

SENATE JOURNAL
ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION

Juneau, Alaska

Friday

January 24, 2025

Fourth Day

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

The roll showed eighteen members present. Senator Tobin was excused from a call of the Senate. Senator Olson was absent.

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.

Spirit of justice, help this Senate to make and keep the great State of Alaska a home for all its different peoples.

You have made us many peoples, but of one blood; preserve our many cultures, and make us also of one mind, as declared by the Psalmist:

In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame; deliver me in your righteousness.

Incline your ear to me; make haste to deliver me.

Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag and my stronghold; for the sake of your Name, lead me and guide me. Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting one, I give you thanks and praise for our Great Land, and for what has been achieved by past Legislatures. God, you know better than we the temptations that will bring us down. Protect us and guide our feet into the way of peace.

May you be with these Senators, who have been called by the people into service. Give them strength to bear their own and one another's burdens. Bless them so that their example may give to the people a zeal for justice and the strength of forbearance, and we may use our liberty to bring blessings upon the future generations of Alaska. May they grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of you; guide, comfort, and strengthen them; and preserve them in peace now and forever. Amen.

Senator Claman led the Senate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Certification

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the journals for the second and third legislative days be approved as certified by the Secretary. Without objection, it was so ordered.

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent Senator Olson be excused from a call of the Senate today. Without objection, Senator Olson was excused.

Messages from the Governor

Letter dated January 23 was read stating in accordance with Article VII, section 3 of the Alaska Constitution, and AS 14.40.150, I submit the following appointee(s) for confirmation:

University of Alaska Board of Regents

Karen Perdue – Fairbanks

Appointed: 2/6/2017

Term Expires: 2/5/2025

Reappointed: 2/5/2025

Term Expires: 2/5/2033

Christine Resler – Anchorage

Appointed: 2/5/2025

Term Expires: 2/5/2033

The appointments were referred to the Education Committee.

The resumes for these appointments have been submitted to the Office of the Senate Secretary.

Introduction of Executive Orders

EO 136

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 136

Establishing the Department of Agriculture and transferring functions of the Department of Natural Resources relating to agriculture to the Department of Agriculture.

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

Governor's transmittal letter dated January 20:

Dear President Stevens:

Under the authority of Article III, Section 18, of the Alaska Constitution, I am transmitting an Executive Order establishing the Alaska Department of Agriculture. Pursuant to my authority under Article III, Section 23, of the Alaska Constitution to make changes in the organization of the Executive Branch and in the assignment of functions among its units, this Order would create a new principal Department of the State with authority over agricultural policy.

This order would transfer the powers and duties of the Department of Natural Resources relating to agriculture in Title 3 of the Alaska Statutes to the new Department of Agriculture. The Alaska Board of Agriculture and Conservation would be moved to the new Department. The Commissioner of Agriculture would consult with the Commissioner of Natural Resources in the classification, leasing, and sale of state agricultural land. The Order would also rename the Alaska Natural Resource Conservation and Development Board and place the Commissioner of Agriculture on the Board, ex-officio.

Two Task Forces, one established by my Administrative Order 331 (modified under AOs 334 and 341) and another within the Legislative Branch established by House Bill 298 signed in 2022, have concluded that it is in the best interests of state policy priorities for greater food security and increasing agriculture production to create a Department of Agriculture.

This Executive Order will encourage the development and growth of the agriculture industry in Alaska through the establishment of a Department dedicated to a mission focused on increased production activity and accountability to the public.

Sincerely,

/s/

Mike Dunleavy
Governor

Communications

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

Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development
Alaska Gasline Development Corporation
Economic Viability Assessment and Economic Value of Alaska
LNG Project - Phase 1
October 2024
in accordance with ch. 7, SLA 2024

Alaska Gasline Development Corporation
Financial Statements and Required Supplementary Information
FY 2024
in accordance with AS 31.25.270

Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority
Annual Review of Assets
FY 2024
in accordance with AS 44.88.205

Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority
2024 Annual Report
in accordance with AS 44.88.210

Alaska Commercial Fishing and Agricultural Bank
2024 Report
in accordance with AS 44.81.200

Department of Natural Resources
Carbon Offset Program
2024 Annual Report
in accordance with AS 38.95.450

Division of Mining, Land and Water
Report on Identified RS-2477 Rights-of-Way
in accordance with AS 19.30.400

Notification of Annual Mining Report
in accordance with AS 27.05.060

Land Disposal Program Reports
in accordance with AS 38.04.022

Notification of Annual Report on Water Removals and
Exports
in accordance with AS 46.15.020

Notification of Interim Classifications
in accordance with AS 38.05.300

Summary of Cooperative Resource Management or
Development Agreements
in accordance with AS 38.05.027

Annual Summary of the Department's Efforts to Maintain or
Enhance Access to and Along Fishing Streams
in accordance with AS 38.04.205

Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation
Report on Designations of Incompatible Use
in accordance with AS 41.21.020

Department of Revenue

Alaska Retirement Management Board (ARMB)
Financial Condition of State Retirement Systems
in accordance with AS 37.10.220

Investment Earnings Report
Alaska Marine Highway System Fund
Alaska Marine Highway Vessel Replacement Fund
January 21, 2025
in accordance with AS 19.65.070 and AS 37.05.550

Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Annual Report
January 21, 2025
in accordance with AS 06.65.350

Permanent Fund Division
Charitable Contributions Annual Report 2024
in accordance with AS 43.23.130

Alaska Municipal Bond Bank Authority
Reserve Fund Certification
FY 2024
January 16, 2025
in accordance with AS 44.85.270

Department of Public Safety
Statewide Drug Enforcement Unit (SDEU)
2024 Annual Drug Report
in accordance with AS 18.65.085

Notice of Availability:
Department of Administration
Division of Retirement and Benefits
Annual Comprehensive Financial Reports
Public Employees' Retirement System
Teachers' Retirement System
Fiscal Year 2024
in accordance with AS 39.35.004

Department of Labor and Workforce Development
Alaska Labor Relations Agency
2023 Annual Report
May 14, 2024
in accordance with AS 23.05.370

Alaska Aerospace Corporation
2024 Annual Report
in accordance with AS 26.27.100

The following Budget and Audit Reports were received from Kris Curtis, Legislative Auditor, in accordance with AS 24.20.311 and are on file in the Office of the Secretary of the Senate:

2024 Annual Report, Unabridged
2024 Annual Report, Condensed

Introduction and Reference of Senate Resolutions

SCR 1

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1 BY SENATOR CLAMAN,

Relating to the procedure that the Thirty-Fourth Alaska State Legislature will use to reconsider bills and items vetoed by the governor.

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

SJR 6

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 6 BY SENATOR TOBIN,

Supporting the admittance of Washington, D.C., into
the Union as a state of the United States of America.

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

SJR 7

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 7 BY SENATOR
KAWASAKI,

Urging the President of the United States and the
United States Secretary of the Interior to maintain
Denali as the official name for the tallest mountain in
North America.

was read the first time and referred to the State Affairs Committee.

Introduction and Reference of Senate Bills

SB 51

SENATE BILL NO. 51 BY SENATOR MYERS, entitled:

"An Act establishing the Sunrise Review Board;
relating to review of proposed legislation relating to
authorization to engage in the practice of a profession
or occupation; and providing for an effective date."

was read the first time and referred to the Labor and Commerce and
Finance Committees.

SB 52

SENATE BILL NO. 52 BY SENATOR HUGHES, entitled:

"An Act relating to the day on which ballots are counted in an election; relating to absentee voting; and relating to early voting."

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

SB 53

SENATE BILL NO. 53 BY SENATOR GRAY-JACKSON, entitled:

"An Act relating to accreditation standards for law enforcement agencies."

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

SB 54

SENATE BILL NO. 54 BY SENATOR CLAMAN, entitled:

"An Act relating to registered interior designers and interior design; extending the termination date of the State Board of Registration for Architects, Engineers, and Land Surveyors; relating to the State Board of Registration for Architects, Engineers, and Land Surveyors; establishing requirements for the practice of registered interior design; relating to the practice of architecture, engineering, land surveying, landscape architecture, and registered interior design by partnerships; relating to liens for labor or materials furnished; relating to the procurement of landscape architectural and interior design services; and providing for an effective date."

was read the first time and referred to the Labor and Commerce and Finance Committees.

SB 55

SENATE BILL NO. 55 BY SENATOR STEDMAN, entitled:

"An Act relating to employer contributions in the teachers' retirement system; relating to supplemental employee benefits; and providing for an effective date."

was read the first time and referred to the Labor and Commerce and Finance Committees.

SB 56

SENATE BILL NO. 56 BY THE SENATE RULES COMMITTEE BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR, entitled:

"An Act making appropriations for the operating and loan program expenses of state government and for certain programs; capitalizing funds; amending appropriations; making supplemental appropriations; making reappropriations; making appropriations under art. IX, sec. 17(c), Constitution of the State of Alaska, from the constitutional budget reserve fund; and providing for an effective date."

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

Governor's transmittal letter dated January 20:

Dear President Stevens:

Under the authority of Article III, Section 18 of the Alaska Constitution, I am transmitting a bill relating to appropriations for the State's operating expenses for Fiscal Year (FY) 2026.

This appropriation bill totals \$11.3 billion and includes \$4.9 billion in unrestricted general funds, \$0.9 billion in designated general funds, \$1.9 billion in other state funds, and \$3.6 billion in federal funds.

The FY 2026 budget continues important investments in public safety, prioritizing educating our children, and strategically developing the economy of our State. It also continues my commitment to providing a full statutory dividend to our residents.

I look forward to working with the Legislature on the timely passage and implementation of the FY 2026 operating budget.

Sincerely,

/s/

Mike Dunleavy
Governor

SB 57

SENATE BILL NO. 57 BY THE SENATE RULES COMMITTEE
BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR, entitled:

"An Act making appropriations, including capital appropriations and other appropriations; making reappropriations; making appropriations to capitalize funds; and providing for an effective date."

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

Governor's transmittal letter dated January 20:

Dear President Stevens:

Under the authority of Article III, Section 18 of the Alaska Constitution, I am transmitting a bill relating to appropriations for the State's capital budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2026.

This appropriation bill totals \$2.8 billion and includes \$282.4 million in unrestricted general funds, \$55.9 million in designated general funds, \$215.9 million in other state funds, and \$2.2 billion in federal funds.

The FY 2026 proposed capital budget invests in projects that enhance public protection and Alaska's natural resources, provides matching funds for federal surface transportation and aviation, water and wastewater programs, and promotes economic development projects across the state to generate economic activity.

I look forward to working with the Legislature on the timely passage and implementation of the FY 2026 capital budget.

Sincerely,

/s/

Mike Dunleavy

Governor

SB 58

SENATE BILL NO. 58 BY THE SENATE RULES COMMITTEE
BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR, entitled:

"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 first time and referred to the Finance Committee.

In accordance with AS 37.14.003(b), a report of the differences between the Governor's proposed budget and the recommendations of the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority was transmitted.

Governor's transmittal letter dated January 20:

Dear President Stevens:

Under the authority of Article III, Section 18 of the Alaska Constitution, I am transmitting a bill relating to the State's comprehensive mental health program for Fiscal Year (FY) 2026. As required by statute, this bill includes both operating and capital appropriations.

This budget totals \$245.5 million and includes \$184.5 million in unrestricted general funds, \$39.6 million in designated general funds, and \$21.4 million in Mental Health Trust Authority funds.

The FY 2026 proposed mental health budget includes requests that were put forward to the Office of Management and Budget by the Alaska Mental Health Trust (Trust). The requests support programs and activities in Trust focus areas that meet the identified treatment and service needs of Trust beneficiaries and areas of system change to improve the lives of beneficiaries.

I look forward to working with the Legislature on the timely passage and implementation of the FY 2026 budget for Alaska's comprehensive mental health program.

Sincerely,

/s/

Mike Dunleavy
Governor

SB 59

SENATE BILL NO. 59 BY THE SENATE RULES COMMITTEE
BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR, entitled:

"An Act making supplemental appropriations;
making appropriations to capitalize funds; and
providing for an effective date."

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

Governor's transmittal letter dated January 20:

Dear President Stevens:

Under the authority of Article III, Section 18 of the Alaska Constitution, I am transmitting a bill relating to supplemental appropriations for the State's operating budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2025.

This appropriation bill includes \$65.0 million in unrestricted general funds.

The items in this supplemental appropriation bill are time sensitive to ensure adequate and available funding for disaster response, as well as investment in the development of the Alaska liquified natural gas project.

I look forward to working with the Legislature on the immediate passage and implementation of this supplemental appropriation bill.

Sincerely,
/s/
Mike Dunleavy
Governor

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 and Social Services Committee.

SB 61

SENATE BILL NO. 61 BY SENATOR TOBIN, entitled:

"An Act relating to an electronic product stewardship program; relating to collection, recycling, and disposal of electronic equipment; establishing the electronics recycling advisory council; and providing for an effective date."

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

SB 62

SENATE BILL NO. 62 BY SENATOR TOBIN, entitled:

"An Act relating to the board of parole; and providing for an effective date."

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

SB 63

SENATE BILL NO. 63 BY SENATOR CRONK, entitled:

"An Act relating to the Local Boundary Commission; and providing for an effective date."

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

SB 64

SENATE BILL NO. 64 BY THE SENATE RULES COMMITTEE, entitled:

"An Act relating to elections; relating to voters; relating to voting; relating to voter preregistration for minors at least 16 years of age; relating to voter registration; relating to the Alaska Public Offices Commission; relating to synthetic media in electioneering communications; relating to campaign signs; relating to public official financial disclosures; relating to the crime of unlawful interference with voting in the first degree; and providing for an effective date."

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

SB 65

SENATE BILL NO. 65 BY SENATOR CLAMAN, entitled:

"An Act relating to legal representation of public officers in ethics complaints."

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

SB 66

SENATE BILL NO. 66 BY THE SENATE RULES COMMITTEE BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR, entitled:

"An Act relating to demonstration state-tribal education compacts; relating to demonstration state-tribal education compact schools; and providing for an effective date."

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

The following fiscal information was published today:

Fiscal Note No. 1, zero, Department of Administration

Fiscal Note No. 2, zero, Department of Education and Early Development

Fiscal Note No. 3, zero, Department of Education and Early Development

Fiscal Note No. 4, Department of Education & Early Development

Governor's transmittal letter dated January 21:

Dear President Stevens:

Under the authority of Article III, Section 18 of the Alaska Constitution, I am transmitting a bill establishing a pilot program for demonstration state-tribal education compact (STEC) schools. Senate Bill 34 (2022) directed the Department of Education and Early

Development (DEED) to negotiate a demonstration state-tribal education compact with federally recognized tribes and tribal organizations and to submit a report to the legislature relating to the demonstration state-tribal education compact and state-tribal education compact schools. On January 31, 2024, DEED submitted its *State Tribal Education Compact Schools Demonstration Legislative Report*, based on its negotiations with five federally recognized tribes or tribal organizations that applied to participate: Central Council of the Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, the Inupiat Community of the Arctic Slope, the Ketchikan Indian Community, the Knik Tribe, and the King Island Native Community in partnership with the Village of Solomon.

This bill takes the next step in launching STEC schools in Alaska by setting up a five-year pilot program for the five participating tribes and tribal organizations to enter into education compacts with DEED for the establishment of tribally operated Alaska public schools. The bill designates mandatory subjects that must be addressed in each compact but allows DEED and the participating tribes and tribal organizations to negotiate the details of each mandatory provision based on their individual needs and circumstances.

Demonstration STEC schools may be funded by the legislature as if they were schools in a regional education attendance area. Participating tribes and tribal organizations must report on student data and enrollment at their demonstration STEC schools to DEED on an annual basis and DEED will provide that information to the legislature in its annual progress reports. At the completion of the pilot program, DEED will provide a written report to the legislature summarizing the student data over the entire project period.

I urge your prompt and favorable action on this measure.

Sincerely,

/s/

Mike Dunleavy
Governor

SB 67

SENATE BILL NO. 67 BY THE SENATE RULES COMMITTEE
BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR, entitled:

"An Act 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."

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

The following fiscal information was published today:

Fiscal Note No. 1, zero, Department of Administration

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

Governor's transmittal letter dated January 21:

Dear President Stevens:

Under the authority of Article III, Section 18 of the Alaska Constitution, I am transmitting a bill to increase purchase limits under the Alaska-grown procurement policy and preference. In order to support Alaska businesses and to foster food security in the state, this bill would increase allowable price differentials for the state, municipalities, and school districts to purchase more Alaskan agricultural and fisheries products. Alaskan food producers often face cost barriers to market access and have long advocated for increased institutional purchases as a means to scale up production and keep state dollars circulating in the Alaska economy. Expanding access to institutional markets has also been supported by stakeholder groups and was among the recommendations of the Governor's Food Security and Independence Task Force final report released in February 2023.

When state agencies, municipalities, and school districts that receive state funds purchase agricultural and fisheries products, state law requires that they purchase in-state products so long as those products are priced no more than seven percent higher than equivalent products

available from out-of-state sellers. State law further authorizes state agencies and corporations, municipalities, and school districts to purchase in-state products that are priced up to 15 percent higher than out-of-state equivalents.

This bill would increase the purchase price differential for required in-state purchases by state agencies, municipalities, and school districts from seven percent to 10 percent and the differential for permissible in-state purchases from 15 percent to 25 percent.

I urge your prompt and favorable action on this measure.

Sincerely,

/s/

Mike Dunleavy
Governor

SB 68

SENATE BILL NO. 68 BY THE SENATE RULES COMMITTEE
BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR, entitled:

"An Act relating to employment; relating to voluntary flexible work hour plans; relating to the employment of minors; and relating to hours worked by minors employed in the state."

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

The following fiscal information was published today:

Fiscal Note No. 1, zero, Department of Labor and Workforce
Development

Governor's transmittal letter dated January 21:

Dear President Stevens:

Under the authority of Article III, Section 18 of the Alaska Constitution, I am transmitting a bill relating to employment, overtime pay, and the employment of minors. This bill would authorize

additional options for voluntary flexible work hour plans and ease the conditions under which employers may obtain permission from the commissioner of labor and workforce development to employ minors.

State law requires that employers pay overtime to hourly employees when they work more than eight hours in one day, subject to certain exceptions. One exception is a flexible work hour plan. In a flexible work hour plan, an employee may agree to work up to 10 hours in one day so long as the employee does not exceed 40 hours in one week. This bill would increase the daily hour limit to 12 hours in one day, thereby allowing an employee to work three 12-hour workdays in one week, totaling 36 hours, instead of the standard five days of eight hour shifts.

In addition, the bill would ease conditions under which employers may obtain permission from the Commissioner of the Department of Labor and Workforce Development to employ minors. The restriction on youth employment would be lowered from under 17 years of age to under 16 years of age. The bill would allow the Commissioner to issue general written authorizations to employers to employ minors without requiring that each job duty be specifically approved or each minor individually authorized or provided with written parental consent. Minors working in a family business under the supervision of a family member would be exempted from the written authorization requirement altogether. Finally, the bill would increase the hours that minors under 16 years of age may work.

I urge your prompt and favorable action on this measure.

Sincerely,

/s/

Mike Dunleavy

Governor

SB 69

SENATE BILL NO. 69 BY THE SENATE RULES COMMITTEE
BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR, entitled:

"An Act relating to sexual assault examination kits;
establishing the sexual assault examination kit
tracking system; and providing for an effective date."

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

The following fiscal information was published today:

Fiscal Note No. 1, Department of Public Safety

Governor's transmittal letter dated January 21:

Dear President Stevens:

Under the authority of Article III, Section 18 of the Alaska Constitution, I am transmitting a bill to establish timelines for submitting sexual assault examination kits to the lab for testing and to establish a sexual assault examination kit tracking system. This bill will assist in the timely transmission and testing of sexual assault examination kits, as well as assist victims in tracking the kits associated with their cases.

When a sexual assault examination kit is used to collect evidence, it is the responsibility of law enforcement to submit that kit to the lab for testing. This means that if a health care provider uses a sexual assault examination kit to collect evidence, law enforcement is responsible for picking up the kit from the health care provider and submitting it to the lab. This legislation establishes timelines for health care providers to notify law enforcement that a kit is available for pickup and ready for the laboratory to test. It also shortens the current timelines for law enforcement to submit the kit for testing. Restructuring these timelines will help ensure that sexual assault examination kits are processed in a more timely manner as intended by the underlying statute.

Additionally, this legislation establishes a sexual assault examination kit tracking system. The tracking system will be used throughout the collection and testing process. Health care providers and law

enforcement will be able to upload information about when a kit was collected and sent to the lab. The lab will also be able to update the information as the kit is processed for testing. Victims will have the ability to log into the system and see where the kit associated with their case is in the process. They may even elect to receive automated notifications as the kit moves through the process. Requiring the use of the sexual assault examination kit tracking system at every phase of the process will go a long way towards helping victims stay informed.

These changes will help ensure timely processing of important evidence and will help increase transparency and accountability as sexual assault examination kits moves through the process. This is the least we can do for the victims of these horrendous crimes.

I urge your prompt and favorable action on this measure.

Sincerely,

/s/

Mike Dunleavy
Governor

SB 70

SENATE BILL NO. 70 BY THE SENATE RULES COMMITTEE
BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR, entitled:

"An Act relating to regional educational attendance area elections; relating to terms for members of regional school boards; relating to voter residence; relating to voter registration; relating to the inclusion of voter registration forms in permanent fund dividend applications; relating to election administration; relating to ballot counting; relating to absentee voting; relating to early voting; relating to voting by mail; relating to publication of election pamphlets; and relating to confidential information in voter registration records."

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

January 24, 2025

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The following fiscal information was published today:

Fiscal Note No. 1, Office of the Governor

Governor's transmittal letter dated January 21:

Dear President Stevens:

Under the authority of Article III, Section 18 of the Alaska Constitution, I am transmitting a bill to improve election efficiency and integrity and to increase the flexibility of the Alaska Division of Elections in the administration of elections in the State. This bill will improve timelines, logistics, and processes for the public and the division.

The Alaska Division of Elections strives to ensure the integrity and transparency of elections. Nevertheless, many Alaskans have legitimate concerns about the reliability of elections due to outdated and impractical provisions of our election code. This bill aims to reform certain aspects of the Alaska election code in order to bolster the public's trust in our election system.

To that end, this bill will repeal provisions of Ballot Measure No. 1 from 2016 that authorized voters to register as part of their permanent fund dividend application. It will close early voting five days prior to Election Day and will authorize the Division to conduct elections by mail for communities with a population of 750 or less. It provides for postage-paid return envelopes for absentee ballots, requires absentee ballots to be received by the Division on or before Election Day, and authorizes the counting of absentee ballots to begin sooner. The bill will give the Division greater flexibility in adjusting the pay of election workers, setting the standards for voting booths, and in printing and distributing election pamphlets. It will increase the terms of regional school board members while decreasing the frequency of regional school board elections.

I urge your prompt and favorable action on this measure.

Sincerely,

/s/

Mike Dunleavy

Governor

SB 71

SENATE BILL NO. 71 BY THE SENATE RULES COMMITTEE
BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR, entitled:

"An Act relating to pretrial services supervision
agreements."

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

The following fiscal information was published today:
Fiscal Note No. 1, zero, Department of Corrections

Governor's transmittal letter dated January 23:

Dear President Stevens:

Under the authority of Article III, Section 18 of the Alaska
Constitution, I am transmitting a bill allowing the Department of
Corrections to enter into agreements with municipalities to provide
pretrial supervision services for defendants charged with violating
municipal or borough laws.

When it was established in 2018, the pretrial services program was
aimed at providing risk assessments for defendants who have been
charged, making release recommendations to the court, and providing
pretrial supervision of defendants when ordered by the court.
Currently, the State bears all the costs of pretrial supervision, even for
those defendants charged only with municipal or borough offenses.
This legislation will allow the Department of Corrections to enter into
agreements with municipalities that would like to continue to have
certain defendants charged with violating the laws of that jurisdiction
supervised before trial. As a part of those agreements, the Department
will be able to charge reasonable fees in order to recoup some of the
costs of providing the service to municipalities.

Evaluating the costs of providing certain services on behalf of other jurisdictions is prudent. Allowing the Department of Corrections to continue to provide an important service while recovering some of the costs associated with providing that service is a reasonable approach, which will help ensure that this service is available for years to come.

I urge your prompt and favorable action on this measure.

Sincerely,

/s/

Mike Dunleavy
Governor

SB 72

SENATE BILL NO. 72 BY THE SENATE RULES COMMITTEE
BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR, entitled:

"An Act authorizing the Alaska Railroad Corporation to issue revenue bonds to finance the replacement of the Alaska Railroad Corporation's passenger dock and related terminal facility in Seward, Alaska; and providing for an effective date."

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

The following fiscal information was published today:

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

Governor's transmittal letter dated January 23:

Dear President Stevens:

Under the authority of Article III, Section 18 of the Alaska Constitution, I am transmitting a bill relating to increasing the bonding authority of the Alaska Railroad Corporation to construct a new dock and terminal in Seward, Alaska.

The legislature authorized \$60,000,000 in bonds for this purpose during the Thirty-Second Alaska State Legislature. This bill would increase the Corporation's bonding authority to \$135,000,000 in order to construct the new dock and terminal. The existing Seward dock is

nearing the end of its useful life. The dock is a critical connection for hundreds of thousands of cruise passengers and visitors arriving each summer, many of whom bring tourism dollars to Alaska businesses throughout the State. Without the increase in bonding authority authorized by this bill, closure or curtailed use of the existing dock is inevitable. This is a true economic development project to both replace an existing asset and expand its capability for the future.

Pursuant to the Corporation's organic statutes, legislative approval is required in order for the Corporation to issue bonds to fund this necessary and beneficial project. The contemplated bonds will be guaranteed by revenues of the Corporation and are not a liability of the State. No state dollars will be used to repay them.

I urge your prompt and favorable action on this measure.

Sincerely,

/s/

Mike Dunleavy
Governor

SB 73

SENATE BILL NO. 73 BY SENATOR CLAMAN, entitled:

"An Act relating to the registration of marijuana establishments; relating to a tax exemption for qualified small businesses; relating to marijuana taxes; and providing for an effective date."

was read the first time and referred to the Labor and Commerce and Finance Committees.

Consideration of the Calendar

Citations

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the following citation be made a special order of business. Without objection, it was so ordered.

Special Order of Business

Honoring - Dorothy “Brownie” Thomsen
Representative(s) Himschoot
Senator(s) Stedman

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

Unfinished Business**SB 15**

Senator Gray-Jackson moved and asked unanimous consent to be shown as a cosponsor on SENATE BILL NO. 15 "An Act relating to the sale of alcohol; relating to the posting of warning signs for alcoholic beverages; and providing for an effective date." Without objection, it was so ordered.

SB 18

Senator Gray-Jackson moved and asked unanimous consent to be shown as a cosponsor on SENATE BILL NO. 18 "An Act relating to wireless telecommunications devices in public schools; and providing for an effective date." Without objection, it was so ordered.

SB 21

Senator Gray-Jackson moved and asked unanimous consent to be shown as a cosponsor on SENATE BILL NO. 21 "An Act establishing the Alaska Work and Save Program; establishing the Alaska Retirement Savings Board; and providing for an effective date." Without objection, it was so ordered.

SB 22

Senator Gray-Jackson moved and asked unanimous consent to be shown as a cosponsor on SENATE BILL NO. 22 "An Act establishing a financial literacy education program for public schools; and providing for an effective date." Without objection, it was so ordered.

SB 23

Senator Gray-Jackson moved and asked unanimous consent to be shown as a cosponsor on SENATE BILL NO. 23 "An Act relating to civics education, civics assessments, and secondary school graduation requirements; and providing for an effective date." Without objection, it was so ordered.

SB 28

Senator Gray-Jackson moved and asked unanimous consent to be shown as a cosponsor on SENATE BILL NO. 28 "An Act relating to the Public Employees' Retirement System of Alaska and the teachers' retirement system; providing certain employees an opportunity to choose between the defined benefit and defined contribution plans of the Public Employees' Retirement System of Alaska and the teachers' retirement system; and providing for an effective date." Without objection, it was so ordered.

SB 45

Senator Gray-Jackson moved and asked unanimous consent to be shown as a cosponsor on SENATE BILL NO. 45 "An Act relating to medical assistance services; relating to parity in mental health and substance use disorder coverage in the state medical assistance program; and providing for an effective date." Without objection, it was so ordered.

SB 34

Senator Gray-Jackson moved and asked unanimous consent to be shown as a cosponsor on SENATE BILL NO. 34 "An Act relating to the duration of a regular session of the legislature." Without objection, it was so ordered.

SJR 6

Senators Dunbar, Gray-Jackson moved and asked unanimous consent to be shown as cosponsors on SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 6 Supporting the admittance of Washington, D.C., into the Union as a state of the United States of America. Without objection, it was so ordered.

Introduction of Floor Staff

Senator Wielechowski, Rules Committee Chair, introduced the Chamber Staff of the first session of the Thirty-fourth Legislature:

Sergeant at Arms

Matt Simpson, Big Lake

Assistant Sergeant at Arms

Jacob Pennell, Wasilla

Senate Pages

Isabel Braun, Nikiski

Olivia Smith, North Pole

Ian D'Amore, Juneau

Jubilee Henderson, Nikiski

Maranatha Henderson, Nikiski

Yarrow Platt, Gustavus

Senator Wielechowski, Rules Committee Chair, introduced the Senate Secretary's Office staff:

Catherine Hatch, Deputy Senate Secretary

Brittney Cannamore, Deputy Senate Secretary

Elizabeth Eilers, Deputy Senate Secretary

Max Goldrich, Deputy Senate Secretary

Sarah Ritter, Deputy Senate Secretary

Keira Alkema, Deputy Senate Secretary, Office Manager

Liz Clark, Senate Secretary

Announcements

Announcements are at the end of the journal.

Engrossment and Enrollment**SR 1**

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 1 Establishing a Senate Special Committee on Arctic Affairs, was engrossed and enrolled, signed by the President and Secretary, and the engrossed and enrolled copies transmitted to the Office of the Governor at 9:50 a.m., January 23, 2025.

Senate Resolve No. 1

SR 2

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 2 Establishing a Senate Special Committee on World Trade, was engrossed and enrolled, signed by the President and Secretary, and the engrossed and enrolled copies transmitted to the Office of the Governor at 9:50 a.m., January 23, 2025.

Senate Resolve No. 2

Adjournment

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the Senate stand in adjournment until 11:00 a.m., January 27, 2025. Without objection, the Senate adjourned at 11:04 a.m.

Liz Clark
Secretary of the Senate

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

Jan 28	Tuesday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	1:30 PM
+	Overview: Division of Community & Regional Affairs, DCCED by		
	Sandra Moller, Division Director, DCRA		
+	Presentation: Alaska Municipal League by		
	Nils Andreassen, Executive Director, AML		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		

EDUCATION

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

Jan 27	Monday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	3:30 PM
+	Presentation: Education funding update by		
	Alexei Painter, Director, Legislative Finance Division		
	Presentation: Kenai Peninsula Borough School District update by		
	Clayton Holland, Superintendent		
	-- Public Testimony on Alaska's education funding crisis --		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		

EDUCATION (continued)

Jan 29 **Wednesday** **Beltz 105 (tsbldg)** **3:30 PM**
 +
 Presentation: Fairbanks North Star Borough
 School District update by
 Melissa Burnett, School Board President
 Luke Meinert, Superintendent
 Presentation: Education funding impact on
 Anchorage teachers by
 Corey Aist, President, Anchorage Education Association
 -- Public Testimony on the education funding
 crisis in Alaska --
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

Jan 31 **Friday** **Beltz 105 (tsbldg)** **3:30 PM**
 +
 -- Public Testimony on the education funding
 crisis in Alaska --
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

FINANCE

Jan 24 **Friday** **Senate Finance 532** **9:00 AM**
 +
 Revenue Forecast
 Department of Revenue
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

Jan 27 **Monday** **Senate Finance 532** **9:00 AM**
 +
 Overview: Governor's Proposed FY26 Budgets by
 Office of Management and Budget
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

Jan 28 **Tuesday** **Senate Finance 532** **9:00 AM**
 +
 Overview: Continued: Office of Management and
 Budget
 FY26 Budget Overview
 Legislative Finance Division
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

SENATE JOURNAL

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FINANCE (continued)

Jan 29	Wednesday	Senate Finance 532	9:00 AM
	No Meeting Scheduled		
Jan 30	Thursday	Senate Finance 532	9:00 AM
	No Meeting Scheduled		
Jan 31	Friday	Senate Finance 532	9:00 AM
+	Overview: Continued: FY26 Budget Overview by Legislative Finance Division **Streamed live on AKL.tv**		

HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES

Jan 28	Tuesday	Butrovich 205	3:30 PM
+ SB 44	MINORS & PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITALS		
+ SB 45	MEDICAID MENTAL HEALTH PARITY		
	-- Testimony <Invitation Only> -- **Streamed live on AKL.tv**		
Jan 30	Thursday	Butrovich 205	3:30 PM
+	Presentation: Medicaid 1115 Waiver Update by Emily Ricci, Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Health and Social Services Betsy Wood, Deputy Director of the Office of Health Savings Tracy Dompeling, Director of the Division of Behavioral Health		
+ SB 44	MINORS & PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITALS		
	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled -- Public Testimony -- **Streamed live on AKL.tv**		

JUDICIARY

Jan 24	Friday	Butrovich 205	1:30 PM
	No Meeting Scheduled		

JUDICIARY (continued)

Jan 27 + SB 1	Monday CIVIL LEGAL SERVICES FUND -- Invited & Public Testimony -- **Streamed live on AKL.tv**	Butrovich 205	1:30 PM
Jan 29 +	Wednesday Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled **Streamed live on AKL.tv**	Butrovich 205	1:30 PM
Jan 31 +	Friday Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled **Streamed live on AKL.tv**	Butrovich 205	1:30 PM

LABOR & COMMERCE

Jan 24 + SB 15	Friday ALCOHOL: SALE, WARNING SIGNS -- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> -- **Streamed live on AKL.tv**	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	1:30 PM
Jan 27 += SB 15	Monday ALCOHOL: SALE, WARNING SIGNS Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled **Streamed live on AKL.tv**	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	1:30 PM
Jan 29 +	Wednesday Overview: Department of Labor and Workforce Development Apprenticeships (Directors Dirk Craft and Paloma Harbour) Overview/Budget (Commissioner Cathy Muñoz and Director Dan DeBartolo) **Streamed live on AKL.tv**	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	1:30 PM

RESOURCES

Jan 24 +	Friday 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 AKL.tv**	Butrovich 205	3:30 PM
Jan 27 +	Monday Presentation: Wood Mackenzie Update by Costa Swift - Vice President in the Upstream and Carbon Management Consulting Team Akira Takiguchi - Managing Consultant, Americas Consulting Presentation: Alaska Gasline Development Corporation by Frank Richards **Streamed live on AKL.tv**	Butrovich 205	3:30 PM
Jan 29 +	Wednesday Presentation: Department of Natural Resources Carbon Capture Update Presentation: Alaska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission Class VI Wells Update **Streamed live on AKL.tv**	Butrovich 205	3:30 PM
Jan 31 +	Friday Presentation: Department of Natural Resources Leasing Issues Update Presentation: Department of Law Leasing Issues Update **Streamed live on AKL.tv**	Butrovich 205	3:30 PM

STATE AFFAIRS

Jan 28 Tuesday Beltz 105 (tsbldg) 3:30 PM
+ SJR 7 RES. TO MAINTAIN DENALI AS OFFICIAL NAME
 -- Invited & Public Testimony --
+ SB 31 ADDRESS CONFIDENTIALITY PROGRAM
 -- Invited & Public Testimony --
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

Jan 30 Thursday Beltz 105 (tsbldg) 3:30 PM
+ SB 64 ELECTIONS
+ SB 70 SCHOOL&ELECTION BDS; VOTING; ELECTIONS
 -- Invited & Public Testimony --
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

TRANSPORTATION

Jan 28 Tuesday Butrovich 205 1:30 PM
+ Overview: Dept. of Transportation and Public
 Facilities (continued from previous meeting) by
 Ryan Anderson, P.E., Commissioner
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

Jan 30 Thursday Butrovich 205 1:30 PM
 No Meeting Scheduled

SPECIAL COMMITTEES**SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON ARCTIC AFFAIRS**

Jan 30 Thursday Beltz 105 (tsbldg) 1:30 PM
+ Presentation: Alaska Energy by
 Gwen Holdmann - Director, Alaska Center for
 Energy and Power
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

JOINT COMMITTEES

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET & AUDIT

Jan 29	Wednesday	Senate Finance 532	8:00 AM
+	I. Call to Order		
	II. Committee Organization: Election of Chair and Vice Chair		
	III. Approval of the Agenda		
	IV. Approval of Minutes		
	a. December 2, 2024		
	b. December 23, 2024		
	V. Roles and Responsibilities: Division Support for the Committee		
	a. Alexei Painter, Legislative Fiscal Analyst, Division of Legislative Finance		
	b. Kris Curtis, Legislative Auditor, Division of Legislative Audit		
	VI. Revision of LBAC Handbook		
	a. Kris Curtis, Legislative Auditor		
	VII. Contract Approval		
	a. IRIS/Alder Contract Extension and Assignment		
	VIII. Executive Session		
	a. RFP 25-33-01 Compliance Audits of Select Major Federal Programs		
	IX. Top Audit Issues		
	a. Kris Curtis, Legislative Auditor		
	X. Adjourn		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		

SELECT COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE ETHICS

Jan 31	Friday	Barnes 124	8:30 AM
+	1. Approval of Agenda		
+	2. Approval of Minutes		
	a. House Subcommittee February 16, 2024		
	b. House Subcommittee November 12, 2024		
+	3. Public Comment		
+	4. Election of Committee Chairs for 2025-2026		
	a. Article 3 Ethics Committee Election Procedure		

(Continued on Next Page)

**SELECT COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE ETHICS
(continued)**

(Continued from Previous Page)

- + 5. Chair/Staff Report
 - a. Public Member Committee Appointment Update
 - b. Management Log Review
 - c. Publications
 - i. 2022 Public Decisions Booklet - AS 24.60.150(a)(2)
 - ii. 2022 Advisory Opinion Booklet - AS 24.60.150(a)(2)
 - iii. 2023 Standards of Conduct Handbook - AS 24.60.150(a)(3)
- 6. Executive Session
- + 7. 2025 Ethics Training Report
- + 8. Budget
 - a. FY 2025-2026 Budget
- + 9. Other Business
(Meeting will be teleconferenced)
Anchorage Only: 563-9085
Juneau Only: 586-9085
Outside Anchorage or Juneau: 1-844-586-9085

Jan 31	Friday	Barnes 124	12:00 PM
	SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING		
+	1. Approval of Agenda		
+	2. Public Comment		
	3. Executive Session		
+	4. Public Session		
+	5. Other Business		

TASK FORCE EVAL ALASKA SEAFOOD INDUSTRY

Jan 29	Wednesday	Senate Finance 532	9:00 AM
+	Review and Adoption of Final Report, with discussion of conceptual legislation recommended		
	-- Teleconference Listen Only --		
	-- Testimony <Invitation Only> --		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		

Jan 30	Thursday	Senate Finance 532	9:00 AM
+	Review and Adoption of Final Report, with discussion of conceptual legislation recommended		
	-- Teleconference <Listen Only> --		
	-- Testimony <Invitation Only> --		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		

OTHER MEETINGS

JOINT SESSION

Jan 28 +	Tuesday State of the State Address by Governor Mike Dunleavy	House Chamber	7:00 PM
Feb 12 +	Wednesday State of the Judiciary Address by Chief Justice Susan Carney	House Chamber	11:00 AM
Feb 20 +	Thursday Annual Address by Nick Begich III, U.S. Representative	House Chamber	11:00 AM
Mar 18 +	Tuesday Annual Address by Lisa Murkowski, U.S. Senator	House Chamber	11:00 AM
Mar 20 +	Thursday Annual Address by Dan Sullivan, U.S. Senator	House Chamber	11:00 AM

MISCELLANEOUS MEETINGS

Jan 29	Wednesday Lunch & Learn Presentation: Alaska's Nonprofit Sector: Generating Economic Impact Laurie Wolf, CEO, The Foraker Group Sponsored by Senator Dunbar	Davis 106	12:00 PM
Jan 29	Wednesday Lunch & Learn Presentation: School Choice Options for Alaska Leigh Sloan, Director of Alaska School Choice Dr. Jessica Parker Dr. Matthew Baxter Sponsored by Senator Hughes	Butrovich 205	12:00 PM

MISCELLANEOUS MEETINGS (continued)

Feb 05	Wednesday	Butrovich 205	12:00 PM
	Lunch & Learn Presentation:		
	Senior Services in Alaska		
	Marge Stoneking, AARP Alaska Advocacy Director		
	Marty Lange, Alaska Commission on Aging Executive Director		
	Stephanie Wheeler, Alaska Long-term Care Ombudsman		
	Marianne Mills, AGenet President		
	Sponsored by Senator Stevens		