

SENATE JOURNAL

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

Juneau, Alaska

Tuesday

January 21, 2025

First Day

Pursuant to provisions of the Constitution of the State of Alaska, the Uniform Rules of the Alaska State Legislature, and AS 24.05.160, the Senate of the State of Alaska assembled in the Senate chamber for the first regular session of the Thirty-fourth Legislature. The Senate was called to order at 1:09 p.m. by the Honorable Nancy Dahlstrom, Lieutenant Governor.

Colors

The following members of the Girl Scouts of Alaska, led by troop coordinator Alenita Danner, presented the colors:

Isabel Danner
Cagney Davis
Elizabeth DeBartolo
Abigail Dolan
Tori Jacobson
Kimberly Klawonn
Joya McClain
Aamie Tollett Jagodensky
Cora Williams
Gabrielle Williams

The Girl Scouts of Alaska led the Senate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

National Anthem and Alaska Flag Song

"The Star-Spangled Banner" and "Alaska's Flag" were performed by Josiphiah "Jojo" Aevion Mason.

Invocation

The prayer was offered by the Chaplain, Reverend Gordon Blue, Holy Trinity Episcopal Church. Senator Hoffman moved and asked unanimous consent the prayer be spread. Without objection, it was so ordered.

Creator of life, redeemer of the afflicted and spirit of grace, in this season, the Epiphany, the Northern infancy of light, we celebrate our homes and ask your blessing upon them. Make this building the home of blessings for all Alaskans.

Teach us, O Lord, where wisdom is to be found, and show us the place of understanding. The effect of righteousness will be peace, and the result of righteousness tranquility and trust. Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting one, grant to this Capitol the grace of your presence. As the earth puts forth its blossom, or bushes in a garden burst into flower, so shall righteousness and praise blossom before all the nations. Our people will abide in secure dwellings and in quiet resting places. Our boundaries enclose a pleasant land: Indeed, we have a goodly heritage.

Visit, O blessed Lord, this Senate with the gladness of your presence. Bless all who work here with the gift of your love; and grant that they may manifest your respect to each other and to all whose lives they touch.

Be present with your servants in this place, and I pray,
preserve them in peace. Amen.

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Election Certification

Lieutenant Governor Dahlstrom read the certificate of election:

I, Carol Beecher, Director of the Division of Elections for the State of Alaska, do hereby certify that in accordance with the provisions of AS 15.15.450, a General Election was held on the 5th day of November 2024, in the State of Alaska pursuant to AS 15.15.020 and the following are the certified results for the office designated:

Senate District B	Jesse Kiehl	4 year term
Senate District D	Jesse J. Bjorkman	4 year term
Senate District F	James D. Kaufman	4 year term
Senate District H	Matt Claman	4 year term
Senate District J	Forrest Dunbar	4 year term
Senate District L	Kelly R. Merrick	4 year term
Senate District N	Robert Yundt	4 year term
Senate District P	Scott Kawasaki	4 year term
Senate District R	Mike Cronk	4 year term
Senate District T	Donald C. "Donny" Olson	4 year term

In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed hereto the Seal of the State of Alaska, at Juneau, the Capital, this 30th day of November, 2024.

/s/

Carol Beecher, Director
Division of Elections

Lieutenant Governor Dahlstrom requested the following Senators approach the rostrum to be administered the Oath of Office:

Senate District B	Jesse Kiehl	4 year term
Senate District D	Jesse J. Bjorkman	4 year term
Senate District F	James D. Kaufman	4 year term
Senate District H	Matt Claman	4 year term

The Lieutenant Governor administered the Oath of Office to the Senators.

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Lieutenant Governor Dahlstrom requested the following Senators approach the rostrum to be administered the Oath of Office:

Senate District J	Forrest Dunbar	4 year term
Senate District L	Kelly R. Merrick	4 year term
Senate District N	Robert Yundt	4 year term

The Lieutenant Governor administered the Oath of Office to the Senators.

Lieutenant Governor Dahlstrom requested the following Senators approach the rostrum to be administered the Oath of Office:

Senate District P	Scott Kawasaki	4 year term
Senate District R	Mike Cronk	4 year term
Senate District T	Donald C. "Donny" Olson	4 year term

The Lieutenant Governor administered the Oath of Office to the Senators.

President Pro Tempore

Lieutenant Governor Dahlstrom announced nominations were in order for President pro tempore of the Senate.

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent Senator Hoffman be nominated President pro tempore of the Senate.

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent nominations for President pro tempore of the Senate be closed. Without objection, it was so ordered.

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent Senator Hoffman be elected President pro tempore. There being no objection, Senator Hoffman was elected President pro tempore of the Senate.

Lieutenant Governor Dahlstrom requested Senator Tobin and Senator Olson escort the President pro tempore to the rostrum.

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President pro tempore Hoffman requested Senator Tobin and Senator Olson escort the Lieutenant Governor from the chamber.

President pro tempore Hoffman announced that pursuant to AS 24.05.120, the Uniform Rules in effect during the previous legislature would serve as the rules of the Thirty-fourth Alaska State Legislature until adoption of permanent rules.

President

President pro tempore Hoffman announced nominations were in order for President of the Senate.

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent Senator Stevens be nominated President of the Senate for the Thirty-fourth Legislature.

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent nominations be closed. Without objection, it was so ordered.

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent Senator Stevens be elected President of the Senate for the Thirty-fourth Legislature. Without objection, Senator Stevens was elected Senate President.

President pro tempore Hoffman requested Senator Stedman and Senator Wielechowski escort President Stevens to the rostrum.

In accordance with Uniform Rule 1(e), President Stevens made the following appointments:

Committee on Committees

Senator Stevens, Chair
Senator Giessel
Senator Hoffman
Senator Wielechowski
Senator Shower

President Stevens appointed Senator Merrick and Senator Kiehl to inform the Governor the Senate was organized and ready to do business.

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President Stevens appointed Senator Dunbar and Senator Bjorkman to inform the House the Senate was organized and ready to do business.

Recess

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the Senate stand in recess. Without objection, the Senate recessed at 1:59 p.m.

After Recess

The Senate reconvened at 2:13 p.m.

Committee on Committees Report

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Mister President:

The Committee on Committees has met and submits to the Senate for its consideration chairs and members of the ten standing committees as approved by the Committee on Committees:

Community and Regional Affairs Committee

Senator Merrick, Chair

Senator Dunbar, Vice Chair

Senator Gray-Jackson

Senator Olson

Senator Yundt

Education Committee

Senator Tobin, Chair

Senator Stevens, Vice Chair

Senator Bjorkman

Senator Kiehl

Senator Cronk

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Finance Committee

Senator Hoffman, Cochair
Senator Olson, Cochair
Senator Stedman, Cochair
Senator Merrick, Vice Chair
Senator Kiehl
Senator Kaufman
Senator Cronk

Health and Social Services Committee

Senator Dunbar, Chair
Senator Giessel, Vice Chair
Senator Claman
Senator Tobin
Senator Hughes

Judiciary Committee

Senator Claman, Chair
Senator Kiehl, Vice Chair
Senator Stevens
Senator Tobin
Senator Myers

Labor and Commerce Committee

Senator Bjorkman, Chair
Senator Merrick, Vice Chair
Senator Gray-Jackson
Senator Dunbar
Senator Yundt

Resources Committee

Senator Giessel, Chair
Senator Wielechowski, Vice Chair
Senator Claman
Senator Dunbar
Senator Kawasaki
Senator Hughes
Senator Myers

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Rules Committee

Senator Wielechowski, Chair
Senator Stevens, Vice Chair
Senator Hoffman
Senator Stedman
Senator Shower

State Affairs Committee

Senator Kawasaki, Chair
Senator Bjorkman, Vice Chair
Senator Wielechowski
Senator Gray-Jackson
Senator Yundt

Transportation Committee

Senator Bjorkman, Chair
Senator Tobin, Vice Chair
Senator Kiehl
Senator Stedman
Senator Shower

The report was signed by Senator Stevens, Chair; Senators Giessel, Hoffman, Wielechowski, Shower.

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the Committee on Committees report be adopted. Without objection, the Committee on Committees report was adopted.

President Stevens announced Senator Giessel will serve as Majority Leader for the Thirty-fourth Legislature.

Introduction and Reference of Senate Resolutions

SR 1

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 1 BY SENATOR GIESSEL,

Establishing a Senate Special Committee on Arctic Affairs.

was read the first time.

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The following fiscal information was published today:

Fiscal Note No. 1, zero, Legislative Agency

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 1 be taken up. Without objection, the resolution was before the Senate on final passage.

The question being: "Shall SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 1 Establishing a Senate Special Committee on Arctic Affairs, pass the Senate?" The roll was taken with the following result:

SR 1

Final Passage

YEAS: 14 NAYS: 6 EXCUSED: 0 ABSENT: 0

Yea: Bjorkman, Claman, Dunbar, Giessel, Gray-Jackson, Hoffman, Kawasaki, Kiehl, Merrick, Olson, Stedman, Stevens, Tobin, Wielechowski

Nay: Cronk, Hughes, Kaufman, Myers, Shower, Yundt

and so, SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 1 passed the Senate and was referred to the Secretary for engrossment and enrollment.

SR 2

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 2 BY SENATOR STEVENS,

Establishing a Senate Special Committee on World Trade.

was read the first time.

The following fiscal information was published today:

Fiscal Note No. 1, zero, Legislative Agency

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 2 be taken up. Without objection, the resolution was before the Senate on final passage.

The question being: "Shall SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 2 Establishing a Senate Special Committee on World Trade, pass the Senate?" The roll was taken with the following result:

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SR 2

Final Passage

YEAS: 20 NAYS: 0 EXCUSED: 0 ABSENT: 0

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

and so, SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 2 passed the Senate and was referred to the Secretary for engrossment and enrollment.

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the further introduction and reference of senate resolutions be held one legislative day. Without objection, it was so ordered.

Introduction and Reference of Senate Bills

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the introduction and reference of senate bills be held one legislative day. Without objection, it was so ordered.

Unfinished Business

Election of Senate Secretary

In accordance with Uniform Rule 3(a) and AS 24.10.030, Senator Wielechowski, Rules Committee Chair, nominated Liz Clark to serve as Senate Secretary for the Thirty-fourth Legislature and moved and asked unanimous consent the nominations be closed. Without objection, it was so ordered.

Senator Wielechowski moved and asked unanimous consent Liz Clark be elected Senate Secretary for the Thirty-fourth Legislature. There being no objection, Liz Clark was elected Senate Secretary for the Thirty-fourth Legislature.

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President Stevens made the following appointments:

Select Committee on Legislative Ethics

(in accordance with AS 24.60.130 and AS 24.60.131)

Senator Stevens

Senator Yundt

Senator Claman, alternate

Senator Cronk, alternate

Senator Giessel moved Senator Stevens and Senator Yundt be ratified as members to the Select Committee on Legislative Ethics.

The question being: "Shall Senator Stevens and Senator Yundt be ratified as members to the Select Committee on Legislative Ethics?" The roll was taken with the following result:

Shall Senator Stevens and Senator Yundt

be ratified as members to the

Select Committee on Legislative Ethics?

YEAS: 20 NAYS: 0 EXCUSED: 0 ABSENT: 0

Yea: Bjorkman, Claman, Cronk, Dunbar, Giessel, Gray-Jackson, Hoffman, Hughes, Kaufman, Kawasaki, Kiehl, Merrick, Myers, Olson, Shower, Stedman, Stevens, Tobin, Wielechowski, Yundt

and so, Senator Stevens and Senator Yundt were ratified as members to the Select Committee on Legislative Ethics.

Senator Giessel moved Senator Claman and Senator Cronk be ratified as alternate members to the Select Committee on Legislative Ethics.

The question being: "Shall Senator Claman and Senator Cronk be ratified as alternate members to the Select Committee on Legislative Ethics?" The roll was taken with the following result:

Shall Senator Claman and Senator Cronk

be ratified as alternate members to the

Select Committee on Legislative Ethics?

YEAS: 20 NAYS: 0 EXCUSED: 0 ABSENT: 0

Yea: Bjorkman, Claman, Cronk, Dunbar, Giessel, Gray-Jackson, Hoffman, Hughes, Kaufman, Kawasaki, Kiehl, Merrick, Myers, Olson, Shower, Stedman, Stevens, Tobin, Wielechowski, Yundt

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and so, Senator Claman and Senator Cronk were ratified as alternate members to the Select Committee on Legislative Ethics.

The Secretary was requested to notify the House.

President Stevens made the following appointments:

Legislative Council

Senator Stevens, Vice Chair
Senator Hoffman
Senator Giessel
Senator Kiehl
Senator Claman
Senator Gray-Jackson
Senator Stedman
Senator Tobin, alternate

Legislative Budget & Audit

Senator Gray-Jackson, Chair
Senator Stedman
Senator Giessel
Senator Hoffman
Senator Wielechowski
Senator Kawasaki, alternate

Joint Armed Services Committee

Senator Kawasaki, Cochair
Senator Wielechowski
Senator Merrick
Senator Dunbar
Senator Shower

SR 1

Senate Special Committee on Arctic Affairs

Senator Giessel, Cochair
Senator Stevens, Cochair
Senator Olson
Senator Wielechowski
Senator Kawasaki

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SR 2

Senate Special Committee on World Trade

Senator Stevens, Cochair
Senator Giessel, Cochair
Senator Olson
Senator Stedman
Senator Wielechowski
Senator Hoffman
Senator Hughes

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., January 22, 2025. Without objection, the Senate adjourned at 2:30 p.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

EDUCATION

Jan 22	Wednesday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	3:30 PM
	No Meeting Scheduled		
Jan 24	Friday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	3:30 PM
	No Meeting Scheduled		

HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES

Jan 21	Tuesday	Butrovich 205	3:30 PM
	No Meeting Scheduled		
Jan 23	Thursday	Butrovich 205	3:30 PM
	Informational Hearing - Department of Health		

RESOURCES

Jan 22	Wednesday	Butrovich 205	3:30 PM
+	Presentation: Furie: Cook Inlet Gas Update		
	Mark Slaughter - Chief Commercial Officer, Furie		
	Presentation: Hilcorp: Cook Inlet Gas Update		
	Luke Saugier - Senior Vice President, Alaska, Hilcorp		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		

RESOURCES (continued)

Jan 24 +	Friday	Butrovich 205	3:30 PM
		Presentation: Enstar: Natural Gas Update	
		John Sims - President, Enstar Natural Gas	
		Presentation: Alaska Energy Authority: Alaska	
		Energy Update	
		Curtis Thayer - Executive Director, Alaska Energy	
		Authority	
		Streamed live on AKI.ty	