

SENATE JOURNAL

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

Juneau, Alaska

Monday

January 27, 2025

Seventh Day

Pursuant to adjournment the Senate was called to order by President Stevens at 11:03 a.m.

The roll showed eighteen members present. Senators Kawasaki, Olson were absent.

The prayer was offered by the Chaplain, Pastor Greg Weinert, Emmanuel Baptist Church. Senator Hoffman moved and asked unanimous consent the prayer be spread. Without objection, it was so ordered.

Heavenly Creator, I praise Your name. All hearts are open to You, all desires known to You, and no secrets are hidden. Abide with our lawmakers, these Senators, our Representatives, the Governor, and all who selflessly serve your people in Alaska, that their hearts would be transparent to You, Lord.

Teach them to speak the right words at the right time. Temper their speech that it would seek to persuade with patient and gentle words. Teach them reverence for their transcendent calling, as You induce them to ascribe all good things to You. Remind them that in First Timothy 3 they were admonished as leaders to be held to a higher standard.

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I pray that You in your benevolence would lift up the men and women of this chamber in the noble and daunting tasks before them. I plead and invite Your Holy Spirit to give them discernment, strength, and the courage of their convictions. Keep them ever mindful of placing Your will first.

May they remember Your assurance to supply their needs, to never forsake them, and to prevent anything from being separated from Your love.

Let the world see the resolve, the strength, the ingenuity, the compassion, and cooperation of this chamber, that they would inspire all of the people of Alaska by the example set by their leaders. I pray this in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Senator Cronk led the Senate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Certification

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the journals for the fourth through sixth 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

A Declaration of Disaster Emergency and initial finance plan dated January 24, authorizing public assistance for the City of Selawik and the Northwest Arctic Borough as a result of a water line freeze-up, with an accompanying letter, was received pursuant to AS 26.23.020. The declaration, letter and finance plan had been copied to the Finance Committee Cochairs.

Communications

Disclosure letters received from the Select Committee on Legislative Ethics in accordance with AS 24.60 will be published in Senate Journal Supplement No. 1 and House and Senate Joint Journal Supplement No. 1.

**Introduction and Reference of
Senate Resolutions****SSCR 1**

SENATE SPECIAL CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1 BY THE SENATE RULES COMMITTEE,

Disapproving Executive Order No. 136.

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

Introduction and Reference of Senate Bills**SB 74**

SENATE BILL NO. 74 BY THE SENATE RULES COMMITTEE BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR, entitled:

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

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

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

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Governor's transmittal letter dated January 24:

Dear President Stevens:

Under the authority of Article III, Section 18, of the Alaska Constitution, I am transmitting a bill relating to obstruction of access to public places.

Alaskans have a constitutional liberty interest in freely moving about the state. This bill will protect the right to freedom of movement against infringement by increasing and expanding existing criminal prohibitions on obstructing public places and rights-of-way and by establishing new civil liability for obstruction of public places.

This bill establishes a new crime of obstruction in public places, which involves the obstructing or blocking a public place, or dropping a substance that creates a substantial risk of physical injury. The bill also increases the penalties for obstructing public places, including airport runways and navigable waterways, where there is substantial risk of physical harm or interference with emergency response.

Finally, the bill creates a new civil cause of action by any person who is obstructed and provides for statutory damages in addition to compensatory and other damages. Liability extends to persons and organizations that conspire with or encourage, with actual malice, anyone who engages in public obstruction. There is no liability for those who obtain a permit or other appropriate authorization to utilize a public place, nor are governmental entities subject to liability for obstructing public places in the course of their management and control of such places.

I urge your prompt and favorable action on this measure.

Sincerely,
/s/
Mike Dunleavy
Governor

SB 75

SENATE BILL NO. 75 BY THE SENATE RULES COMMITTEE
BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR, entitled:

"An Act relating to timber on state lands; relating to timber management leases; 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, indeterminate, Department of Natural Resources

Governor's transmittal letter dated January 24:

Dear President Stevens:

Under the authority of Article III, Section 18 of the Alaska Constitution, I am transmitting a bill relating to timber management leases.

This bill will authorize timber management leases with private entities on State forest land for the purpose of active forest management, including afforestation, timber harvest, reforestation, fire prevention, and forest road construction and maintenance. In establishing a new program for timber management leasing and providing for industry-led forest management and harvest consistent with the Alaska Constitution and with State oversight, this bill will augment the State's ability to manage, market, and protect its forest resources.

Under this bill, the Commissioner of Natural Resources will be empowered to identify State forested land suitable for timber management leasing and to accept nominations of such land by private parties. After competitive solicitation, the Commissioner may enter into a renewable 55-year timber management lease with the best eligible applicant. This bill requires that the lease agreement provide

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for compliance with constitutionally mandated forest management practices and appropriate State oversight and compliance, while also leaving flexibility for the design of individual projects.

I urge your prompt and favorable action on this measure.

Sincerely,

/s/

Mike Dunleavy
Governor

SB 76

SENATE BILL NO. 76 BY THE SENATE RULES COMMITTEE
BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR, entitled:

"An Act relating to complex care residential homes;
and providing for an effective date."

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

The following fiscal information was published today:

Fiscal Note No. 1, Department of Health

Fiscal Note No. 2, Department of Health

Fiscal Note No. 3, zero, Department of Health

Governor's transmittal letter dated January 24:

Dear President Stevens:

Under the authority of Article III, Section 18 of the Alaska Constitution, I am transmitting a bill establishing a new health facility license type for "complex care residential homes" to address a gap in Alaska's system of care for individuals with complex needs.

This bill authorizes the Department of Health (DOH) to license and regulate complex care residential homes to serve the health care needs of some of the most vulnerable Alaskans - those with complex behavioral and medical, or disability-related needs. By authorizing this

new license type, these individuals could receive ongoing care in a long-term, home-like environment that is suited to facilitate the monitoring and care of each resident.

This will provide an additional option for the State to meet the complex care needs of these individuals, many of whom currently cycle in and out of outpatient facilities or reside at treatment facilities, such as the Alaska Psychiatric Institute, which may not be the most appropriate clinical setting for them.

The bill leaves the program to be largely determined and set by DOH in regulation. The bill does not however, limit complex care residential homes to adult residents, making this new type of facility a potential means of reducing the use of facilities in other states for children who require complex care.

I urge your prompt and favorable action on this measure.

Sincerely,

/s/

Mike Dunleavy
Governor

SB 77

SENATE BILL NO. 77 BY SENATOR KIEHL, entitled:

"An Act relating to national criminal history record checks for certain employees of the Department of Revenue; relating to allowable absences for eligibility for a permanent fund dividend; relating to the confidentiality of certain information provided on a permanent fund dividend application; relating to the duties of the Department of Revenue; and providing for an effective date."

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

Consideration of the Calendar**Citations**

In Memoriam - Wallace James "Utch" Amaktoolik Jr.
Representative(s) Foster
Senator(s) Olson

In Memoriam - Reginald M. "Luke" Okitkon
Representative(s) Foster
Senator(s) Olson

In Memoriam - Jacob Axel Johnson Sr.
Representative(s) Foster
Senator(s) Olson

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

Unfinished Business**SB 1**

Senators Tobin, Claman, Gray-Jackson moved and asked unanimous consent to be shown as cosponsors on SENATE BILL NO. 1 "An Act relating to appropriations to the civil legal services fund." Without objection, it was so ordered.

SJR 3

Senator Myers moved and asked unanimous consent to be shown as a cosponsor on SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 3 Proposing amendments to the Constitution of the State of Alaska relating to the duration of regular sessions of the legislature. Without objection, it was so ordered.

SB 63

Senator Kiehl moved and asked unanimous consent to be shown as a cosponsor on SENATE BILL NO. 63 "An Act relating to the Local Boundary Commission; and providing for an effective date." Without objection, it was so ordered.

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SB 11

Senator Bjorkman moved and asked unanimous consent to be shown as a cosponsor on SENATE BILL NO. 11 "An Act relating to flood insurance; relating to property insurance; establishing the Alaska Flood Authority and the Alaska flood insurance fund; and providing for an effective date." Without objection, it was so ordered.

Announcements

Announcements are at the end of the journal.

Adjournment

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the Senate stand in adjournment until 6:45 p.m., January 28, 2025. Without objection, the Senate adjourned at 11:13 a.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

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 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		

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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 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		
Jan 29	Wednesday	Senate Finance 532	9:00 AM
	No Meeting Scheduled		
Jan 30	Thursday	Senate Finance 532	9:00 AM
	No Meeting Scheduled		

FINANCE (continued)

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 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

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JUDICIARY (continued)

Jan 31 **Friday** **Butrovich 205** **1:30 PM**
+ Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

LABOR & COMMERCE

Jan 27 **Monday** **Beltz 105 (tsbldg)** **1:30 PM**
+= SB 15 ALCOHOL: SALE, WARNING SIGNS
Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
Streamed live on AKL tv

Jan 29 +	Wednesday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	1:30 PM
		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**	

Jan 31 **Friday** **Beltz 105 (tsbldg)** **1:30 PM**
No Meeting Scheduled

RESOURCES

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
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Jan 29 **Wednesday** **Butrovich 205** **3:30 PM**
+ Presentation: Department of Natural Resources
Carbon Capture Update
Presentation: Alaska Oil and Gas Conservation
Commission Class VI Wells Update
Streamed live on AKL.tv

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RESOURCES (continued)

Jan 31	Friday	Butrovich 205	3:30 PM
+	Presentation: Department of Natural Resources Leasing Issues Update Presentation: Department of Law Leasing Issues Update **Streamed live on AKL.tv**		

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 -- Invited & Public Testimony --	
+	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		

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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 VIII. Executive Session a. RFP 25-33-01 Compliance Audits of Select b. IRIS/Alder Contract Extension and Assignment Major Federal Programs IX. Top Audit Issues a. Kris Curtis, Legislative Auditor X. Adjourn **Streamed live on AKL.tv**		

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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		
+	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		

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

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MISCELLANEOUS MEETINGS

Jan 29	Wednesday	Davis 106	12:00 PM
Lunch & Learn Presentation: Alaska's Nonprofit Sector: Generating Economic Impact Laurie Wolf, CEO, The Foraker Group Sponsored by Senator Dunbar			
Jan 29			
Wednesday			
Butrovich 205			
12:00 PM			
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 and Representative Underwood			
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			
Feb 19			
Wednesday			
Butrovich 205			
12:00 PM			
Lunch & Learn Presentation: Covenant House Alaska Sponsored by Senator Tobin			