

HOUSE JOURNAL
ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION

Juneau, Alaska

Wednesday

February 26, 2025

Thirty-seventh Day

Pursuant to adjournment the House was called to order by Speaker Edgmon at 10:36 a.m.

Roll call showed 38 members present. Representative Dibert had been excused from a call of the House today. Representative Vance was absent and later excused (page 253).

The invocation was offered by the Chaplain, Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church. Representative Story moved and asked unanimous consent that the invocation be spread on the journal. There being no objection, it was so ordered.

Honoring the tradition of all, I share some of the commands from Jesus out of my tradition:

Jesus says *wake up* over a dozen times. Wake up to the life you are living. Wake up because something is coming that is going to need all your energy and strength. Awaken, shake off the excuses, apathy, and lethargy, and engage wholeheartedly in the business before us.

Jesus says *peace be with you* over 15 times and *love* 17 times. Peace and love - they are not feelings, but ways of wholeness and healing for the community. Peace and love are about seeing the big picture where all are fed, where justice prevails, and harmony triumphs.

HOUSE JOURNAL

246

February 26, 2025

Jesus says *do not be afraid* over 20 times. So be of good courage and do the bold thing, gird up your loins and seek justice, do not be afraid to love, to do the right thing, to make sacrifices.

The command to *pay attention* occurs over 100 times in the gospels - more than any other command. Listen to your life, to each other, to the spirit. Open your eyes to pay attention to those who are often invisible, children, the elderly, the poor, the lost. As Frederick Buechner wrote, *To love God means to pay attention. Be mindful. Be open to the possibility that God is with you in ways that, unless you have your eyes open, you may never glimpse.*

Wake up, peace and love be with you, do not be afraid and pay attention. Those are the commands and that is my prayer for you today. Amen.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Representative Hall.

CERTIFICATION OF THE JOURNAL

Representative Kopp moved and asked unanimous consent that the journal for the 35th and 36th legislative days be approved as certified by the Chief Clerk. There being no objection, it was so ordered.

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Representative Johnson introduced Yaquina and Heceta Repnow, Guest Pages, from Palmer, Alaska.

MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE

A message dated February 24 was read stating the Senate passed the following, and they are transmitted for consideration:

**FIRST READING AND REFERENCE
OF SENATE BILLS****SB 60**

SENATE BILL NO. 60 by Senator Tobin, entitled:

"An Act establishing May 12 as Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Day of Recognition."

was read the first time and referred to the Health & Social Services Committee.

SB 79

SENATE BILL NO. 79 by the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee, entitled:

"An Act relating to wage payments."

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

COMMUNICATIONS

The following were received:

Dept. of Administration
Monetary Terms of Agreement
Between the State and the Alaska Correctional Officer Association
February 24, 2025
(as required by AS 23.40.215)

The Speaker referred the monetary terms to the Finance Committee.

Dept. of Commerce, Community, & Economic Development
Division of Corporations, Business, and Professional Licensing
Military Courtesy Licensing Biennial Report
(as required by AS 08.01.063)

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**HB 25**

The State Affairs Committee considered:

HOUSE BILL NO. 25

"An Act relating to disposable food service ware; and providing for an effective date."

The report was signed by Representative Carrick, Chair, with the following individual recommendations:

Do pass (4): Holland, Himschoot, Story, Carrick

Amend (2): McCabe, Moore

The following fiscal note(s) apply:

1. Zero, Dept. of Environmental Conservation

HB 25 was referred to the Labor & Commerce Committee.

SB 87

The Rules Committee considered:

SENATE BILL NO. 87

"An Act disapproving the recommendations of the State Officers Compensation Commission; and providing for an effective date."

The report was signed by Representative Stutes, Chair, with the following individual recommendations:

Do pass (6): Costello, Edgmon, Kopp, Schrage, Tilton, Stutes

The following fiscal note(s) apply:

1. Zero, Legislative Agency

SB 87 was returned to the Rules Committee.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The House Special Committee on Fisheries reviewed the qualifications of the following and recommends the appointments be forwarded to a joint session for consideration:

Mary Swain

as a member of the Fishermen's Fund Advisory and Appeals Council.

Rick Green

as a member of the Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission.

The report was signed by Representative Stutes, Chair; and Representatives Kopp, Edgmon, Himschoot, McCabe.

HB 17

The House Special Committee on Military & Veterans' Affairs considered:

HOUSE BILL NO. 17

"An Act relating to retirement benefits and military service."

The report was signed by Representative Eischeid, Chair, with the following individual recommendations:

Do pass (7): Hall, Fields, Saddler, Gray, Allard, Nelson, Eischeid

The following fiscal note(s) apply:

1. Indeterminate, Dept. of Administration

HB 17 was referred to the Finance Committee.

INTRODUCTION OF CITATIONS

The following citations were introduced and referred to the Rules Committee for placement on the calendar:

Honoring - Sandy Fortier

By Representatives Story, Hannan; Senator Kiehl

HOUSE JOURNAL

250

February 26, 2025

In Memoriam - Yéil Xhoosh John Wilson, Jr.
By Representatives Story, Hannan; Senator Kiehl

In Memoriam - Mark Edward Withrow
By Senator Stevens; Representative Stutes

INTRODUCTION, FIRST READING, AND REFERENCE OF HOUSE RESOLUTIONS

HCR 3

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3 by Representative Rauscher:

Establishing the Joint Legislative Task Force on Artificial Intelligence.

was read the first time and referred to the Community & Regional Affairs and State Affairs Committees.

HJR 11

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 11 by Representative Kopp:

Recognizing and honoring the relationship between Canada and Alaska.

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

INTRODUCTION, FIRST READING, AND REFERENCE OF HOUSE BILLS

HB 114

HOUSE BILL NO. 114 by Representative Carrick, entitled:

"An Act relating to the Alaska permanent fund; relating to permanent fund dividends; relating to the use of state income from mineral lease rentals, royalties, royalty sale proceeds, federal mineral revenue sharing payments, and bonuses from mineral leases; relating to contributions from permanent fund dividends to the general and permanent funds; and providing for an effective

HOUSE JOURNAL

February 26, 2025

251

date."

was read the first time and referred to the State Affairs and Finance Committees.

HB 115

HOUSE BILL NO. 115 by Representative Gray, entitled:

"An Act relating to increases in rent for dwelling units."

was read the first time and referred to the State Affairs and Labor & Commerce Committees.

HB 116

HOUSE BILL NO. 116 by the House Special Committee on Fisheries by request of the Joint Legislative Task Force Evaluating Alaska's Seafood Industry, entitled:

"An Act exempting from insurance regulation cooperative agreements entered into by two or more persons engaged in commercial fishing for the purpose of paying claims or losses."

was read the first time and referred to the House Special Committee on Fisheries and the Labor & Commerce Committee.

HB 117

HOUSE BILL NO. 117 by the House Special Committee on Fisheries, entitled:

"An Act relating to commercial set gillnet fishing; and providing for an effective date."

was read the first time and referred to the House Special Committee on Fisheries and the Resources Committee.

HB 118

HOUSE BILL NO. 118 by Representatives Vance and Underwood, entitled:

"An Act establishing the Council on Human and Sex Trafficking; and providing for an effective date."

was read the first time and referred to the Judiciary and Finance Committees.

HB 119

HOUSE BILL NO. 119 by Representatives Stapp, Carrick, Prax, Tomaszewski, Elam, Allard, and Schwanke, entitled:

"An Act relating to an in-state natural gas pipeline developed by the Alaska Gasline Development Corporation; and providing for an effective date."

was read the first time and referred to the State Affairs and Resources Committees.

HB 120

HOUSE BILL NO. 120 by Representatives McCabe and Coulombe, entitled:

"An Act relating to the sale of the Alaska Railroad; and providing for an effective date."

was read the first time and referred to the Transportation and Finance Committees.

CONSIDERATION OF THE DAILY CALENDAR**LEGISLATIVE CITATIONS**

Representative Kopp moved and asked unanimous consent that the House approve the citations on the calendar. There being no objection, the following citations were approved and sent to enrolling:

Honoring - Coach Jeannie Hebert-Truax
By Representatives Underwood, Moore; Senator Yundt

Honoring - Jack Hébert
By Senator Hoffman

In Memoriam - Carol Chan Christiansen

HOUSE JOURNAL

February 26, 2025

253

By Representative Johnson

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Representative Kopp moved and asked unanimous consent that the House ratify the appointment of H. Conner Thomas to the Select Committee on Legislative Ethics.

The question being: "Shall the House ratify the appointment of H. Conner Thomas to the Select Committee on Legislative Ethics?" The roll was taken with the following result:

Select Committee on Legislative Ethics

Ratify - H. Conner Thomas

YEAS: 38 NAYS: 0 EXCUSED: 1 ABSENT: 1

Yeas: Allard, Burke, Bynum, Carrick, Costello, Coulombe, Edgmon, Eischeid, Elam, Fields, Foster, Galvin, Gray, Hall, Hannan, Himschoot, Holland, Jimmie, Johnson, Josephson, Kopp, McCabe, Mears, Mina, Moore, Nelson, Prax, Rauscher, Ruffridge, Saddler, Schrage, Schwanke, Stapp, Story, Stutes, Tilton, Tomaszewski, Underwood

Excused: Dibert

Absent: Vance

And so, the appointment was ratified.

Representative Kopp moved and asked unanimous consent that Representative Vance be excused from a call of the House today. There being no objection, it was so ordered.

Representative Kopp moved and asked unanimous consent that the House ratify the appointment of Carl Symons White to the Select Committee on Legislative Ethics.

The question being: "Shall the House ratify the appointment of Carl Symons White to the Select Committee on Legislative Ethics?" The roll was taken with the following result:

Select Committee on Legislative Ethics

Ratify - Carl Symons White

HOUSE JOURNAL

254

February 26, 2025

YEAS: 38 NAYS: 0 EXCUSED: 2 ABSENT: 0

Yeas: Allard, Burke, Bynum, Carrick, Costello, Coulombe, Edgmon, Eischeid, Elam, Fields, Foster, Galvin, Gray, Hall, Hannan, Himschoot, Holland, Jimmie, Johnson, Josephson, Kopp, McCabe, Mears, Mina, Moore, Nelson, Prax, Rauscher, Ruffridge, Saddler, Schrage, Schwanke, Stapp, Story, Stutes, Tilton, Tomaszewski, Underwood

Excused: Dibert, Vance

And so, the appointment was ratified.

Representative Kopp moved and asked unanimous consent that the House ratify the appointment of Linda G. Cox, alternate, to the Select Committee on Legislative Ethics.

The question being: "Shall the House ratify the appointment of Linda G. Cox, alternate, to the Select Committee on Legislative Ethics?" The roll was taken with the following result:

Select Committee on Legislative Ethics
Ratify - Linda G. Cox, Alternate

YEAS: 38 NAYS: 0 EXCUSED: 2 ABSENT: 0

Yeas: Allard, Burke, Bynum, Carrick, Costello, Coulombe, Edgmon, Eischeid, Elam, Fields, Foster, Galvin, Gray, Hall, Hannan, Himschoot, Holland, Jimmie, Johnson, Josephson, Kopp, McCabe, Mears, Mina, Moore, Nelson, Prax, Rauscher, Ruffridge, Saddler, Schrage, Schwanke, Stapp, Story, Stutes, Tilton, Tomaszewski, Underwood

Excused: Dibert, Vance

And so, the appointment was ratified.

The Chief Clerk notified the Senate.

Representative Kopp moved and asked unanimous consent that the following members be excused from a call of the House. There being no objection, the members were excused as noted:

HOUSE JOURNAL

February 26, 2025

255

Representative Carrick – from noon to 6:00 p.m., February 28

Representative Eischeid – from:

6:00 a.m., March 7 to 10:00 p.m., March 9
noon, April 4 to 10:00 p.m., April 6

HJR 5

Representatives Holland, Tomaszewski, Stapp, Story, Burke, Johnson, Nelson, and Hall added as cosponsors to:

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 5

Urging the United States Congress and the President of the United States to reinstate the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 and make the funding mechanism in the Act permanent.

HB 49

Representative Galvin added as a cosponsor to:

HOUSE BILL NO. 49

"An Act relating to tobacco, tobacco products, electronic smoking products, nicotine, and products containing nicotine; raising the minimum age to purchase, exchange, or possess tobacco, a product containing nicotine, or an electronic smoking product; relating to the tobacco use education and cessation fund; relating to the taxation of electronic smoking products and vapor products; and providing for an effective date."

HB 89

Representative Hannan added as a cosponsor to:

HOUSE BILL NO. 89

"An Act relating to gun violence protective orders; relating to the crime of violating a protective order; relating to a central registry for protective orders; relating to the powers of district judges and magistrates; amending Rules 4 and 65, Alaska Rules of Civil Procedure, and Rule 9, Alaska Rules of Administration; and providing for an effective date."

February 26, 2025

ANNOUNCEMENTS

House committee schedules are published under separate cover.

ADJOURNMENT

Representative Kopp moved and asked unanimous consent that the House adjourn until 10:30 a.m., February 28. There being no objection, the House adjourned at 12:06 p.m.

Crystaline Jones
Chief Clerk