

HOUSE JOURNAL

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

Juneau, Alaska

Monday

March 24, 2025

Sixty-third Day

Pursuant to adjournment the House was called to order by Speaker Edgmon at 10:35 a.m.

Roll call showed 38 members present. Representative Vance had been excused from a call of the House today.

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

The invocation was offered by the Chaplain, Douglas K. Mertz of the Juneau Friends Meeting. Representative Story moved and asked unanimous consent that the invocation be spread on the journal. There being no objection, it was so ordered.

With deep respect for the beliefs of all persons, I offer these words:

God, help us to focus on what is important.

Help us to let go of all the little things that don't matter.

Help us to let go of what blocks the spirit.

Help us to focus on what promotes justice and peace.

Help us to embrace respect for all voices in this chamber and for all voices in our great land.

Help us to have courage in the face of adversity. Amen.

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The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Representative Moore.

CERTIFICATION OF THE JOURNAL

Representative Kopp moved and asked unanimous consent that the journal for the 60th, 61st, and 62nd legislative days be approved as certified by the Chief Clerk. There being no objection, it was so ordered.

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Representative Ruffridge introduced his children Ellison and Lillian Ruffridge, Guest Pages, from Soldotna.

COMMUNICATIONS

The following was received:

Department of Law
Monetary Terms of Agreement Between the State and the Alaska Vocational Technical Center Teachers' Association
(as required by AS 23.40.215 and AO 356)

The Speaker referred the monetary terms to the Finance Committee.

INTRODUCTION OF CITATIONS

The following citation was introduced and taken up later as a Special Order of Business:

Honoring - Dorine Grace McCall
By Senators Kaufman, Merrick; Representative Saddler

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

Honoring - Emily Robinson
By Representatives Moore, Schwanke; Senator Cronk

In Memoriam - Elizabeth Ann "Betsy" Sharp
By Representative Prax; Senator Myers

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

Representative Kopp moved and asked unanimous consent that the notice and publication requirements be waived and the citation, Honoring - Dorine Grace McCall, be taken up as a Special Order of Business. There being no objection, it was so ordered.

Representative Kopp moved and asked unanimous consent that the House approve the citation. There being no objection, the following citation was approved and sent to enrolling:

Honoring - Dorine Grace McCall
By Senators Kaufman, Merrick; Representative Saddler

**INTRODUCTION, FIRST READING, AND REFERENCE
OF HOUSE RESOLUTIONS****HCR 4**

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4 by Representative Saddler:

Proclaiming May 2025 as Myositis Awareness Month.

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

HJR 15

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 15 by Representatives Holland, Coulombe, and Fields:

Urging the Governor, the Department of Natural Resources, division of forestry and fire protection, the Department of Public Safety, municipalities of the state and relevant wildfire planning and response agencies, and the Alaska delegation in Congress to prepare for the 2025 wildfire season.

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

**INTRODUCTION, FIRST READING, AND REFERENCE
OF HOUSE BILLS****HB 151**

HOUSE BILL NO. 151 by Representatives Galvin and Fields, entitled:

"An Act relating to continuous eligibility for medical assistance for children under six years of age; and providing for an effective date."

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

HB 152

HOUSE BILL NO. 152 by Representative Galvin, entitled:

"An Act establishing an education tax on the income of individuals, partners, shareholders in S corporations, trusts, and estates; repealing tax credits applied against the tax on individuals under the Alaska Net Income Tax Act; and providing for an effective date."

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

HB 153

HOUSE BILL NO. 153 by Representative Holland, entitled:

"An Act relating to generation of electricity from renewable energy resources; relating to a renewable portfolio standard; relating to power cost equalization; and providing for an effective date."

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

HB 154

HOUSE BILL NO. 154 by Representatives Mears and Fields, entitled:

"An Act relating to the summer electronic benefits transfer program for children."

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

CONSIDERATION OF THE DAILY CALENDAR

SECOND READING OF HOUSE BILLS

HB 121

The following was read the second time:

HOUSE BILL NO. 121

"An Act relating to the practice of accounting; and providing for an effective date."

with the:

Journal Page

L&C RPT 5DP 1NR	477
FN1: ZERO(CED)	477

Representative Kopp moved and asked unanimous consent that HB 121 be considered engrossed, advanced to third reading, and placed on final passage. There being no objection, it was so ordered.

HB 121 was read the third time.

The question being: "Shall HB 121 pass the House?" The roll was taken with the following result:

HB 121

Third Reading

Final Passage

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

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

Excused: Jimmie, Vance

And so, HB 121 passed the House.

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Representative Kopp moved and asked unanimous consent that the roll call on the passage of the bill be considered the roll call on the effective date clause. There being no objection, it was so ordered.

HB 121 was referred to the Chief Clerk for engrossment.

SECOND READING OF HOUSE RESOLUTIONS

HJR 11

The following was read the second time:

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 11

Recognizing and honoring the relationship between Canada and Alaska.

with the:

Journal Page

RES RPT CS(RES) 7DP 1NR	475
FN1: ZERO(H.RES)	475

Representative Kopp moved and asked unanimous consent that the following committee substitute be adopted in lieu of the original resolution:

CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 11(RES) (same title)

There being no objection, it was so ordered.

Amendment No. 1 was offered by Representative Stapp:

Page 4, line 2, following "measures":
Insert "or tolls"

Representative Stapp moved and asked unanimous consent that Amendment No. 1 be adopted.

Representative Josephson objected and withdrew the objection. There being no further objection, Amendment No. 1 was adopted.

Amendment No. 2 was offered by Representative McCabe:

Page 3, following line 20:

Insert new material to read:

"WHEREAS the Alaska-Canada Highway and other vital road connections serve as critical lifelines for the movement of goods, people, and services between Alaska and the rest of the United States through Canadian territory, fostering economic stability and security for both regions; and

WHEREAS the Alaska State Legislature is deeply concerned by any threats or actions by Canada to shut down roads into Alaska, including the Alaska-Canada Highway, which would disrupt this essential connectivity and undermine the spirit of cooperation enshrined in our shared history and agreements; and

WHEREAS such actions could jeopardize funding commitments, including those for the repair and maintenance of the Shakwak road, a project vital to the safety and economic well-being of Alaskans and Canadians alike, as well as threaten the broader framework of Canada-Alaska agreements that support trade, infrastructure, and mutual prosperity; and

WHEREAS maintaining open and reliable transportation links is fundamental to honoring the economic, cultural, and strategic partnership between Alaska and Canada, as reinforced by the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement and decades of collaboration; and"

Representative McCabe moved and asked unanimous consent that Amendment No. 2 be adopted.

Representative Kopp objected and withdrew the objection. There being no further objection, Amendment No. 2 was adopted.

Amendment No. 3 was offered by Representative Himschoot:

Page 2, following line 24:

Insert new material to read:

"WHEREAS the vast, glaciated Taku, Stikine, Unuk, Salmon, and other transboundary rivers that flow from the boreal forest of British Columbia into Southeast Alaska have been centers of culture and commerce for thousands of years for people on both sides of the Alaska and Canada border, and the State of Alaska, the Province of British Columbia, the United States, Canada, Indigenous governments, and communities have the opportunity to work together to steward

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shared resources, while also ensuring commitments outlined in current agreements are upheld; and"

Representative Himschoot moved and asked unanimous consent that Amendment No. 3 be adopted. There being no objection, Amendment No. 3 was adopted.

Representative Kopp moved and asked unanimous consent that CSHJR 11(RES) am be considered engrossed, advanced to third reading, and placed on final passage. There being no objection, it was so ordered.

CSHJR 11(RES) am was read the third time.

The question being: "Shall CSHJR 11(RES) am pass the House?" The roll was taken with the following result:

CSHJR 11(RES) am

Third Reading

Final Passage

YEAS: 33 NAYS: 4 EXCUSED: 2 ABSENT: 1

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

Nays: Allard, Elam, Prax, Tilton

Excused: Jimmie, Vance

Absent: Johnson

And so, CSHJR 11(RES) am passed the House and was referred to the Chief Clerk for engrossment.

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 - Ron Meehan

By Representatives Eischeid, Mina; Senator Wielechowski

Honoring - May Ramirez-Xiong

By Representative Eischeid; Senators Wielechowski, Gray-Jackson

Honoring - Brandon Boylan

By Representative Carrick

Honoring - Kueni Ma'ake

By Representatives Story, Hannan; Senator Kiehl

Honoring - Northland Youth Choir, 25th Anniversary

By Representatives Tomaszewski, Prax; Senator Cronk

Honoring - Alaska Literacy Program (ALP), 50th Anniversary

By Representatives Mina, Gray; Senator Dunbar

Honoring - Filipino Community of Anchorage, Alaska Inc., 60th Anniversary

By Representatives Mina, Eischeid; Senator Gray-Jackson

Honoring - Ursa Major Distilling, 10th Anniversary

By Representative Carrick

Honoring - Michelle Odlin

By Senator Stevens; Representative Stutes

Honoring - Mariya Lovishchuck

By Senator Kiehl; Representatives Story, Hannan

Honoring - Ashley Conlon

By Senators Tobin, Claman; Representative Hall

Honoring - Fairbanks Drama Association and Fairbanks Children's Theatre, 60th Anniversary

By Senator Kawasaki; Representative Dibert

Honoring - Fairbanks Montessori School, 60th Anniversary

By Senator Kawasaki; Representative Dibert

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Honoring - The Breast Cancer Detection Center of Alaska, 50th Anniversary

By Senator Kawasaki; Representatives Dibert, Carrick

In Memoriam - Kameron Hartvigson

By Representatives Underwood, Moore, Coulombe

In Memoriam - Donna Gilbert

By Senator Myers; Representatives Prax, Tomaszewski

In Memoriam - Kay Marie Sanders

By Senator Myers; Representative Prax

In Memoriam - Peter Charles Evans

By Senators Myers, Cronk; Representative Stapp

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Pursuant to AS 24.55.020, the Speaker appointed the following members to meet with appointees from the Senate to form the ombudsman selection committee:

Representative Kopp

Representative Josephson

Representative Tomaszewski

HJR 11

Representative Rauscher removed as a cosponsor and Representatives Hannan, Josephson, Himschoot, Galvin, Stutes, and Schrage added as cosponsors to:

CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 11(RES) am

Recognizing and honoring the relationship between Canada and Alaska.

HB 36

Representative Mina added as a cosponsor to:

HOUSE BILL NO. 36

"An Act relating to the placement of foster children in psychiatric hospitals; relating to the care of children in state custody placed in

residential facilities outside the state; and amending Rule 12.1(b), Alaska Child in Need of Aid Rules of Procedure."

HB 121

Representatives Nelson, Stapp, Story, Costello, and Galvin added as cosponsors to:

HOUSE BILL NO. 121

"An Act relating to the practice of accounting; and providing for an effective date."

HB 143

Representative Schwanke added as a cosponsor to:

HOUSE BILL NO. 143

"An Act relating to the privacy of firearm transactions; relating to discrimination against firearm retailers by financial institutions and payment networks; relating to the disclosure of financial records by financial institutions and payment networks; and amending Rules 65 and 82, Alaska Rules of Civil Procedure."

HB 147

Representative Schwanke added as a cosponsor to:

HOUSE BILL NO. 147

"An Act relating to the practice of naturopathy."

ENGROSSMENT**HJR 11**

CSHJR 11(RES) am was engrossed, signed by the Speaker and Chief Clerk, and transmitted to the Senate for consideration.

HB 121

HB 121 was engrossed, signed by the Speaker and Chief Clerk, and transmitted to the Senate for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

House committee schedules are published under separate cover.

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ADJOURNMENT

Representative Kopp moved and asked unanimous consent that the House adjourn until 10:30 a.m., March 26. There being no objection, the House adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Crystaline Jones
Chief Clerk