

SENATE JOURNAL

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

Juneau, Alaska

Tuesday

April 30, 2024

One Hundred Sixth Day

Pursuant to adjournment the Senate was called to order by President Stevens at 10:33 a.m.

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

The prayer was offered by the Chaplain, Jared Leonard, Senate Page. Senator Hoffman moved and asked unanimous consent the prayer be spread. Without objection, it was so ordered.

Lord, make us instruments of
your peace.

Where there is hatred, let us sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is discord, union;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.

Grant that we may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
and it is in dying that we are born
to eternal life.

Amen.

Senator Bjorkman led the Senate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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Certification

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

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 House

SCR 9

Message dated April 29 was read stating the House passed and returned:

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.

The resolution was referred to the Secretary for enrollment.

Message dated April 29 was read stating pursuant to AS 24.60.130, the House has ratified the following public members to the Select Committee on Legislative Ethics:

Dennis "Skip" Cook
Joyce Anderson

Message dated April 29 was read stating pursuant to AS 24.60.131, the House has failed to ratify the following public member to the Select Committee on Legislative Ethics:

Rachel Kelly, alternate

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Message dated April 29 was read stating the House passed and transmitted for consideration:

First Reading and Reference of House Bills

HB 395

HOUSE BILL NO. 395 BY THE HOUSE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE, entitled:

"An Act approving the transfer of land owned by the Alaska Railroad Corporation to the City of Nenana; and providing for an effective date."

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

Communications

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

Department of Natural Resources

2023 Determination to Take Oil and Gas Royalty In-Value
in accordance with AS 38.05.182

Board of Forestry

2023 Annual Report to the Governor
in accordance with AS 41.17.047

Standing Committee Reports

Report dated April 29 was read stating:

In accordance with AS 39.05.080, the Labor and Commerce 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.

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Alaska Labor Relations Agency

Emily Jackson-Hall
Jennifer Yuhas
Tammy Schultz

Signing the report: Senator Bjorkman, Chair; Senators Dunbar, Gray-Jackson, Merrick.

Report dated April 29 was read stating:

In accordance with AS 39.05.080, the Education 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.

Board of Education and Early Development

Bob Griffin

Signing the report: Senator Tobin, Chair; Senators Bjorkman, Gray-Jackson, Stevens, Kiehl.

SB 211

The Labor and Commerce Committee considered SENATE BILL NO. 211 "An Act relating to the powers of the board of agriculture and conservation; relating to loans and limitations under the Alaska Agricultural Loan Act; relating to federal crop insurance contributions; relating to municipal and state procurement preferences for agricultural products harvested in the state and fisheries products harvested or processed in the state; and providing for an effective date" and recommended it be replaced with

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 211(L&C) "An Act relating to the Board of Agriculture and Conservation; relating to loans and limitations under the Alaska Agricultural Loan Act; relating to federal crop insurance contributions; relating to a report to the legislature on municipal and state procurement preferences for agricultural products harvested in the state and fisheries products harvested or processed in the state; and providing for an effective date."

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

The following fiscal information was published today:

Fiscal Note No. 4, Department of Natural Resources

The bill was referred to the Finance Committee.

SB 217

The Resources Committee considered SENATE BILL NO. 217 "An Act relating to the taxation of independent power producers; and increasing the efficiency of integrated transmission system charges and use for the benefit of ratepayers" and recommended it be replaced with

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 217(RES) "An Act relating to the Regulatory Commission of Alaska; relating to regulation of public utilities and pipeline carriers; relating to net metering; relating to approval of wholesale power agreements; relating to preapproval for construction of energy facilities; relating to electric reliability organizations; relating to the taxation of independent power producers; relating to the Alaska Energy Authority; relating to the Railbelt Transmission Organization; and providing for an effective date."

Signed amend: Senators Bishop, Giessel, Cochairs; Senators Kawasaki, Claman, Kaufman. Signed do pass: Senator Dunbar. Signed no recommendation: Senator Wielechowski.

The following previously published fiscal information applies:

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

Fiscal Note No. 2, Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development

President Stevens removed the Labor and Commerce referral from the bill.

The bill was referred to the Finance Committee.

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SB 257

The Labor and Commerce Committee considered SENATE BILL NO. 257 "An Act relating to the Regulatory Commission of Alaska; relating to public utilities; relating to electric reliability organizations; relating to the Alaska Energy Authority; relating to the Railbelt Transmission Organization; and providing for an effective date" and recommended it be replaced with

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 257(L&C)

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

The following fiscal information was published today:

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

Fiscal Note No. 2, Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development

Fiscal Note No. 3, Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development

Senator Giessel, Cochair, moved and asked unanimous consent the Resources Committee referral be waived on the bill. Without objection, the bill was referred to the Finance Committee.

Consideration of the Calendar

Third Reading of House Bills

HB 268

SENATE CS FOR CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 268(FIN) "An Act making appropriations for the operating and loan program expenses of state government and for certain programs; capitalizing funds; repealing appropriations; amending appropriations; making supplemental appropriations and reappropriations; and providing for an effective date" was read the third time.

President Stevens stated SENATE CS FOR CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 268(FIN) would be held in third reading to the May 1 calendar. There being no objection, it was so ordered.

HB 270

SENATE CS FOR CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 270(FIN) "An Act making appropriations for the operating and capital expenses of the state's integrated comprehensive mental health program; and providing for an effective date" was read the third time.

President Stevens stated SENATE CS FOR CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 270(FIN) would be held in third reading to the May 1 calendar. There being no objection, it was so ordered.

Citations

Honoring - Portugal. The Man

Representative(s) Armstrong, McCormick, Mina

Honoring - Luc Mehl and Sarah Glaser for *The Packraft Handbook*

Representative(s) Mina, Fields

Senator(s) Claman

Honoring - Roscoe Wyche, Roscoe's Catfish and Barbeque

Representative(s) Mina, Wright

Senator(s) Tobin

Honoring - Professor Shawnalee Whitney

Representative(s) Mina, Gray

Honoring - Mary Ann McCall

Representative(s) D. Johnson

Honoring - Dr. James W. Muller

Representative(s) Mina, Galvin, Josephson

Honoring - Anchorage People Mover 50th Anniversary

Representative(s) Mina, Fields

Senator(s) Tobin

Honoring - University of Alaska Fairbanks Community and Technical

College 50th Anniversary

Representative(s) Carrick

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In Memoriam - Frank Edward Rick
Senator(s) Wielechowski
Representative(s) Mears

In Memoriam - Major Gary "Reagan" Russey
Senator(s) Wielechowski
Representative(s) Mears

In Memoriam - Frances "Jody" Reed
Senator(s) Wielechowski
Representative(s) Mears

In Memoriam - Preston R. Kester Collier
Senator(s) Wielechowski
Representative(s) Wright

In Memoriam - Linda Fuller
Senator(s) Wielechowski
Representative(s) Mears

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

Announcements

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., May 1, 2024. Without objection, the Senate adjourned at 10:48 a.m.

Liz Clark
Secretary of the Senate

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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

Apr 30	Tuesday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	1:30 PM
+=	HB 347	PROPERTY ASSESSMENT	
+	SB 264	LOANS UNDER \$25,000; PAYDAY LOANS	
+		Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled	
May 02	Thursday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	1:30 PM
+		Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled	

EDUCATION

May 01	Wednesday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	3:30 PM
+=	SB 266	CORRESPONDENCE STUDY PROG; STUDENT ACCTS	
		-- Invited & Public Testimony --	
+		Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled:	
		Streamed live on AKL.tv	
May 03	Friday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	3:30 PM
+		-- Testimony <Invitation Only> --	
+		Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled	
		Streamed live on AKL.tv	

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FINANCE

Apr 30	Tuesday	Senate Finance 532	9:00 AM
	-- MEETING CANCELED --		
+	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
Apr 30	Tuesday	Senate Finance 532	1:30 PM
	-- Please Note Time Change --		
	Presentation: Integrated Railbelt Transmission System		
+	HB 307 INTEGRATED TRANSMISSION SYSTEMS <Pending Referral>		
+	SB 217 INTEGRATED TRANSMISSION SYSTEMS <Bill Hearing Rescheduled to 05/01/24 1:30pm > -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --		
+	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
May 01	Wednesday	Senate Finance 532	9:00 AM
+	HB 219 REPEAL ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY LOAN PROGRAM -- Invited & Public Testimony --		
	Presentation: Integrated Railbelt Transmission Systems by		
+	Joel Groves, Chair, Railbelt Reliability Council		
+	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
May 01	Wednesday	Senate Finance 532	1:30 PM
	-- Please Note Time Change --		
+	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled:		
+=	SB 217 INTEGRATED TRANSMISSION SYSTEMS		
May 02	Thursday	Senate Finance 532	9:00 AM
+	HB 50 CARBON STORAGE <Pending Referral>		
	-- Testimony <Invitation Only> --		
+	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
May 02	Thursday	Senate Finance 532	1:30 PM
	-- Please Note Time Change --		
+	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
May 03	Friday	Senate Finance 532	9:00 AM
+	HB 66 CONTROLLED SUB;HOMICIDE;CRIMES;SENTENCING <Pending Referral>		
	-- Testimony <Invitation Only> --		
+	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		

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FINANCE (continued)

May 04 Saturday Senate Finance 532 10:00 AM
-- Please Note Time Change --
+ Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled

HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES

Apr 30 Tuesday Butrovich 205 3:30 PM
+ Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled:
+= SB 231 MINORS & RESIDENT PSYCH TREATMENT CENTERS

May 02 Thursday Butrovich 205 3:30 PM
+ Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled

JUDICIARY

Apr 30 Tuesday Butrovich 205 5:15 PM
-- MEETING CANCELED --
-- Please Note Time Change --
+ Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
Streamed live on AKL.tv

May 01 Wednesday Butrovich 205 1:30 PM
+ SB 223 ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GENERAL APPOINTMENT
-- Invited & Public Testimony --
+ Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
Streamed live on AKL.tv

May 02 Thursday Beltz 105 (tsbldg) 5:15 PM
-- Please Note Time & Location Change --
+ Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
Streamed live on AKL.tv

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JUDICIARY (continued)

May 03	Friday	Butrovich 205	1:30 PM
+ HB 29	INSURANCE DISCRIMINATION <Pending Referral> -- Invited & Public Testimony --		
+ HB 97	SELF-STORAGE UNITS: LIENS; SALES <Pending Referral> -- Invited & Public Testimony --		
+	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled **Streamed live on AKL.tv**		

LABOR & COMMERCE

May 01	Wednesday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	1:30 PM
+ HB 237	TEMPORARY PERMIT FOR LAPSED NURSE LICENSE -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --		
+ = HB 97	SELF-STORAGE UNITS: LIENS; SALES		
+ = HB 29	INSURANCE DISCRIMINATION -- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --		
+ HB 226	PHARMACIES/PHARMACISTS/BENEFITS MANAGERS <Pending Referral> -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --		
+ HB 309	DELEGATION OF ROUTINE OPTOMETRY SERVICES -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --		
+ HB 285	MAMMOGRAMS: INSURANCE COVERAGE <Pending Referral> <Bill Hearing Canceled> -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --		
+ HB 254	BLOCK PORNOGRAPHY TO MINORS; SOCIAL MEDIA -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --		
+	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled **Streamed live on AKL.tv**		

May 03	Friday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	1:30 PM
+ = SB 225	OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING FEES -- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --		
+	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled **Streamed live on AKL.tv**		

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RESOURCES

May 01	Wednesday	Butrovich 205	3:30 PM
+= HB 50	CARBON STORAGE -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --		
+	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled **Streamed live on AKL.tv**		
May 03	Friday	Butrovich 205	3:30 PM
+	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled **Streamed live on AKL.tv**		

STATE AFFAIRS

Apr 30	Tuesday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	3:30 PM
+= HB 265	CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE MATERIAL <Bill Hearing Canceled> -- Public Testimony --		
+ HB 316	EMERG WIRELESS DEVICE LOCATION DISCLOSURE -- Invited & Public Testimony --		
+ SB 229	GUN VIOLENCE PROTECTIVE ORDERS -- Invited & Public Testimony --		
+ HB 293	VEHICLES:REGISTER;TRANSFER; INS.; LICENSE <Pending Referral> <Bill Hearing Canceled>		
+= SB 208	VEHICLES:REGISTER;TRANSFER; INS.; LICENSE -- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --		
+	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled **Streamed live on AKL.tv**		
May 02	Thursday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	3:30 PM
+ HB 293	VEHICLES:REGISTER;TRANSFER; INS.; LICENSE <Pending Referral>		
+= SB 208	VEHICLES:REGISTER;TRANSFER; INS.; LICENSE -- Public Testimony --		
+	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled **Streamed live on AKL.tv**		

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TRANSPORTATION

Apr 30	Tuesday	Butrovich 205	1:30 PM
+ SB 263	ROADS & HWYS ADV BOARD; IMPROVEMENT PRGM		
	-- Invited & Public Testimony --		
+ HB 395	TRANSFER OF RAILROAD PROPERTY		
	-- Testimony <Invitation Only> --		
+	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
May 02	Thursday	Butrovich 205	1:30 PM
+	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled:		
+ HB 395	TRANSFER OF RAILROAD PROPERTY		
	-- Public Testimony --		

JOINT COMMITTEES

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET & AUDIT

May 09	Thursday	Adams 519	5:00 PM
+	I. Approval of Minutes - April 4, 2024		
	II. Executive Session - Audit		
	a. Release of the FY23 State Single Audit		
	Teleconferenced: Juneau (907)586-9085, Anchorage		
	(907)563-9085, Outside Juneau & Anchorage		
	(844)586-9085		

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Apr 30	Tuesday	Senate Finance 532	5:30 PM
+	I. Approval of Minutes		
	a. February 28, 2024		
+	II. Ratification of Charity Events		
	a. Legislative Skits - April 27		
	b. Victim Services Awards - April 25		
+	III. Contract Approvals		
	a. FY25 Hardware Refresh		
	IV. Executive Session		
	a. RFP 672 Office Space in Anchorage (OVR)		
+	V. Committee Business		
	a. Travel and Per Diem Policy Amendment re:		
	Wallet Funds		
	b. Four-Year Technology Plan, 2024-2027		
	c. Social Media Policy Update		

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OTHER MEETINGS

JOINT SESSION

May 07	Tuesday	House Chamber	11:00 AM
+	Consideration of Governor's Appointments to Boards & Commissions		