

SENATE JOURNAL
ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION

Juneau, Alaska

Wednesday

April 3, 2024

Seventy-ninth Day

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

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

The prayer was offered by the Chaplain, Father Patrick Casey, Cathedral of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Senator Hoffman 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 Dunbar led the Senate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Certification

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the journal for the seventy-eighth legislative day be approved as certified by the Secretary. Without objection, it was so ordered.

Messages from the House**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)

Senator Giessel moved the Senate concur in the House amendment(s).

The question being: "Shall the Senate concur in the House amendment(s)?" The roll was taken with the following result:

HCS SB 46(STA)

Shall the Senate Concur in the House Amendment to SB 46?

Effective Date(s)

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

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

Absent: Shower

and so, the Senate concurred in the House amendment(s), thus adopting 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."

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the vote on concurrence be considered the vote on the effective date clause(s). Without objection, it was so ordered.

The Secretary was requested to notify the House.

The bill was referred to the Secretary for enrollment.

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:

Alaska Railroad Corporation
2023 Annual Report
in accordance with AS 42.40.260

Department of Revenue
Alaska Retirement Management Board (ARMB)
Financial Condition of State's Retirement System
in accordance with AS 37.10.220

Disclosure letters received from the Select Committee on Legislative Ethics, in accordance with AS 24.60, will be published in Senate Journal Supplement No. 8 and House and Senate Joint Journal Supplement No. 17.

Standing Committee Reports

Report dated April 2 was read stating:

In accordance with AS 39.05.080, the State Affairs 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.

Alaska Police Standards Council

Ron Dupee
Dusty Dumont
Jeff Brown

Signing the report: Senator Kawasaki, Chair; Senators Wielechowski, Claman, Merrick, Bjorkman.

HB 344

The Health and Social Services Committee considered HOUSE BILL NO. 344 "An Act relating to medical assistance demonstration projects established by the Department of Health."

Signing do pass: Senator Wilson, Chair; Senators Giessel, Dunbar.
Signing no recommendation: Senator Kaufman.

The following previously published fiscal information applies:
Fiscal Note No. 1, zero, Department of Health

The bill was referred to the Rules Committee.

**Introduction and Reference of
Senate Resolutions**

SJR 20

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 20 BY THE COMMUNITY AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE,

Urging the United States Congress to address outages of Automated Weather Observing System stations and Automated Surface Observing System stations occurring in the state.

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

Consideration of the Calendar

Third Reading of Senate Bills

SB 154

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

The question being: "Shall SENATE BILL NO. 154 "An Act relating to bidder preferences in state procurement" pass the Senate?" The roll was taken with the following result:

SB 154

Third Reading - Final Passage

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. 154 passed the Senate and was referred to the Secretary for engrossment.

SB 179

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 179(CRA) "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 third time.

The question being: "Shall CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 179(CRA) "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" pass the Senate?" The roll was taken with the following result:

CSSB 179(CRA)

Third Reading - Final Passage

YEAS: 16 NAYS: 3 EXCUSED: 1 ABSENT: 0

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

Nays: Kiehl, Olson, Tobin

Excused: Shower

and so, CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 179(CRA) passed the Senate and was referred to the Secretary for engrossment.

Senate Resolutions in Second Reading

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, which had been read the second time (page 2051) was before the Senate on final passage.

The question being: "Shall 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, pass the Senate?" The roll was taken with the following result:

SCR 9

Final Passage

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 CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 9 passed the Senate and was referred to the Secretary for engrossment.

Citations

Honoring - Joseph Hickel
Senator(s) Giessel, Claman
Representative(s) Armstrong

Honoring - Fairbanks Memorial Hospital
Representative(s) Stapp, Dibert
Senator(s) Bishop

Honoring - Arctic Light Elementary School
Representative(s) Stapp

Honoring - Fairview Inn 100th Anniversary
Representative(s) McCabe

In Memoriam - James "Jim" Bradley Tweto
Representative(s) Foster, D. Johnson

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 - Learn Grant Writing
Representative(s) Armstrong

Honoring - Service High School Boys' Basketball Team 2024 Ice Jam
Tournament Champions
Representative(s) Coulombe

Honoring - Richard "Dick" Shultz and Leilla Shultz
Representative(s) Cronk

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 Tobin moved and asked unanimous consent to be excused from a call of the Senate from morning plane time, April 5 through evening plane time, April 5. Without objection, Senator Tobin was excused.

SB 154

Senators Kawasaki, Tobin, Gray-Jackson, Claman, Myers moved and asked unanimous consent to be shown as cosponsors on SENATE BILL NO. 154 "An Act relating to bidder preferences in state procurement." Without objection, it was so ordered.

Senator Hughes moved and asked unanimous consent to amend a prior excusal (page 1618) in order to be excused from a call of the Senate from May 9 through May 12. Without objection, Senator Hughes was excused.

Senator Dunbar moved and asked unanimous consent to be excused from a call of the Senate from afternoon plane time, April 11 through evening plane time, April 14. Without objection, Senator Dunbar was excused.

Announcements

Announcements are at the end of the journal.

Engrossment**SB 154**

SENATE BILL NO. 154 "An Act relating to bidder preferences in state procurement" was engrossed, signed by the President and Secretary and transmitted to the House for consideration.

SB 179

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 179(CRA) "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 engrossed, signed by the President and Secretary and transmitted to the House for consideration.

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 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 11:00 a.m., April 4, 2024. Without objection, the Senate adjourned at 11:43 a.m.

Liz Clark
Secretary of the Senate

EDUCATION (continued)

- Apr 03 Wednesday Beltz 105 (tsbldg) 3:30 PM**
 + 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
- Apr 05 Friday Beltz 105 (tsbldg) 3:30 PM**
 No Meeting Scheduled
-

FINANCE

- Apr 03 Wednesday Senate Finance 532 9:00 AM**
 + 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
- Apr 04 Thursday Senate Finance 532 9:00 AM**
 SB 187 APPROP: CAP; REAPPROP
 <Bill Hearing Canceled>
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled:
 += SB 234 EXTEND MARIJUANA CONTROL BOARD
 -- Invited & Public Testimony --
 += SB 243 ALASKA ENERGY AUTHORITY GOVERNANCE
 += SB 228 EXTEND BOARD OF MASSAGE THERAPISTS

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FINANCE (continued)

Apr 04 Thursday Senate Finance 532 1:30 PM
 -- MEETING CANCELED --
 -- Please Note Time Change --
 + Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled

Apr 05 Friday Senate Finance 532 9:00 AM
 += SB 187 APPROP: CAP; REAPPROP
 + Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled

HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES

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
 <Above Item Removed from Agenda>
 += HB 57 EMERGENCY MED. SVCS: REVIEW ORGANIZATIONS
 += SB 240 SCHOOL DISTRICT MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

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

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

Apr 05 Friday Beltz 105 (tsbldg) 1:30 PM
 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 PROGRM; 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

Apr 03 Wednesday Butrovich 205 3:30 PM
 + 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.

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RESOURCES (continued)

(Continued from Previous Page)

- + 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

Apr 05 Friday Butrovich 205 3:30 PM

- + 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 04 Thursday Beltz 105 (tsbldg) 3:30 PM

- += SB 201 OFFICE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
-- Public Testimony --
- += SB 177 AI, DEEPPAKES, 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 04 Thursday Butrovich 205 1:30 PM
+= HJR 19 PORT MACKENZIE & NORTHERN RAIL EXTENSIONS
-- Invited & Public Testimony --
SENATE BILL: ROADS & HIGHWAYS ADVISORY
BOARD AND THE STATEWIDE TRANSPORTATION
IMPROVEMENT PLAN
<Pending Introduction & Referral>

FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEES

ADMINISTRATION

Apr 11 Thursday Butrovich 205 5:30 PM
+ Budget Closeout

CORRECTIONS

Apr 11 Thursday Butrovich 205 5:45 PM
+ Budget Closeout

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

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

JUDICIARY

Apr 11 Thursday Butrovich 205 5:15 PM
+ Budget Closeout

JOINT COMMITTEES

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET & AUDIT

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

SELECT COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE ETHICS

Apr 04	Thursday	Barnes 124	9:00 AM
	-- 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		

OTHER MEETINGS

MISCELLANEOUS MEETINGS

Apr 03 **Wednesday** **Butrovich 205** **12:00 PM**
+ 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