

SENATE JOURNAL
ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION

Juneau, Alaska

Friday

February 7, 2025

Eighteenth Day

Pursuant to adjournment the Senate was called to order by President Stevens at 10:32 a.m.

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

The prayer was offered by the Chaplain, Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey, Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church. Senator Hoffman moved and asked unanimous consent the prayer be spread. Without objection, it was so ordered.

Blessed are you who gather here to do the work of our majestic and complicated state.

As we end this week, may we be anchored in hope. When cynicism, anger or despair tempt us into places of dehumanizing or despising those around us, round us in trusting love.

When grumpiness, irritation, and frustration threaten to consume our laughter, joy, and friendship, tether us to the heart of grace.

When self-righteousness and arrogance make us dismiss the idiots around us or twist the truth to fit our agenda, humble us with the vastness of eternity.

Anchor us in hope so we may do the next most faithful, the next most loving thing without being swept into the most reactive or populist thing. Anchor us in hope so we aren't drowned in the vitriol and chaos. Anchor us in hope so we may do the work set before us today. Amen.

Senator Kawasaki led the Senate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Certification

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

Communications

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

Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority
2024 Annual Report
in accordance with AS 44.25.270

Department of Health
Operating Grants FY 2025
in accordance with AS 18.25.110

Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development
Alaska Minerals Commission
Annual Report
January 2025
in accordance with AS 44.33.431

Notice of Availability:
Department of Education & Early Development
Alaska's Public Schools: A Report Card to the Public
2023 - 2024
in accordance with AS 14.03.120

Standing Committee Reports**SB 14**

The Labor and Commerce Committee considered SENATE BILL NO. 14 "An Act relating to the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority; and relating to workforce housing development projects."

Signing do pass: Senator Bjorkman, Chair; Senators Dunbar, Merrick, Gray-Jackson, Yundt.

The following fiscal information was published today:

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

The bill was referred to the Finance Committee.

SB 44

The Health and Social Services Committee considered SENATE BILL NO. 44 "An Act relating to the rights of minors undergoing evaluation or inpatient treatment at psychiatric hospitals; relating to the use of seclusion or restraint of minors at psychiatric hospitals; relating to a report published by the Department of Health; relating to inspections by the Department of Health of certain psychiatric hospitals; and providing for an effective date" and recommended it be replaced with

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 44(HSS)

Signing do pass: Senator Dunbar, Chair; Senators Claman, Giessel.

The following fiscal information was published today:

Fiscal Note No. 1, Department of Health

Fiscal Note No. 2, zero, Department of Family and Community Services

Fiscal Note No. 3, zero, Department of Family and Community Services

The bill was referred to the Finance Committee.

SB 87

Senator Wielechowski, Chair, moved and asked unanimous consent SENATE BILL NO. 87 "An Act disapproving the recommendations of the State Officers Compensation Commission; and providing for an effective date" be waived from the Rules Committee. Without objection, it was so ordered.

The bill is on today's calendar.

Introduction and Reference of Senate Bills**SB 89**

SENATE BILL NO. 89 BY SENATOR TOBIN, entitled:

"An Act relating to physician assistants; relating to collaborative agreements between physicians and physician assistants; relating to the practice of medicine; relating to health care providers; and relating to provisions regarding physician assistants in contracts between certain health care providers and health care insurers."

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

Consideration of the Calendar**Second Reading of Senate Bills****SB 15**

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" was read the second time.

President Stevens stated SENATE BILL NO. 15 will advance to third reading on the February 10 calendar.

SB 87

SENATE BILL NO. 87 "An Act disapproving the recommendations of the State Officers Compensation Commission; and providing for an effective date" was read the second time.

Senator Wielechowski moved and asked unanimous consent the following fiscal information be adopted:

Fiscal Note No. 1, zero, Legislative Agency

Without objection, Fiscal Note No. 1 was adopted.

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the bill be considered engrossed, advanced to third reading and placed on final passage. Without objection, it was so ordered.

SENATE BILL NO. 87 was read the third time.

The question being: "Shall SENATE BILL NO. 87 "An Act disapproving the recommendations of the State Officers Compensation Commission; and providing for an effective date" pass the Senate?" The roll was taken with the following result:

SB 87

Third Reading - Final Passage

Effective Date(s)

YEAS: 19 NAYS: 0 EXCUSED: 1 ABSENT: 0

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

Excused: Olson

and so, SENATE BILL NO. 87 passed the Senate.

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the vote on the passage of the bill be considered the vote on the effective date clause(s). Without objection, it was so ordered and the bill was referred to the Secretary for engrossment.

Third Reading of House Resolutions**HJR 4**

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, was read the third time.

The question being: "Shall 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, pass the Senate?" The roll was taken with the following result:

CSHJR 4(RLS)

Third Reading - Final Passage

YEAS: 19 NAYS: 0 EXCUSED: 1 ABSENT: 0

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

Excused: Olson

and so, CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 4(RLS) passed the Senate, was signed by the President and Secretary and returned to the House.

Citations

Honoring - Linda Jo Klapperich

Representative(s) Johnson

Senator(s) Hughes

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

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 - Katherine "Kathy" Yarrow
Representative(s) Carrick, Dibert
Senator(s) Kawasaki

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 89

Senators Gray-Jackson, Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent to be shown as cosponsors on SENATE BILL NO. 89 "An Act relating to physician assistants; relating to collaborative agreements between physicians and physician assistants; relating to the practice of medicine; relating to health care providers; and relating to provisions regarding physician assistants in contracts between certain health care providers and health care insurers." Without objection, it was so ordered.

Senator Kawasaki moved and asked unanimous consent to be excused from a call of the Senate on February 21 and February 22. Without objection, Senator Kawasaki was excused.

SB 16

President Stevens removed the State Affairs Committee referral from SENATE BILL NO. 16 "An Act relating to a simplified rate filing procedure for refuse utility rate adjustments; relating to Regulatory Commission of Alaska regulations regarding refuse utilities; and providing for an effective date."

President Stevens added a Community and Regional Affairs Committee referral to the bill.

The bill is in the Labor and Commerce Committee.

Senator Hoffman moved and asked unanimous consent to be excused from a call of the Senate on February 14. Without objection, Senator Hoffman was excused.

Announcements

Announcements are at the end of the journal.

Engrossment

SB 87

SENATE BILL NO. 87 "An Act disapproving the recommendations of the State Officers Compensation Commission; and providing for an effective date" was engrossed, signed by the President and Secretary and transmitted to the House for consideration.

Adjournment

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the Senate stand in adjournment until 11:00 a.m., February 10, 2025. Without objection, the Senate adjourned at 11:01 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

Feb 11	Tuesday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	1:30 PM
+ SB 50	MUNICIPAL COMPREHENSIVE PLANS: HOUSING		
	-- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --		
+ SB 63	LOCAL BOUNDARY COMMISSION		
	-- Invited & Public Testimony --		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		

EDUCATION

Feb 07	Friday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	3:30 PM
	No Meeting Scheduled		

Feb 10	Monday	Davis 106	8:00 AM
	-- Please Note Time & Location Change --		
	-- Testimony <Invitation Only> --		
+	Meeting jointly with the House Education Committee		
	Presentation: Testimony from Alaska's Public Schools by School board members and students participating in the annual fly-in of the Association of Alaska School Boards		
	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		

EDUCATION (continued)

Feb 12 Wednesday Beltz 105 (tsbldg) 3:30 PM
 + SB 41 PUBLIC SCHOOLS: MENTAL HEALTH EDUCATION
 -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --
 + SB 22 FINANCIAL LITERACY PROGRAM IN SCHOOLS
 -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --
 + SB 23 CIVICS EDUCATION
 -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

Feb 14 Friday Beltz 105 (tsbldg) 3:30 PM
 + Presentation: Alaska's per pupil spending in
 context: 2022 and 2023 updates
 Matthew Berman, Professor of Economics,
 Institute of Social and Economic Research
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

FINANCE

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

Feb 10 Monday Senate Finance 532 9:00 AM
 + Presentation: Alaska Gasline Development
 Corporation
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

Feb 11 Tuesday Senate Finance 532 9:00 AM
 + Presentation: Alaska Permanent Fund Corporation
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

Feb 12 Wednesday Senate Finance 532 9:00 AM
 + SB 56 APPROP: OPERATING BUDGET; CAP; SUPP
 + SB 58 APPROP: MENTAL HEALTH BUDGET
 Overview: Letters of Agreement
 Office of Management and Budget
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

SENATE JOURNAL

February 7, 2025

211

FINANCE (continued)

Feb 13 **Thursday** **Senate Finance 532** **9:00 AM**
+ Presentation: Order of Operations
 Department of Revenue
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

Feb 14 **Friday** **Senate Finance 532** **9:00 AM**
 No Meeting Scheduled

HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES

Feb 11 **Tuesday** **Butrovich 205** **3:30 PM**
+ SB 60 ESTABLISH ME/CHRONIC FATIGUE SYNDROME DAY
 -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --
+ SB 83 TELEHEALTH REIMBURSEMENT RATES
 -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

Feb 13 **Thursday** **Butrovich 205** **3:30 PM**
+ Presentation: Governor’s Council on
 Disabilities and Special Education
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

JUDICIARY

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

Feb 10 **Monday** **Butrovich 205** **1:30 PM**
 No Meeting Scheduled

Feb 12 **Wednesday** **Butrovich 205** **1:30 PM**
+= SB 69 SEXUAL ASSAULT EXAMINATION KITS/TRACKING
 -- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

JUDICIARY (continued)

Feb 14 Friday Butrovich 205 1:30 PM
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

LABOR & COMMERCE

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

Feb 10 Monday Beltz 105 (tsbldg) 1:30 PM
 += SB 73 MARIJUANA: TAX/REGISTRATION; INCOME TAX
 -- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --
 + SB 11 FLOOD INSURANCE
 -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --
 + SB 17 CRIME COUNTERFEIT/NONFUNCTIONING AIRBAG
 -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

Feb 12 Wednesday Beltz 105 (tsbldg) 1:30 PM
 += SB 80 EXTEND BOARDS
 -- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --
 += SB 79 PAYMENT OF WAGES; PAYROLL CARD ACCOUNT
 -- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --
 + SB 55 TRS CONTR RATE; PERS/TRS SOC SECUR OR SBS
 -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

Feb 14 Friday Beltz 105 (tsbldg) 1:30 PM
 No Meeting Scheduled

RESOURCES

- 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
-
- Feb 10 Monday Butrovich 205 3:30 PM**
 -- Continued from 01/27/25 --
 + Presentation: Alaska Gasline Development Corporation
 Frank Richards - President, Alaska Gasline Development Corporation
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 -- Invited & Public Testimony --
 Streamed live on AKL.tv
-
- Feb 12 Wednesday Butrovich 205 3:30 PM**
 + EO 136 ESTABLISH DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE
 -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 -- Invited & Public Testimony --
 Streamed live on AKL.tv
-
- Feb 14 Friday Butrovich 205 3:30 PM**
 + Presentation: Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority
 Randy Ruaro - Executive Director, AIDEA
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 -- Invited & Public Testimony --
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

STATE AFFAIRS

- Feb 11 Tuesday Beltz 105 (tsbldg) 3:30 PM**
 + Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

STATE AFFAIRS (continued)

Feb 13 **Thursday** **Beltz 105 (tsbldg)** **3:30 PM**
 + Presentation: Department of Corrections Overview
 April Wilkerson, Deputy Commissioner of Pretrial,
 Probation, Parole and Operations
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

TRANSPORTATION

Feb 11 **Tuesday** **Butrovich 205** **1:30 PM**
 += SB 47 CHUGACH STATE PARK EASEMENTS
 -- Public Testimony --
 Presentation: Federal and State Funding
 Katherine Keith, Deputy Commissioner
 Dom Pannone, Director of Program Management &
 Administration
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

Feb 13 **Thursday** **Butrovich 205** **1:30 PM**
 + Presentation: STIP Update and Construction Outlook
 Ryan Anderson, Commissioner
 Katherine Keith, Deputy Commissioner
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON ARCTIC AFFAIRS

Feb 13 **Thursday** **Beltz 105 (tsbldg)** **1:30 PM**
 + Presentation: Farming in the north: Partnering
 research and industry for Alaska
 Jodie Anderson - Director, Institute of
 Agriculture, Natural Resources and Extension
 Scott Mugrage - President, Alaska Farm Bureau
 Amy Seitz - Policy Director, Alaska Farm Bureau
 Rita Jo Shoultz - Secretary/Treasurer, Alaska Farm Bureau
 Ken Hoffman - Alaska Farm Bureau
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

JOINT COMMITTEES

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Feb 12 Wednesday Adams 519 5:15 PM

-- Teleconference <Listen Only> --
-- Testimony <Invitation Only> --

- I. Call to Order
- II. Committee Organization
 - a. Election of the Chair
 - b. Election of the Vice Chair
- III. Approval of the Agenda
- IV. Committee Policies
 - a. Quorum and Voting Requirements
 - b. Alternate Members
 - c. Sanctioning of Charitable Events Policy
 - i. Ratifications
 - one. Juneau Dance Theater Gala
 - two. Juneau Animal Rescue Fundraiser
 - d. Subcommittees Policy
 - i. IT Subcommittee
- V. Approval of Minutes
 - a. December 12, 2024, Minutes
- VI. Committee Business
 - a. FY24 Legislature Audit
 - b. 2025 Manual of Legislative Drafting
 - c. Janus Litigation Contract - Amendment No. 1
 - d. FY26 Legislative Council Budget Request
 - e. Committee Records Archiving Policy
- VII. Adjourn

****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

SENATE JOURNAL

216

February 7, 2025

JOINT SESSION (continued)

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		

MISCELLANEOUS MEETINGS

Feb 11	Tuesday	Butrovich 205	12:00 PM
	Lunch & Learn Presentation: AK LNG Project Update and Introduction to Glenfarne Alaska Gasline Development Corporation Sponsored by Senator Bjorkman		
Feb 19	Wednesday	Butrovich 205	12:00 PM
	Lunch & Learn Presentation: Covenant House Alaska Sponsored by Senator Tobin		
Feb 19	Wednesday	Davis 106	12:00 PM
	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		
Feb 24	Monday	Butrovich 205	12:00 PM
	Lunch & Learn Presentation: Alaska Trucking Association Priorities Jamie Benson, President/CEO Sponsored by Senator Bjorkman and Representative Carrick		

MISCELLANEOUS MEETINGS (continued)

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