

**HOUSE JOURNAL**  
**ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE**  
**THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE**  
**SECOND SESSION**

**Juneau, Alaska**

**Monday**

**March 16, 2026**

**Fifty-sixth Day**

Pursuant to adjournment the House was called to order by Speaker Edgmon at 10:41 a.m.

Roll call showed 39 members present. Representative Kopp moved and asked unanimous consent that Representative Allard be excused from a call of the House today. There being no objection, it was so ordered.

The invocation was offered by the Chaplain, Reverend Fred La Plante of the Juneau Church of the Nazarene. Representative Story moved and asked unanimous consent that the invocation be spread on the journal. There being no objection, it was so ordered.

With the deepest respect for the religious beliefs of all Alaskans, I offer the following prayer:

Heavenly Father, thank you for the privilege of public service and for each representative gathered in this chamber today. On this fifty-sixth day of the session, as they stand at the halfway point of their work, grant them renewed strength for what still lies ahead.

Give them wisdom that is steady, humility that is teachable, and courage that is anchored in what is right. Guard them from weariness of body, criticalness of spirit, and discouragement of heart. Help them to listen carefully, speak truthfully, and labor faithfully for the good of all Alaskans.

As we remember this date in Alaska's history, when Treadwell on Douglas Island was incorporated and communities were being built through vision, sacrifice, and hard work, remind these leaders that they too are helping shape the life of this state for generations to come.

Bless them with clarity in debate, integrity in decision-making, and grace toward one another. May their service be marked by diligence, fairness, and a sincere desire for the common good. In Your name I pray, Amen.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Representative Bynum.

### **CERTIFICATION OF THE JOURNAL**

Representative Kopp moved and asked unanimous consent that the journal for the 52nd, 53rd, 54th, and 55th legislative days be approved as certified by the Chief Clerk. There being no objection, it was so ordered.

### **MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR**

A letter dated March 13 was read stating that, in accordance with AS 39.05.080 and art. III, secs. 26 and 27, Constitution of the State of Alaska, the Governor submits the following name for legislative confirmation of appointment to the position noted.

The Speaker referred the following to the Labor & Commerce Committee:

#### **Alaska Workers' Compensation Board**

Lake Williams – Fairbanks

Appointed: 5/14/2014	Term Expired: 1/19/2015
Reappointed: 1/19/2015	Term Expired: 3/1/2017
Reappointed: 3/1/2017	Term Expired: 3/1/2020
Reappointed: 3/1/2020	Term Expired: 3/10/2023
Reappointed: 3/10/2023	Term Expired: 3/1/2026
Reappointed: 3/12/2026	Term Expires: 3/1/2029

A resume for the appointment is on file in the Chief Clerk's office.

**MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE**

**HCR 11**

A message dated March 13 was read stating the Senate passed:

**HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 11**

Extending the governor's October 9, 2025, declaration of a disaster emergency in response to the 2025 West Coast Storm.

HCR 11 was referred to the Chief Clerk for enrollment.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Letters of disclosure received from the Select Committee on Legislative Ethics, as required by AS 24.60, were published in House Journal Supplement No. 13 and Senate and House Joint Journal Supplement No. 17.

The following was received:

Office of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program  
Annual Report  
FFY 2025  
(as required by 42 U.S.C. 3058)

**REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

**HJR 28**

The Education Committee considered:

**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 28**

Calling on the United States Congress to pass the Kids Online Safety Act.

The report was signed by Representatives Himschoot and Story, Co-chairs, with the following individual recommendations:

Do pass (7): Elam, Dibert, Schwanke, Underwood, Eischeid, Himschoot, Story

The following fiscal note(s) apply:

1. Zero, Legislative Agency

HJR 28 was referred to the Judiciary Committee.

**HJR 38**

The Labor & Commerce Committee considered:

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 38

Urging the United States Congress to recognize public safety telecommunicators as first responders; and urging the United States Congress to pass the Enhancing First Response Act.

The report was signed by Representatives Fields and Hall, Co-chairs, with the following individual recommendations:

Do pass (6): Frier, Coulombe, Carrick, D. Nelson, Fields, Hall

The following fiscal note(s) apply:

1. Zero, Legislative Agency

HJR 38 was referred to the Rules Committee.

**HJR 39**

The Education Committee considered:

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 39

Urging the federal government to waive the new H-1B Visa fees for teachers in the state.

The report was signed by Representatives Story and Himschoot, Co-chairs, with the following individual recommendations:

Do pass (6): Eischeid, Underwood, Dibert, Schwanke, Story, Himschoot

Amend (1): Elam

The following fiscal note(s) apply:

1. Zero, Legislative Agency

HJR 39 was referred to the Rules Committee.

### **HB 221**

The State Affairs Committee considered:

HOUSE BILL NO. 221

"An Act establishing June 21 as Alaska Arts and Culture Day; and providing for an effective date."

and recommends it be replaced with:

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 221(STA)

"An Act establishing the first Friday of every October as Alaska Arts and Culture Day; and providing for an effective date."

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

Do pass (3): Holland, Story, Carrick

No recommendation (1): Himschoot

The following fiscal note(s) apply to CSHB 221(STA):

1. Zero, Office of the Governor/Combined

HB 221 was referred to the Rules Committee.

### **HB 316**

The Judiciary Committee considered:

HOUSE BILL NO. 316

"An Act adjusting for inflation the limit for damages for losses that may be awarded for a personal injury or wrongful death."

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

Do pass (3): Mina, Eischeid, Gray

No recommendation (2): Underwood, Vance

The following fiscal note(s) apply:

1. Indeterminate, Dept. of Administration
2. Zero, Alaska Judiciary System

HB 316 was referred to the Labor & Commerce Committee.

### **INTRODUCTION OF CITATIONS**

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

Honoring - John Shively  
By Representatives McCabe, Costello, Fields

Honoring - Lori Wing-Heier  
By Representatives McCabe, Fields, Stutes

Honoring - Dan Polta  
By Representative McCabe; Senator Cronk

Honoring - Joseph J. Kim  
By Senator Tilton

Honoring - Fire Chief Chad Heineken  
By Senator Myers; Representatives Prax, Tomaszewski

Honoring - Dr. Kimberlee Beckmen  
By Senator Myers; Representatives Mears, Carrick

Honoring - University of Alaska Fairbanks Native Arts Center, 60th Anniversary  
By Senator Myers; Representatives Dibert, Jimmie

Honoring - The United States Declaration of Independence, 250th Anniversary  
By Senators Myers, Tilton; Representative Allard

In Memoriam - Brenda Itta-Lee  
By Representative Frier; Senator Olson

In Memoriam - Dr. John Alden  
By Senator Myers; Representatives Schwanke, Tomaszewski

In Memoriam - Dr. Edmond "Ed" Packee  
By Senator Myers; Representatives Schwanke, Tomaszewski

In Memoriam - Dr. Theresa Hollingsworth  
By Senator Myers; Representatives Schwanke, Tomaszewski

In Memoriam - Jenae Campanelli  
By Senator Myers; Representatives Stapp, Tomaszewski

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

**HJR 44**

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 44 by the House Resources Committee:

Supporting the ability of Alaska Native corporations and entities owned by federally recognized tribes in the state to participate in the United States Small Business Administration's 8(a) Business Development Program.

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

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

**HB 379**

HOUSE BILL NO. 379 by the House State Affairs Committee by request, entitled:

"An Act relating to service areas; and providing for an effective date."

was read the first time and referred to the Community & Regional Affairs and State Affairs 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 - Lillyanne "Ruby" Tansy

By Senator Kawasaki; Representatives Stapp, Dibert

Honoring - Brandon Pili

By Senator Claman; Representative Frier

Honoring - Timothy "Tim" La Porte

By Senator Olson; Representatives McCabe, Foster

Honoring - Charles Edward Cole

By Senator Olson; Representatives Foster, Saddler

Honoring - Dennis & Maggie Gladwin

By Senator Olson; Representative Foster

In Memoriam - Robert John "Bob" Stickney

By Representative Schwanke; Senator Cronk

In Memoriam - Janet Halvarson

By Senator Kawasaki; Representative Prax

In Memoriam - Superior Court Judge Robert Downes

By Senator Kawasaki; Representative Prax

In Memoriam - Patrick "Pat" Shields

By Senator Bjorkman; Representative Ruffridge

In Memoriam - Sherise Jackson

By Senator Bjorkman; Representative Ruffridge

In Memoriam - John "Skip" Dove Jr.

By Senator Bjorkman; Representative Ruffridge

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS****HB 289**

Representative Johnson, citing Uniform Rule 18, moved and asked unanimous consent that the following be withdrawn from the Rules Committee and placed under Unfinished Business for the next legislative day:

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 289(FIN)(brf sup maj fld)

"An Act making appropriations, including supplemental appropriations, capital appropriations, reappropriations, and other appropriations; amending appropriations; capitalizing funds; and providing for an effective date."

Representative Kopp objected.

Representative Ruffridge rose to a point of order regarding impugning the motives of members of the body.

Representative Stutes rose to a point of order regarding citation of rules when rising to a point of order.

The Speaker directed members to observe proper decorum, cite the rules when rising to a point of order, and confine their remarks to the motion before the body.

Representative McCabe, citing Section 92 of Mason's Manual, rose to a point of order regarding interrupting a member speaking.

The Speaker noted his duty to maintain decorum and orderly proceedings.

Representative Stutes, citing Section 122 of Mason's Manual, rose to a point of order regarding impugning the motives of members of the body.

The Speaker cautioned members to refrain from impugning the motives of others.

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The question being: "Shall CSHB 289(FIN)(brf sup maj fld) be withdrawn from the Rules Committee and placed under Unfinished Business for the next legislative day?" The roll was taken with the following result:

CSHB 289(FIN)(brf sup maj fld)  
Withdraw Bill from Rules Committee  
Available Next Legislative Day

**YEAS: 18 NAYS: 21 EXCUSED: 1 ABSENT: 0**

Yeas: Bynum, Costello, Coulombe, Elam, Johnson, McCabe, Moore, D.Nelson, G.Nelson, Prax, Ruffridge, Saddler, Schwanke, St. Clair, Stapp, Tomaszewski, Underwood, Vance

Nays: Carrick, Dibert, Edgmon, Eischeid, Fields, Foster, Frier, Galvin, Gray, Hall, Hannan, Himschoot, Holland, Jimmie, Josephson, Kopp, Mears, Mina, Schrage, Story, Stutes

Excused: Allard

And so, the motion failed.

**HJR 39**

Representative Hall added as a cosponsor to:

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 39

Urging the federal government to waive the new H-1B Visa fees for teachers in the state.

**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., March 18. There being no objection, the House adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

Crystalline Jones  
Chief Clerk