

**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

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.

**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.

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

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.

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.

**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

**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**

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

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**EDUCATION**

<b>Jan 31</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Beltz 105 (tsbldg)</b>	<b>3:30 PM</b>
+	-- Public Testimony on the education funding crisis in Alaska --		
	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
	**Streamed live on AKL.tv**		
<b>Feb 03</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Beltz 105 (tsbldg)</b>	<b>3:30 PM</b>
+	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		
+	SB 41	PUBLIC SCHOOLS: MENTAL HEALTH EDUCATION	
		-- Invited & Public Testimony --	
		Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled	
		**Streamed live on AKL.tv**	

**EDUCATION (continued)**

<b>Feb 05</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Beltz 105 (tsbldg)</b>	<b>3:30 PM</b>
+ 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**		
<b>Feb 07</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Beltz 105 (tsbldg)</b>	<b>3:30 PM</b>
	No Meeting Scheduled		

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**FINANCE**

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

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**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 AKL.tv\*\*

**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\*\*

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**JUDICIARY**

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

**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 AKL.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\*\*



**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 Koplín - 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\*\*



**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\*\*

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**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



**JOINT COMMITTEES (continued)**

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

<b>Jan 31</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Barnes 124</b>	<b>12:00 PM</b>
	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 FOR REG. OF PSYCH. MEDICINES**

<b>Feb 04</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Butrovich 205</b>	<b>5:30 PM</b>
+	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**		

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**OTHER MEETINGS**

**JOINT SESSION**

<b>Feb 12</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>House Chamber</b>	<b>11:00 AM</b>
+	State of the Judiciary Address by Chief Justice Susan Carney		
<b>Feb 20</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>House Chamber</b>	<b>11:00 AM</b>
+	Annual Address by Nick Begich III, U.S. Representative		
<b>Mar 18</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>House Chamber</b>	<b>11:00 AM</b>
+	Annual Address by Lisa Murkowski, U.S. Senator		

**OTHER MEETINGS (continued)**

**JOINT SESSION (continued)**

<b>Mar 20</b> +	<b>Thursday</b> Annual Address by Dan Sullivan, U.S. Senator	<b>House Chamber</b>	<b>11:00 AM</b>
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**MISCELLANEOUS MEETINGS**

<b>Feb 05</b>	<b>Wednesday</b> 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	<b>Butrovich 205</b>	<b>12:00 PM</b>
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<b>Feb 19</b>	<b>Wednesday</b> Lunch & Learn Presentation: Covenant House Alaska Sponsored by Senator Tobin	<b>Butrovich 205</b>	<b>12:00 PM</b>
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<b>Feb 24</b>	<b>Monday</b> Lunch & Learn Presentation: Alaska Trucking Association Jamie Benson, Executive Director ATA Board Members Sponsored by Senator Bjorkman and Representative Carrick	<b>Butrovich 205</b>	<b>12:00 PM</b>
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<b>Feb 26</b>	<b>Wednesday</b> 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	<b>Butrovich 205</b>	<b>12:00 PM</b>
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