

**SENATE JOURNAL**  
**ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE**  
**THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE**  
**FIRST SESSION**

**Juneau, Alaska**

**Monday**

**February 3, 2025**

**Fourteenth Day**

Pursuant to adjournment the Senate was called to order by President Stevens at 11:02 a.m.

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

The prayer was offered by Kirk Thorsteinson, Alaska National Guard State Chaplain. Senator Dunbar moved and asked unanimous consent the prayer be spread. Without objection, it was so ordered.

Sacrificial God, I invite and welcome Your company with us today on *Four Chaplains Day*, named for four Army chaplains, who successfully and proactively ministered together despite their differences of faith. And when on this day in 1943, the SS Dorchester was torpedoed, the four chaplains acted sacrificially, giving their life vests to those not having them. Described by one survivor as “the finest thing I have ever seen, or hope to see, this side of heaven,” in their last dying moments the four chaplains linked arms, prayed, and sang songs to encourage their flock.

Please bless the assembled consummate professionals as they work together to leave a positive legacy and be part of Alaskan solutions. Help them maintain their spiritual disciplines and sustain their spiritual vitality to serve You with zeal.

And in honor of Saint Blaise, may physical healing  
be provided to those in need. Amen.

Senator Hughes led the Senate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Certification**

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the journals for the eleventh through thirteenth 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.

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent Senator Olson be excused from a call of the Senate today through February 7. Without objection, Senator Olson was excused.

### **Communications**

Letters dated January 27 were received from Susan M. Carney, Chief Justice of the Alaska Supreme Court, stating in accordance with AS 24.60.130, she has nominated Carl Symons White and H. Conner Thomas as public members to the Select Committee on Legislative Ethics.

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent Carl Symons White and H. Conner Thomas be ratified as public members to the Select Committee on Legislative Ethics.

The question being: "Shall Carl Symons White and H. Conner Thomas be ratified as public members to the Select Committee on Legislative Ethics?" The roll was taken with the following result:

Shall Carl Symons White and  
H. Conner Thomas be ratified as  
Public Members to the Select Committee on Legislative Ethics?

**YEAS: 18 NAYS: 0 EXCUSED: 2 ABSENT: 0**

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

Excused: Hoffman, Olson

and so, Carl Symons White and H. Conner Thomas were ratified by  
the Senate.

The Secretary was requested to notify the House.

Letter dated January 27 was received from Susan M. Carney, Chief  
Justice of the Alaska Supreme Court, stating in accordance with  
AS 24.60.131, she has nominated Linda G. Cox as an alternate public  
member to the Select Committee on Legislative Ethics.

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent Linda G. Cox be  
ratified as an alternate public member to the Select Committee on  
Legislative Ethics.

The question being: "Shall Linda G. Cox be ratified as an alternate  
public member to the Select Committee on Legislative Ethics?" The  
roll was taken with the following result:

Shall Linda G. Cox be ratified as Alternate  
Public Member to the Select Committee on Legislative Ethics?

**YEAS: 18 NAYS: 0 EXCUSED: 2 ABSENT: 0**

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

Excused: Hoffman, Olson

and so, Linda G. Cox was ratified by the Senate.

The Secretary was requested to notify the House.

**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 5, 2025. Without objection, the Senate adjourned at 11:20 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>Feb 03</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Beltz 105 (tsbldg)</b>	<b>3:30 PM</b>
	-- MEETING CANCELED --		
	-- Teleconference <Listen Only> --		
+	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		
	<Above Item Removed from Agenda>		
+	SB 41	PUBLIC SCHOOLS: MENTAL HEALTH EDUCATION	
		-- Invited & Public Testimony --	
		Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled	
		**Streamed live on AKL.tv**	

**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

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**FINANCE**

**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\*\*

**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**

**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\*\*

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

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**LABOR & COMMERCE**

**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\*\*

**LABOR & COMMERCE (continued)**

**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**

**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\*\*

**RESOURCES (continued)**

**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\*\*

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**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\*\*

**TRANSPORTATION (continued)**

**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\*\*

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**JOINT COMMITTEES**

**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\*\*

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**OTHER MEETINGS**

**JOINT SESSION**

**Feb 12**      **Wednesday**                      **House Chamber**                      **11:00 AM**  
 +      State of the Judiciary Address by Chief Justice  
 Susan Carney

**OTHER MEETINGS (continued)**

**JOINT SESSION (continued)**

<b>Feb 20</b> +	<b>Thursday</b> Annual Address by Nick Begich III, U.S. Representative	<b>House Chamber</b>	<b>11:00 AM</b>
<b>Mar 18</b> +	<b>Tuesday</b> Annual Address by Lisa Murkowski, U.S. Senator	<b>House Chamber</b>	<b>11:00 AM</b>
<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>
<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>
<b>Feb 19</b>	<b>Wednesday</b> Lunch & Learn Presentation: Dock Talk: The Work of Alaska Longshoremen Dennis Young, President, ILWU Jesse Groom, Vice President, ILWU Darryl Tseu, Secretary/Treasurer, ILWU Caleb Adelman, SC Committeeman, ILWU Travis Swangel, SW Committeeman, ILWU Sponsored by Senator Kiehl and Representative Fields	<b>Davis 106</b>	<b>12:00 PM</b>

