

SENATE JOURNAL

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

Juneau, Alaska

Friday

February 14, 2025

Twenty-fifth Day

Pursuant to adjournment the Senate was called to order by President Stevens at 10:34 a.m.

The roll showed fifteen members present. Senators Hoffman, Myers, Olson were excused from a call of the Senate. Senators Cronk, Yundt were absent.

The prayer was offered by the Chaplain, Father Patrick Casey, Co-Cathedral of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Senator Kawasaki moved and asked unanimous consent the prayer be spread. Without objection, it was so ordered.

Today I ask that you bless this gathering, inspiring the people in this chamber. That as they deliberate the concerns of the people we serve in the state of Alaska that we be open minded so that we are able to make the right decisions that meet the needs of all of the people of Alaska. Amen.

Senator Shower led the Senate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Certification

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the journals for the twenty-third and twenty-fourth legislative days and House and Senate Joint Journal Supplement No. 3 be approved as certified by the Secretary. Without objection, it was so ordered.

Communications

The following report is on file in the Office of the Secretary of the Senate:

Department of Corrections
Interstate Compact Commission
2024 Annual Report
in accordance with AS 33.36.135

Standing Committee Reports**SB 47**

The Transportation Committee considered SENATE BILL NO. 47 "An Act relating to Chugach State Park; and providing for an effective date."

Signing do pass: Senator Bjorkman, Chair; Senator Kiehl. Signing do not pass: Senator Shower. Signing no recommendation: Senator Tobin.

The following fiscal information was published today:

Fiscal Note No. 1, zero, Department of Natural Resources

The bill was referred to the Resources Committee.

SB 60

The Health and Social Services Committee considered SENATE BILL NO. 60 "An Act establishing May 12 as Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Day of Recognition."

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

The following fiscal information was published today:

Fiscal Note No. 1, zero, Office of the Governor

The bill was referred to the Rules Committee.

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SB 79

The Labor and Commerce Committee considered SENATE BILL NO. 79 "An Act relating to wage payments."

Signed do pass: Senator Bjorkman, Chair; Senator Gray-Jackson.
Signed no recommendation: Senators Merrick, Yundt.

The following fiscal information was published today:

Fiscal Note No. 1, zero, Department of Labor and Workforce Development

The bill was referred to the Rules Committee.

SB 80

The Labor and Commerce Committee considered SENATE BILL NO. 80 "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."

Signed do pass: Senator Bjorkman, Chair; Senator Gray-Jackson.
Signed no recommendation: Senators Merrick, Yundt.

The following fiscal information was published today:

Fiscal Note No. 1, Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development
Fiscal Note No. 2, Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development

President Stevens added a Finance Committee referral to the bill.

The bill was referred to the Finance Committee.

**Introduction and Reference of
Senate Resolutions****SJR 8**

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 8 BY SENATOR GRAY-JACKSON,

Relating to strengthening international relations with Taiwan.

was read the first time and referred to the Resources Committee.

Introduction and Reference of Senate Bills**SB 99**

SENATE BILL NO. 99 BY SENATOR MYERS, entitled:

"An Act relating to private professional conservators; and providing for an effective date."

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

SB 100

SENATE BILL NO. 100 BY THE SENATE RULES COMMITTEE BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR, entitled:

"An Act relating to organized theft; relating to theft of medical records and medical information; relating to mail theft; and providing for an effective date."

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

The following fiscal information was published today:

Fiscal Note No. 1, zero, Department of Administration

Fiscal Note No. 2, zero, Department of Administration

Fiscal Note No. 3, zero, Department of Corrections

Fiscal Note No. 4, zero, Department of Law

Fiscal Note No. 5, zero, Department of Public Safety

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Governor's transmittal letter dated February 12:

Dear President Stevens:

Under the authority of Article III, Section 18 of the Alaska Constitution, I am transmitting a bill addressing organized theft, mail theft, and the theft of medical records and medical information.

The impact of property theft on individuals, businesses, and the community is often underrated. When theft occurs in retail establishments, it can, over time, total in the millions of dollars. These costs can make it difficult to do business and, many times, are passed down to the paying consumer. Alaska needs to do more to address this conduct. Accordingly, this bill creates the new crime of organized theft, which will be a class A felony. Organized theft will target those individuals who coordinate with a group of three or more persons to commit felony level thefts. These individuals are operating on a larger scale and the penalty should reflect the massive damage they cause to our communities.

The bill also establishes the crime of mail theft, which can lead to identity theft, credit card fraud, and the loss of valuables. Because Alaska relies heavily on mail service, we should not depend solely on federal prosecution to address this widespread problem.

Finally, the bill classifies the theft of medical records or medical information as a class C felony. Just as current law protects credit cards and identification documents, it should also protect sensitive medical information from misuse.

By closing these gaps in current law, this bill will strengthen our ability to address crimes that wreak havoc on our communities. I urge your prompt consideration of this legislation.

Sincerely,

/s/

Mike Dunleavy
Governor

SB 101

SENATE BILL NO. 101 BY SENATOR GRAY-JACKSON, entitled:

"An Act relating to health and personal safety education."

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

Senator Shower moved and asked unanimous consent Senator Cronk be excused from a call of the Senate from morning plane time today through evening plane time, February 16. Without objection, Senator Cronk was excused.

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

Consideration of the Calendar**Citations**

Honoring - Alan Lee Mintz
Representative(s) Burke
Senator(s) Olson

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 11**

Senator Dunbar 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.

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Senator Merrick moved and asked unanimous consent to be excused from a call of the Senate on February 20 and February 21. Without objection, Senator Merrick was excused.

SB 20

Senators Claman, Tobin moved and asked unanimous consent to be shown as cosponsors on SENATE BILL NO. 20 "An Act relating to cardiopulmonary resuscitation education in public schools; relating to the duties of the Department of Education and Early Development; 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 17, 2025. Without objection, the Senate adjourned at 10:41 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 18	Tuesday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	1:30 PM
+ = SB 63	LOCAL BOUNDARY COMMISSION		
	-- Testimony <Invitation Only> --		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		

EDUCATION

Feb 14	Friday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	3:30 PM
+ =	-- MEETING CANCELED --		
	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		

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EDUCATION (continued)

Feb 17	Monday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	3:30 PM
+		Presentation: Alaska's per pupil spending in context: 2022 and 2023 updates Dayna Jean DeFeo, Director, Center for Alaska Education Research, Institute of Social and Economic Research Matthew Berman, Professor of Economics, Institute of Social and Economic Research	
+	SB 6	ASIAN AMERICAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER PROGRAM -- Invited & Public Testimony -- Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled **Streamed live on AKL.tv**	
Feb 19	Wednesday	Davis 106	8:00 AM
		-- Please Note Time & Location Change -- Meeting jointly with the House Education Committee -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --	
+		Presentation: Alaska Municipal Leaders Education Priorities by Participants in the Alaska Municipal League 2025 Winter Legislative Conference Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled **Streamed live on AKL.tv**	
Feb 21	Friday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	3:30 PM
+=	SB 41	PUBLIC SCHOOLS: MENTAL HEALTH EDUCATION -- Public Testimony --	
+=	SB 22	FINANCIAL LITERACY PROGRAM IN SCHOOLS -- Public Testimony --	
+=	SB 23	CIVICS EDUCATION -- Public Testimony --	
+	SB 82	EDUCATION:SCHOOLS; GRANTS; FUNDING; DEBT -- Invited & Public Testimony -- Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled **Streamed live on AKL.tv**	

FINANCE

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

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FINANCE (continued)

Feb 17	Monday	Senate Finance 532	9:00 AM
+		Presentation: Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority (AIDEA) Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled **Streamed live on AKL.tv**	
Feb 18	Tuesday	Senate Finance 532	9:00 AM
+		Presentation: Cases, Judgments, and Settlements Department of Law Overview: University of Alaska - FY26 Budget Senate Finance Subcommittee of the Whole Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled **Streamed live on AKL.tv**	
Feb 19	Wednesday	Senate Finance 532	9:00 AM
+	SB 72	RAILROAD CORP. FINANCING -- Invited & Public Testimony --	
+	HB 65	RAILROAD CORP. FINANCING <Pending Introduction & Referral> -- Invited & Public Testimony -- Presentation: Three-Year Budget Outlook Legislative Finance Division Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled **Streamed live on AKL.tv**	
Feb 20	Thursday	Senate Finance 532	9:00 AM
+		Presentation: Alaska Municipal League Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled **Streamed live on AKL.tv**	
Feb 21	Friday	Senate Finance 532	9:00 AM
		No Meeting Scheduled	

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HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES

Feb 18	Tuesday	Butrovich 205	3:30 PM
-- Agenda Change --			
+ SB 89	PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT SCOPE OF PRACTICE		
+	Presentation: Alaska Primary Care Association		
	Nancy Merriman, CEO, Alaska Primary Care		
	Association		
	Lisa Aquino, CEO, Anchorage Neighborhood Health		
	Center and APCA FQHC Payment Taskforce Chair		
	Joshua Gilmore, CEO, Sunshine Health Center and		
	APCA Board Chair		
	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		
Feb 20	Thursday	Butrovich 205	3:30 PM
-- Agenda Change --			
Presentation: Alaska Primary Care Association			
Nancy Merriman, CEO, Alaska Primary Care			
Association			
Lisa Aquino, CEO, Anchorage Neighborhood Health			
Center and APCA FQHC Payment Taskforce Chair			
Joshua Gilmore, CEO, Sunshine Health Center and			
APCA Board Chair			
<Above Item Removed from Agenda>			
+ SB 9	SURRENDER OF INFANTS; INF. SAFETY DEVICE		
	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		

JUDICIARY

Feb 14	Friday	Butrovich 205	1:30 PM
+ SB 69	SEXUAL ASSAULT EXAMINATION KITS/TRACKING		
	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		
Feb 17	Monday	Butrovich 205	1:30 PM
+	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		

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JUDICIARY (continued)

Feb 19	Wednesday	Davis 106	1:30 PM
+	-- Please Note Location Change --		
	Meeting Jointly with House Judiciary Committee		
	Presentation: Oregon Criminal Justice Commission		
	Overview		
	Ken Sanchagrin, Executive Director,		
	Oregon Criminal Justice Commission		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		
Feb 21	Friday	Butrovich 205	1:30 PM
+	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		

LABOR & COMMERCE

Feb 14	Friday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	1:30 PM
	No Meeting Scheduled		
Feb 17	Monday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	1:30 PM
+= SB 11	FLOOD INSURANCE		
	-- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --		
+= SB 17	CRIME COUNTERFEIT/NONFUNCTIONING AIRBAG		
	-- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --		
+ SB 98	EXTEND BOARD OF VETERINARY EXAMINERS		
	-- Testimony <Invitation Only> --		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		
Feb 19	Wednesday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	1:30 PM
+	Presentation: How Workers' Compensation Works		
	Director Chuck Collins, Division of Workers'		
	Compensation		
+ SB 98	EXTEND BOARD OF VETERINARY EXAMINERS		
	-- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --		
+ SB 39	LOANS UNDER \$25,000; PAYDAY LOANS		
	-- Testimony <Invitation Only> --		
	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		
Feb 21	Friday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	1:30 PM
	No Meeting Scheduled		

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RESOURCES

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**		
Feb 17	Monday	Butrovich 205	3:30 PM
+	SB 47 CHUGACH STATE PARK EASEMENTS -- Invited & Public Testimony --		
+=	SB 29 BIG GAME COMMERCIAL SERVICES BOARD -- Invited & Public Testimony --		
+=	SB 30 STATE PARK PERMITS FOR DISABLED VETERANS -- Invited & Public Testimony --		
+=	SB 61 ELECTRONIC DEVICE RECYCLING -- Invited & Public Testimony -- Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled **Streamed live on AKL.tv**		
Feb 19	Wednesday	Butrovich 205	3:30 PM
+	SB 92 CORP. INCOME TAX; OIL & GAS ENTITIES -- Testimony <Invitation Only> -- Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled **Streamed live on AKL.tv**		
Feb 21	Friday	Butrovich 205	3:30 PM
	No Meeting Scheduled		

STATE AFFAIRS

Feb 18	Tuesday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	3:30 PM
+=	SB 31 ADDRESS CONFIDENTIALITY PROGRAM -- Public Testimony --		
+	SB 43 WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH -- Invited & Public Testimony -- Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled **Streamed live on AKL.tv**		

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STATE AFFAIRS (continued)

Feb 20	Thursday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	3:30 PM
+	Presentation: Adding a faculty member to the UA Board of Regents		
	Jill Dumesnil - Statewide President, United Academics		
+	Jackie Cason - UAA Faculty Senate President		
	Presentation: Department of Law Overview		
	Functions and current litigation		
	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		

TRANSPORTATION

Feb 18	Tuesday	Butrovich 205	1:30 PM
+	-- Continued from 02/13/25 --		
	Presentation: STIP Update and Construction Outlook		
	Katherine Keith, Deputy Commissioner		
	Dom Pannone, Director of Program Management & Administration		
	Overview: Alaska International Airport System		
	Angie Spear, C.M., AIAS Director		
	Teri Lindseth, ANC Deputy Airport Director, Planning & Development		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		

Feb 20	Thursday	Butrovich 205	1:30 PM
+	Presentation: Winter Road Maintenance		
	Andy Mills, Special Assistant, Commissioner's Office		
	Jason Sakalaskas, Maintenance and Operations Chief, Northern Region		
	Burrell Nickeson, Maintenance and Operations Manager, Central Region		
	Brad Bylsma, Director, State Equipment Fleet		
	Christine Langley, Director, Data Modernization and Innovation Office		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		

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SPECIAL COMMITTEES

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON ARCTIC AFFAIRS

Feb 20	Thursday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	1:30 PM
+	Presentation: The Wilson Center Shannon-Elizabeth O'Hare, US Polar Leadership Project Coordinator, Wilson Center Presentation: Denali Commission Julie Kitka, Federal Co-Chair, Denali Commission **Streamed live on AKL.tv**		

OTHER MEETINGS

JOINT SESSION

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 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 Adelmann, SC Committeeman, ILWU Travis Swangel, SW Committeeman, ILWU Sponsored by Senator Kiehl and Representative Fields		

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MISCELLANEOUS MEETINGS (continued)

Feb 19	Wednesday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	5:30 PM
+	Alaska Children's Caucus Meeting -- Testimony <Invitation Only> -- Presentation: Kids Count Data Book Trevor Storrs, President & CEO, Alaska Children's Trust Presentation: Children's Justice Act Task Force Josh Louwerse, Senior Director of Legislative Affairs and Youth Systems Improvement, Covenant House Alaska **Streamed live on AKL.tv**		
Feb 24	Monday	Butrovich 205	12:00 PM
	Lunch & Learn Presentation: Alaska Trucking Association Industry Overview Jamie Benson, President/CEO 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		
Mar 05	Wednesday	Butrovich 205	12:00 PM
	Lunch & Learn Presentation: Denali Defense Solutions Tyler Vose, Founder & CEO Dal Rae Beach, COO Sponsored by Senators Shower, Yundt and Representatives Vance, Allard		
Mar 19	Wednesday	Butrovich 205	12:00 PM
	Lunch & Learn Presentation: Alaska Travel and Tourism Alaska Travel Industry Association Sponsored by Senator Merrick		

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MISCELLANEOUS MEETINGS (continued)

Mar 31	Monday	Butrovich 205	12:00 PM
Lunch & Learn Presentation: Alaska's Workforce Future Alaska Workforce Alliance Jose Owens, American Marine International Carol Wren, BBNC and AWA Executive Director Sponsored by Senator Merrick			
Apr 09			
Wednesday		Butrovich 205	12:00 PM
Lunch & Learn Presentation: Alaska Commission of Postsecondary Education Sponsored by Senator Tobin			