and each  
other to the source of our salvation. Amen.

Senator Claman led the Senate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Certification**

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

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

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

### **Messages from the Governor**

Amended Disaster Declaration dated March 28, for the city of Kotzebue and Northwest Arctic Borough, amended to include Individual Assistance and Temporary Housing with necessary administrative and disaster management expenses was received pursuant to AS 26.23.020. The amended declaration and letter had been copied to the Finance Committee Cochairs.

Letter dated April 1 was read stating in accordance with Article III, sections 26 and 27 of the Alaska Constitution, and AS 39.05.080, I submit the following appointee(s) for confirmation:

#### **Board of Game**

Jake Garner - Anchorage

Appointed: 7/1/2024

Term Expires: 7/1/2027

James Baichtal - Thorne Bay

Appointed: 7/1/2024

Term Expires: 7/1/2027

#### **Board of Fisheries**

Marit Carlson-Van Dort - Anchorage

Appointed: 7/1/2021

Term Expires: 7/1/2024

Reappointed: 7/1/2024

Term Expires: 7/1/2027

Curtis Chamberlain - Anchorage

Appointed: 7/1/2024

Term Expires: 7/1/2027

The appointments were referred to the Resources Committee.

#### **Board of Marine Pilots**

Andrew Mew - Anchorage

Appointed: 3/31/2024

Term Expires: 3/1/2028

The appointment was referred to the Transportation Committee.

#### **Board of Barbers and Hairdressers**

Kevin McKinley - Fairbanks

Appointed: 3/31/2024

Term Expires: 3/1/2028

The appointment was referred to the Labor and Commerce Committee.

The resumes for these appointments have been submitted to the Office of the Senate Secretary.

### **Messages from the House**

Messages dated March 28 and April 1 were read stating the House passed and transmitted for consideration:

#### **First Reading and Reference of House Bills**

##### **HB 155**

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 155(FIN) am BY THE HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE, entitled:

"An Act establishing the Alaska Military Affairs Commission; and relating to the duties and powers of the Alaska Military Affairs Commission."

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

##### **HB 253**

HOUSE BILL NO. 253 BY REPRESENTATIVE WRIGHT, entitled:

"An Act relating to refrigerants designated as acceptable for use under federal law."

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

### **Concur Messages**

##### **SB 46**

Message dated March 27 was read stating the House passed and returned for consideration SENATE BILL NO. 46 "An Act establishing the month of March as Brain Injury Awareness Month" with the following amendment(s):

HOUSE CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 46(STA) "An Act establishing the month of March as Brain Injury Awareness Month; and providing for an effective date."

(technical title change)

### **Standing Committee Reports**

#### **SB 60**

The Judiciary Committee considered SENATE BILL NO. 60 "An Act repealing the Workers' Compensation Appeals Commission; relating to decisions and orders of the Workers' Compensation Appeals Commission; relating to superior court jurisdiction over appeals from Alaska Workers' Compensation Board decisions; repealing Rules 201.1, 401.1, and 501.1, Alaska Rules of Appellate Procedure, and amending Rules 202(a), 204(a) - (c), 210(e), 601(b), 602(c) and (h), and 603(a), Alaska Rules of Appellate Procedure; and providing for an effective date" and recommended it be replaced with

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 60(JUD)

Signing do pass: Senator Claman, Chair; Senator Kiehl. Signing no recommendation: Senators Tobin, Kaufman.

The following fiscal information was published today:

Fiscal Note No. 3, Department of Labor and Workforce  
Development

Fiscal Note No. 4, zero, Alaska Judiciary System

President Stevens added a Finance Committee referral to the bill.

The bill was referred to the Finance Committee.

### **Introduction and Reference of Senate Bills**

#### **SB 262**

SENATE BILL NO. 262 BY THE SENATE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, entitled:

"An Act relating to the state Artificial Intelligence Task Force; and providing for an effective date."

was read the first time and referred to the State Affairs Committee.

### **Consideration of the Calendar**

#### **Second Reading of Senate Bills**

##### **SB 154**

SENATE BILL NO. 154 "An Act relating to bidder preferences in state procurement" was read the second time.

President Stevens stated SENATE BILL NO. 154 will advance to third reading on the April 3 calendar.

##### **SB 179**

SENATE BILL NO. 179 "An Act prohibiting municipalities from levying a tax on the transfer of real property; prohibiting the state from levying a tax on the transfer of real property; and relating to municipal taxation of mobile telecommunications services" was read the second time.

Senator Dunbar, Chair, moved and asked unanimous consent for the adoption of the Community and Regional Affairs Committee Substitute offered on page 1795. Without objection, CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 179(CRA) was adopted.

President Stevens stated CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 179(CRA) will advance to third reading on the April 3 calendar.

#### **Second Reading of Senate Resolutions**

##### **SCR 9**

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 9 Recognizing the need for parity in the provision of mental health and substance use disorder medical assistance benefits in the state; and urging the Department of Health to adopt regulations that ensure parity in the provision of mental health and substance use disorder medical assistance benefits in the state, was read the second time.

**Citations**

Honoring - Megan Eilers  
Representative(s) Stapp, Carrick  
Senator(s) Myers

Honoring - Joeline Fortin  
Representative(s) Gray, Groh  
Senator(s) Tobin

In Memoriam - Shad Eric McCune  
Representative(s) Sumner

In Memoriam - Carl Cogland Behnert  
Representative(s) Story, Hannan  
Senator(s) Kiehl

In Memoriam - Evelyn "Evie" J. Mielke  
Representative(s) D. Johnson

In Memoriam - Maria Greulich  
Representative(s) Stapp  
Senator(s) Kawasaki, Bishop

In Memoriam - Donald "Don" Martin  
Representative(s) Stapp, Prax  
Senator(s) Myers

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 Kawasaki moved and asked unanimous consent to be excused from a call of the Senate on April 5. Without objection, Senator Kawasaki was excused.

**HB 155**

Senators Kawasaki, Myers, Dunbar, Bjorkman moved and asked unanimous consent to be shown as cross sponsors on CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 155(FIN) am "An Act establishing the Alaska Military Affairs Commission; and relating to the duties and powers of the Alaska Military Affairs Commission." Without objection, it was so ordered.

**HB 28**

Senators Tobin, Gray-Jackson moved and asked unanimous consent to be shown as cross sponsors on CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 28(FIN) "An Act restricting the release of certain records of convictions; and providing for an effective date." Without objection, it was so ordered.

**Announcements****SB 174**

Senator Dunbar, Chair, moved and asked unanimous consent Uniform Rule 23 be waived on SENATE BILL NO. 174 "An Act relating to the Honor and Remember Flag and the Honor and Sacrifice Flag" for the Community and Regional Affairs Committee meeting on April 4. Without objection, it was so ordered.

Announcements are at the end of the journal.

**Adjournment**

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the Senate stand in adjournment until 11:00 a.m., April 3, 2024. Without objection, the Senate adjourned at 2:17 p.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

<b>Apr 02</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Beltz 105 (tsbldg)</b>	<b>1:30 PM</b>
	No Meeting Scheduled		
<b>Apr 04</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Beltz 105 (tsbldg)</b>	<b>1:30 PM</b>
	Presentation: Local Boundary Commission		
+ = HCR 8	HONORING VIETNAM WAR VETERANS		
+ SB 252	ARBOR DAY		
+ SB 174	HONOR & REMEMBER/HONOR & SACRIFICE FLAGS		
	Uniform Rule 23(a) Waived		
+	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		

EDUCATION

<b>Apr 03</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Davis 106</b>	<b>8:00 AM</b>
	-- Please Note Time & Location Change --		
	Meeting Jointly with the House Education Committee		
+	Presentation: Alaska Board of Education and Early Development by James Fields, State Board Chair		
	DEED Commissioner Deena Bishop		
	Members of the State Board of Education and Early Development		
+	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
	**Streamed live on AKL.tv**		



**EDUCATION (continued)**

<b>Apr 03</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Beltz 105 (tsbldg)</b>	<b>3:30 PM</b>
+	Presentation: Summary of the Implementation of the Federal 'Maintenance of Equity' by Austin Reid, Senior Legislative Director for Federal Education Policy, National Conference of State Legislatures		
	-- Testimony <Invitation Only> --		
	Legislative Finance Division		
	**Streamed live on AKL.tv**		
+	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
<b>Apr 05</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Beltz 105 (tsbldg)</b>	<b>3:30 PM</b>
	No Meeting Scheduled		

**FINANCE**

<b>Apr 03</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Senate Finance 532</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>
+	SB 28	WORKPLACE VIOLENCE PROTECTIVE ORDERS	
		-- Testimony <Invitation Only> --	
+	SB 181	CHILD PLACEMENT; DILIGENT SEARCH	
		-- Testimony <Invitation Only> --	
+	SB 228	EXTEND BOARD OF MASSAGE THERAPISTS	
		-- Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --	
		-- Invited & Public Testimony --	
+	SB 234	EXTEND MARIJUANA CONTROL BOARD	
		-- Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --	
		-- Invited & Public Testimony --	
+		Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled	
<b>Apr 04</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Senate Finance 532</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>
	SB 187	APPROP: CAP; REAPPROP	
+		Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled	
<b>Apr 04</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Senate Finance 532</b>	<b>1:30 PM</b>
		-- Please Note Time Change --	
+		Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled	
<b>Apr 05</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Senate Finance 532</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>
+=	SB 187	APPROP: CAP; REAPPROP	
+		Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled	

**HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES**

**Apr 02                      Tuesday                      Butrovich 205                      3:30 PM**  
+                      Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled:  
+= HB 57                      EMERGENCY MED. SVCS: REVIEW ORGANIZATIONS  
+= HB 344                      MEDICAL ASSIST. DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS

**Apr 04                      Thursday                      Butrovich 205                      3:30 PM**  
+                      Consideration of Governor's Appointees:  
Eric Nimmo, State Medical Board  
-- Invited & Public Testimony --  
Presentation: Department of Health - Child Care  
Task Force  
-- Testimony <Invitation Only> --  
+                      Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled:  
+= HB 89                      CHILD CARE: TAX CREDITS/ASSISTANCE/GRANTS  
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**JUDICIARY**

**Apr 03                      Wednesday                      Butrovich 205                      1:30 PM**  
+                      HB 238                      CRIMINAL MISCHIEF 3RD DEGREE  
-- Invited & Public Testimony --  
+= SB 165                      DEFENSE OF PUB. OFFICER: ETHICS COMPLAINT  
+                      Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled

**Apr 05                      Friday                      Butrovich 205                      1:30 PM**  
+= SB 134                      INS. DATA SECURITY; INFO. SECURITY PRGRMS  
+                      Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled  
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**LABOR & COMMERCE**

**Apr 03                      Wednesday                      Beltz 105 (tsbldg)                      1:30 PM**  
+= SB 204                      CERT. OF FITNESS: PLUMBERS/ELECTRICIANS  
-- Invited & Public Testimony --  
-- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --  
+= SB 44                      NATUROPATHS: LICENSING; PRACTICE  
-- Testimony <Invitation Only> --  
+                      Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled  
\*\*Streamed live on AKL.tv\*\*

**LABOR & COMMERCE (continued)**

<b>Apr 05</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Beltz 105 (tsbldg)</b>	<b>1:30 PM</b>
	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled:		
+ SB 115	PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT SCOPE OF PRACTICE		
	-- Invited & Public Testimony --		
	-- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --		
+ SB 135	AK WORK & SAVE PRGRM; RETIRE. SAVINGS BD		
	-- Invited & Public Testimony --		
	-- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --		
+ SB 257	ELECTRIC UTILITY REGULATION		
	-- Invited & Public Testimony --		
	-- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --		
	**Streamed live on AKL.tv**		

**RESOURCES**

<b>Apr 03</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Butrovich 205</b>	<b>3:30 PM</b>
+	Consideration of Governor's Appointees:		
	Commissioner, Department of Environment		
	Conservation: Emma Pokon		
	Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission:		
	Michael Porcaro		
	<Above Appointee Removed from Agenda>		
	-- Invited & Public Testimony --		
+	Presentation: Graphite Creek Project Update by		
	Kevin Torpy, Vice President of Mining, Graphite		
	One Inc.		
+	Presentation: Donlin Project Update by		
	Kristina Woolston, External Affairs Manager,		
	Donlin Gold		
+ SB 253	DNR BIG GAME HUNTING PRGRM/PILOT PROJECT		
	<Bill Hearing Canceled>		
	-- Testimony <Invitation Only> --		
+	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
	**Streamed live on AKL.tv**		
<b>Apr 05</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Butrovich 205</b>	<b>3:30 PM</b>
+	Presentation: Achieving an 80% Renewable		
	Portfolio in Alaska's Railbelt by		
	Paul Denholm, Senior Research Fellow,		
	National Renewable Energy Laboratory		
+	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
	**Streamed live on AKL.tv**		

STATE AFFAIRS

**Apr 02                      Tuesday                      Beltz 105 (tsbldg)                      3:30 PM**  
+  
Consideration of Governor’s Appointees:  
Personnel Board - Donald Handeland  
<Above Item Rescheduled to 4/4/24>  
Consideration of Governor’s Appointees: Alaska  
Police Standards Council -  
Ron Dupee  
Dusty Dumont  
Jeff Brown  
+  
Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled  
\*\*Streamed live on AKL.tv\*\*

**Apr 04                      Thursday                      Beltz 105 (tsbldg)                      3:30 PM**  
+= SB 201 OFFICE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
-- Public Testimony --  
+= SB 177 AI, DEEPFAKES, CYBERSECURITY, DATA XFERS  
+ SB 262 ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE TASK FORCE  
Consideration of Governor’s Appointees:  
Donald Handeland  
<Above Item Rescheduled from 4/2/24>  
-- Public Testimony --  
+  
Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled  
\*\*Streamed live on AKL.tv\*\*

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TRANSPORTATION

**Apr 02                      Tuesday                      Butrovich 205                      1:30 PM**  
No Meeting Scheduled

**Apr 04                      Thursday                      Butrovich 205                      1:30 PM**  
+= HJR 19 PORT MACKENZIE & NORTHERN RAIL EXTENSIONS  
-- Invited & Public Testimony --  
SENATE BILL: ROADS & HIGHWAYS ADVISOR BOARD  
AND THE STATEWIDE TRANSPORTATION  
IMPROVEMENT PLAN  
<Pending Introduction & Referral>

FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEES

ADMINISTRATION

<b>Apr 11</b> +	<b>Thursday</b> Budget Closeout	<b>Butrovich 205</b>	<b>5:30 PM</b>
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CORRECTIONS

<b>Apr 11</b> +	<b>Thursday</b> Budget Closeout	<b>Butrovich 205</b>	<b>5:45 PM</b>
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ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

<b>Apr 10</b> +	<b>Wednesday</b> Overview: Department of Environmental Conservation Senate Finance Subcommittee Closeout	<b>Beltz 105 (tsbldg)</b>	<b>12:00 PM</b>
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JUDICIARY

<b>Apr 11</b> +	<b>Thursday</b> Budget Closeout	<b>Butrovich 205</b>	<b>5:15 PM</b>
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LABOR & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

<b>Apr 11</b> +	<b>Thursday</b> FY25 Budget Closeout	<b>Senate Finance 532</b>	<b>7:30 AM</b>
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MILITARY & VETERANS' AFFAIRS

<b>Apr 10</b> +	<b>Wednesday</b> Overview: Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs Senate Finance Subcommittee Closeout	<b>Beltz 105 (tsbldg)</b>	<b>12:20 PM</b>
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**FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEES (continued)**

**NATURAL RESOURCES**

<b>Apr 04</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Senate Finance 532</b>	<b>7:30 AM</b>
+	FY25 Budget Closeout		

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**REVENUE**

<b>Apr 10</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Beltz 105 (tsbldg)</b>	<b>12:40 PM</b>
+	Overview: Department of Revenue Senate Finance Subcommittee Closeout		

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**TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC FACILITIES**

<b>Apr 09</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Senate Finance 532</b>	<b>7:30 AM</b>
+	FY25 Closeout		

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**JOINT COMMITTEES**

**LEGISLATIVE BUDGET & AUDIT**

<b>Apr 04</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Adams 519</b>	<b>5:00 PM</b>
+	I. Approval of Minutes a. March 6, 2024 II. Executive Session (Audit) a. Preliminary Release of the FY23 State Single Audit Juneau (907) 586-9085, Anchorage (907) 563-9085 All other 844-586-9085		

**JOINT COMMITTEES (continued)****SELECT COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE ETHICS**

<b>Apr 04</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Barnes 124</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>
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-- Please Note Time Change --

+ I. Update on Committee Member Nominees/Welcome Members

+ II. Approval of the Agenda

+ III. Approval of the Minutes

    a. House Subcommittee - November 29, 2023

    IV. Public Comment

+ V. Chairs/Staff Reports

    a. Revised Staff Report - February 16, 2024

    b. Staff Report - Informal Advice

+ VI. Budget

+ VII. Advisory Opinion

    a. AO 24-01

    b. AO 24-02 Confidentiality Waived by Representative Eastman

    VIII. Executive Session

    IX. Public Session

    X. Other Business

    (Public Segment of the Meeting will be Teleconferenced) Anchorage Only: 907-563-9085  
Juneau Only: 907-586-9085  
Outside Anchorage or Juneau: 1-844-586-9085

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**OTHER MEETINGS****MISCELLANEOUS MEETINGS**

<b>Apr 03</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Butrovich 205</b>	<b>12:00 PM</b>
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+ Lunch & Learn Presentation:  
The Presentation will Explore the Shared Commercial Kitchen "Incubator" Model by Kirk Rose, CEO of Anchorage Community Land Trust  
Sponsored by Senator Dunbar & Representative Mina