

SENATE JOURNAL
ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION

Juneau, Alaska

Friday

January 31, 2025

Eleventh Day

Pursuant to adjournment the Senate was called to order by President Stevens at 10:31 a.m.

The roll showed seventeen members present. Senators Cronk, Olson were excused from a call of the Senate. Senator Hoffman was absent.

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

Our most kind and gracious Heavenly Father, I thank You for all the selfless servants in this wonderful sacred place and for safely bringing of all here assembled.

Lord, as I come before You today, I thank You for Your faithfulness, Your grace, and Your blessings to our great state, even though often undeserved. You have made us a people respecting Your creation. I am humbled over and again by the majesty You have imbued upon this land. Help us to learn more fully how to use those resources You have blessed us with, not for the enrichment of a few, but provision for all and to Your glory.

God, I thank You for Your presence, preservation, and protection. I pray that you will make us a state that is a shining example to our nation; inspire us to be a people that are truly salt and light to the world, making whatsoever and whosoever around us better and brighter, Lord.

God, our only hope is You. May everyone serving Alaska heed the words of President Abraham Lincoln who simply prayed, stating "I have been driven many times upon my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had nowhere else to go. My own wisdom and that of all about me seemed insufficient for that day."

My only hope, God, is through the power of Your Holy Spirit. Only when I seek Your wisdom can our land be truly healed. I love You; I exalt You; I praise You; and I pray this prayer, certainly respecting all faiths, but this morning I make this invocation in the name above every name, Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, the lamb of glory and salvation. Amen.

Senator Gray-Jackson led the Senate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Certification

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

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

Messages from the House

Message dated January 29 was read stating the House passed and transmitted for consideration:

**First Reading and Reference of
House Resolutions****HJR 4**

CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 4(RLS) BY THE HOUSE RULES COMMITTEE,

Urging the President of the United States, the United States Secretary of the Interior, the United States Board on Geographic Names, and the members of the state's delegation in Congress 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.

Communications

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

University of Alaska
Alaska's University for Alaska's Schools 2025
Report on Teacher Preparation, Retention, and Recruitment
in accordance with AS 14.40.190

Alaska State Officers Compensation Commission
Final Findings and Recommendations
January 29, 2025
in accordance with AS 39.23.540

Alaska Judicial Council
Thirty-Second Report to the Legislature and Supreme Court
in accordance with art. IV, sec. 9, Constitution of the State of Alaska

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Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development
Division of Investments

Combined Annual State Loan, Reinstatements and Fisheries
Enhancement Term Extension Report
in accordance with AS 37.05.035 and AS 16.10.510

Local Boundary Commission
2024 Annual Report to the First Session of the
Thirty-Fourth Alaska State Legislature
in accordance with AS 44.33.812

Department of Public Safety
Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Application
FY 2024
in accordance with 34 U.S.C. 10153

Department of Natural Resources
Division of Oil and Gas
5-year Program of Proposed Oil and Gas Lease Sales
in accordance with AS 38.05.180

Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
Alaska Marine Highway System
2024 Annual Financial Report
in accordance with AS 19.65.070

Alaska State Legislature
Joint Legislative Task Force Evaluating Alaska's Seafood Industry
Final Report
in accordance with Legislative Resolve No. 33, 2024

Introduction and Reference of Senate Bills

SB 79

SENATE BILL NO. 79 BY THE SENATE LABOR & COMMERCE
COMMITTEE, entitled:

"An Act relating to wage payments."

was read the first time and referred to the Labor and Commerce
Committee.

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SB 80

SENATE BILL NO. 80 BY THE SENATE LABOR & COMMERCE COMMITTEE, entitled:

"An Act extending the termination date of the Big Game Commercial Services Board; extending the termination date of the Board of Massage Therapists; extending the termination date of the Marijuana Control Board; and providing for an effective date."

was read the first time and referred to the Labor and Commerce Committee.

SB 81

SENATE BILL NO. 81 BY SENATOR STEDMAN, entitled:

"An Act relating to employer contribution rates in the teachers' retirement system and the Public Employees' Retirement System of Alaska; and providing for an effective date."

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

SB 82

SENATE BILL NO. 82 BY THE SENATE RULES COMMITTEE BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR, entitled:

"An Act relating to education; relating to public school attendance; relating to mobile communication devices in schools; relating to reading proficiency incentive grants; relating to authorization of charter schools; relating to transportation of students; relating to school bond debt reimbursement; relating to funding and reporting by Alaska technical and vocational education programs; authorizing lump sum payments for certain teachers as retention and recruitment incentives; and providing for an effective date."

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

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The following fiscal information was published today:

Fiscal Note No. 1, zero, Department of Education & Early Development

Fiscal Note No. 2, Department of Education & Early Development

Fiscal Note No. 3, Department of Education & Early Development

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

Fiscal Note No. 5, Department of Education & Early Development

Fiscal Note No. 6, Department of Education & Early Development

Fiscal Note No. 7, Department of Education & Early Development

Fiscal Note No. 8, zero, Department of Education & Early Development

Development

Fiscal Note No. 9, Department of Education & Early Development

Governor's transmittal letter dated January 29:

Dear President Stevens:

Under the authority of Article III, Section 18, of the Alaska Constitution, I am transmitting a bill aimed at addressing the longstanding challenges faced by public education in Alaska. This legislation establishes a pathway to improve educational outcomes by expanding school options for students, strengthening school funding, and incentivizing fiscal responsibility at the district level.

The bill promotes educational diversity and opportunity by authorizing open enrollment and expanding charter school options. Families will have the ability to apply to schools that best meet their child's needs, within or outside their district of residence, subject to school capacity. Additionally, the bill requires the State Board of Education and Early Development to establish a streamlined process for creating charter schools in any district statewide.

Recognizing the importance of foundational skills, the bill introduces per-student incentive grants for districts that achieve grade-level performance or proficiency gains in reading. It also raises statutory funding levels for transportation costs, increases funding for correspondence schools to ensure equitable financial support for students enrolled in alternative education programs, and expands resources for career and technical education programs, equipping Alaska's youth with high-demand job skills critical to our economy.

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The bill further addresses classroom challenges by tackling the disruptions posed by personal communication devices, fostering a more focused learning environment.

To support and retain educators, the legislation establishes a three-year pilot program offering lump-sum recruitment and retention payments to full-time teachers, tailored by school location and informed by the *2023 Teacher Retention and Recruitment Playbook*. At the same time, it incentivizes fiscal responsibility by extending the moratorium on school bond debt reimbursement.

This comprehensive approach addresses critical challenges in Alaska's education system while fostering innovation, accountability, and opportunity.

I urge your prompt and favorable consideration of this measure.

Sincerely,

/s/

Mike Dunleavy
Governor

SB 83

SENATE BILL NO. 83 BY SENATOR CLAMAN, entitled:

"An Act relating to health care insurance; relating to insurance reimbursement for health care services provided through telehealth; and providing for an effective date."

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

Consideration of the Calendar

Citations

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

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Special Order of Business

In Memoriam - John Pickett Sr.
Representative(s) Galvin
Senator(s) Gray-Jackson

In Memoriam - Yoko Schwingendorf
Senator(s) Wielechowski
Representative(s) Mears

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

HJR 4

Senators Kawasaki, Wielechowski, Dunbar, Tobin, Kiehl, Gray-Jackson, Claman moved and asked unanimous consent to be shown as cross sponsors on CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 4(RLS) Urging the President of the United States, the United States Secretary of the Interior, the United States Board on Geographic Names, and the members of the state's delegation in Congress to maintain Denali as the official name for the tallest mountain in North America. Without objection, it was so ordered.

SB 39

Senators Tobin, Gray-Jackson, Kawasaki moved and asked unanimous consent to be shown as cosponsors on SENATE BILL NO. 39 "An Act relating to loans in an amount of \$25,000 or less; relating to the Nationwide Multistate Licensing System and Registry; relating to deferred deposit advances; and providing for an effective date." Without objection, it was so ordered.

SB 28

Senator Wielechowski 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.

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., February 3, 2025. Without objection, the Senate adjourned at 11:00 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

Feb 04	Tuesday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	1:30 PM
+ SB 50	Presentation: VPSOs & Department Engagement with Communities Department of Public Safety MUNICIPAL COMPREHENSIVE PLANS: HOUSING -- Testimony <Invitation Only> -- **Streamed live on AKL.tv**		

EDUCATION

Jan 31	Friday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	3:30 PM
+ SB 41	-- Public Testimony on the education funding crisis in Alaska -- Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled **Streamed live on AKL.tv**		

Feb 03	Monday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	3:30 PM
+ SB 41	Presentation: Alaska's education funding crisis Dr. Lisa Parady, Executive Director, Alaska Council of School Administrators Lon Garrison, Executive Director, Association of Alaska School Boards PUBLIC SCHOOLS: MENTAL HEALTH EDUCATION -- Invited & Public Testimony -- Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled **Streamed live on AKL.tv**		

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EDUCATION (continued)

Feb 05	Wednesday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	3:30 PM
+ SB 22	FINANCIAL LITERACY PROGRAM IN SCHOOLS		
	-- Invited & Public Testimony --		
+ SB 23	CIVICS EDUCATION		
	-- Invited & Public Testimony --		
	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		
Feb 07	Friday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	3:30 PM
	No Meeting Scheduled		

FINANCE

Jan 31	Friday	Senate Finance 532	9:00 AM
	-- MEETING CANCELED --		
	Overview: Continued: FY26 Budget Overview by		
	Legislative Finance Division		
Feb 03	Monday	Senate Finance 532	9:00 AM
+	Presentation: Agency Responses to		
	FY25 Legislative Intent Language		
	Legislative Finance Division		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		
Feb 04	Tuesday	Senate Finance 532	9:00 AM
+	Overview: FY25 Supplemental Budget		
	Office of Management and Budget		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		
Feb 05	Wednesday	Senate Finance 532	9:00 AM
+	Overview: Funding Status PERS and TRS		
	Division of Retirement and Benefits,		
	Department of Administration		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		
Feb 06	Thursday	Senate Finance 532	9:00 AM
+	Presentation: Alaska Mental Health Trust		
	Authority		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		

FINANCE (continued)

Feb 07 **Friday** **Senate Finance 532** **9:00 AM**
+ Overview: Saving, Reserves, and Investment
Funds
Department of Revenue
Streamed live on AKL tv

HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES

Feb 04 **Tuesday** **Butrovich 205** **3:30 PM**
+ Overview: Department of Family and Community Services
Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
Streamed live on AKJ.ty

Feb 06 **Thursday** **Butrovich 205** **3:30 PM**
+ Presentation: HealthEconnect
+ SB 76 COMPLEX CARE RESIDENTIAL HOMES
+= SB 44 MINORS & PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITALS
Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
Streamed live on AKL.tv

JUDICIARY

Feb 03 **Monday** **Butrovich 205** **1:30 PM**
+ SB 69 SEXUAL ASSAULT EXAMINATION KITS/TRACKING
-- Testimony <Invitation Only> --
Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
Streamed live on AKI tv

Feb 05 **Wednesday** **Butrovich 205** **1:30 PM**
+ SB 12 PFD/CHILD SUPPORT
-- Invited & Public Testimony --
Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
Streamed live on AKL tv

JUDICIARY (continued)

Feb 07 **Friday** **Butrovich 205** **1:30 PM**
+ Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

LABOR & COMMERCE

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

Feb 03 **Monday** **Beltz 105 (tsbldg)** **1:30 PM**
+ SB 14 AIDEA FINANCE WORKFORCE HOUSING DEVELOP.
 -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --
+ SB 73 MARIJUANA; TAX/REGISTRATION; INCOME TAX
 -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --
+ SB 77 PERM FUND; EMPLOYMENT; ELIGIBILITY
 -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

Feb 05 **Wednesday** **Beltz 105 (tsbldg)** **1:30 PM**
+ Overview: Department of Commerce, Community and
Economic Development
+ Commissioner Sande and Dep. Commissioner Latham
+ SB 14 AIDEA FINANCE WORKFORCE HOUSING DEVELOP.
-- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --
Streamed live on AKL.tv

Feb 07 **Friday** **Beltz 105 (tsbldg)** **1:30 PM**

+ SB 80 EXTEND BOARDS
-- Testimony <Invitation Only> --

+ SB 79 PAYMENT OF WAGES; PAYROLL CARD ACCOUNT
-- Testimony <Invitation Only> --

+ SB 77 PERM FUND; EMPLOYMENT; ELIGIBILITY
-- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --
Streamed live on AKL.tv

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RESOURCES

Jan 31	Friday	Butrovich 205	3:30 PM
+	Presentation: Department of Natural Resources Leasing Issues Update by John Crowther - Deputy Commissioner, Department of Natural Resources		
	Presentation: Department of Law Leasing Issues Update by Mary Gramling - Chief Assistant Attorney General, Department of Law		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		
Feb 03	Monday	Butrovich 205	3:30 PM
+ SB 29	BIG GAME COMMERCIAL SERVICES BOARD -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --		
+ SB 30	STATE PARK PERMITS FOR DISABLED VETERANS -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		
Feb 05	Wednesday	Butrovich 205	3:30 PM
	Presentation: Cordova Electric Cooperative Clay Koplin - Chief Executive Officer, Cordova Electric Cooperative		
+ SB 61	ELECTRONIC DEVICE RECYCLING -- Testimony <Invitation Only> -- Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		
Feb 07	Friday	Butrovich 205	3:30 PM
+ SB 75	TIMBER MANAGEMENT LEASES -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --		
+ SB 67	PROCURE PREF: AGRIC. & FISH PRODUCTS -- Testimony <Invitation Only> -- Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		

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STATE AFFAIRS

Feb 04	Tuesday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	3:30 PM
+= HJR 4	RES. TO MAINTAIN DENALI AS OFFICIAL NAME		
+= SB 64	ELECTIONS -- Invited & Public Testimony --		
+= SB 70	SCHOOL&ELECTION BDS; VOTING; ELECTIONS -- Invited & Public Testimony --		
+= SB 52	ABSENTEE BALLOTS -- Invited & Public Testimony -- Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled **Streamed live on AKL.tv**		
Feb 06	Thursday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	3:30 PM
+	Presentation: AI and State Functions CIO State of Alaska Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled **Streamed live on AKL.tv**		

TRANSPORTATION

Feb 04	Tuesday	Butrovich 205	1:30 PM
+	Presentation: 2025 Construction Outlook and Economic Impact Alicia Amberg, Executive Director, Associated General Contractors of Alaska		
+	SB 47 CHUGACH STATE PARK EASEMENTS -- Testimony <Invitation Only> -- **Streamed live on AKL.tv**		
Feb 06	Thursday	Butrovich 205	1:30 PM
+	Overview: Alaska Railroad Corporation Bill O'Leary, President & CEO, Alaska Railroad Corporation Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled **Streamed live on AKL.tv**		

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SPECIAL COMMITTEES

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON ARCTIC AFFAIRS

Feb 06 **Thursday** **Beltz 105 (tsbldg)** **1:30 PM**
+ Presentation: Arctic Domain Awareness Center
Jeffrey Libby - Executive Director, ADAC-Arctic
Streamed live on AKL.tv

JOINT COMMITTEES

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

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JOINT COMMITTEES (continued)

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

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 FOR REG. OF PSYCH. MEDICINES

Feb 04	Tuesday	Butrovich 205	5:30 PM
+	AGENDA:		
	Task force processes and scope of work		
	Background information, including the current		
	FDA status of psychedelic medicines		
	Questions and information requests		
	Action items and next steps for task force		
	members		
	-- Teleconference <Listen Only> --		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		

OTHER MEETINGS

JOINT SESSION

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		

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OTHER MEETINGS (continued)

JOINT SESSION (continued)

Mar 20	Thursday	House Chamber	11:00 AM
+	Annual Address by Dan Sullivan, U.S. Senator		

MISCELLANEOUS MEETINGS

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		
Feb 24	Monday	Butrovich 205	12:00 PM
	Lunch & Learn Presentation: Alaska Trucking Association Jamie Benson, Executive Director ATA Board Members Sponsored by Senator Bjorkman and Representative Carrick		
Feb 26	Wednesday	Butrovich 205	12:00 PM
	Lunch & Learn Presentation: 2025 Report Card for Alaska's Infrastructure American Society of Civil Engineers - Alaska Section as part of the Alaska Professional Design Council annual Legislative Fly-In David Gamez, Tor Anderzen, Greg Kinney Sponsored by Senator Kaufman		